
Post Consultation Environment Strategy

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	25 June 2020
Report Author:	Jenny Graham
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3831

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) Update the Executive on the consultation and engagement in relation to the draft Environment Strategy and how responses have been considered,
- (b) Provide the Executive with a summary of the consultation feedback through the identification of key themes and to present a proposed response to these themes.
- (c) Provide the Executive with the proposed amended version of the strategy for consideration.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Executive is asked to approve the amended version of the Environment Strategy included in Appendix G.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The Delivery Plan will identify projects and these will have financial implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.
Human Resource:	There are no direct HR implications as a result of this report.

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

	<p>There are plans to recruit to the new Environment Delivery Team using approved resources in order to help deliver the Environment Strategy. Also, the Delivery Plan will identify projects and these may have HR implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.</p>			
Legal:	<p>There are no direct Legal implications as a result of this report.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan will identify projects and these may have legal implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.</p>			
Risk Management:	<p>There are no direct risk management issues as a result of this report.</p> <p>The consideration of risk associated with achieving what is set out in the Environment Strategy will be dealt with alongside the Delivery Plan. Each project identified in the Delivery Plan will assess and manage its own risk.</p>			
Property:	<p>There are no direct property implications as a result of this report.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan will identify projects and these will have property implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.</p>			
Policy:	<p>The Contents of the Environment Strategy, influenced by the consultation responses, should be used to inform and shape relevant Council policies across the organisation.</p>			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

<p>A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?</p>		X		<p>The delivery plan will have to consider this issue on a project by project basis.</p>
<p>B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?</p>		X		<p>The delivery plan will have to consider this issue on a project by project basis.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact:</p>	X			<p>Clarity on the carbon reduction commitment and other associated strategic objectives will, subject to effective implementation through the Delivery Plan, have a positive impact on the local environment.</p>
<p>Health Impact:</p>	X			<p>Clarity on the carbon reduction commitment and other associated strategic objectives will, subject to effective implementation through the Delivery Plan, have a positive impact on the health of local communities.</p>
<p>ICT or Digital Services Impact:</p>		X		<p>At this stage it is not envisaged that ICT or Digital Services will be impacted by the Environment Strategy. Subsequent projects may do, but this will be governed through PMM and the Delivery Plan. Environment Board can consider.</p>

Council Strategy Priorities or Business as Usual:	X			This is a key report for the progression of the Council Strategy and its Delivery Plan.
Data Impact:		X		At this stage it is not envisaged that there will be any data impact by approving the Environment Strategy. Subsequent projects may do, but this will be governed through PMM and the Delivery Plan. Environment Board can consider.
Consultation and Engagement:	John Ashworth, Jon Winstanley, Gary Lugg, Adrian Slaughter, Bryan Lyttle, Gabrielle Mancini, Sarah Winter, Jenny Legge, Jenny Graham Cllr Lynne Doherty, Cllr Steve Ardagh-Walter, Cllr Richard Somner and Members of the Environment Advisory Group			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The consultation and engagement undertaken in relation to the draft Environment Strategy was a more expansive process than previously undertaken for council strategies, reflecting the high level of public interest in the subject matter. This has generated a wide range of views to consider.
- 4.2 An online survey was a key part of the consultation and the results of this survey and accompanying comments made as suggestions to improve the strategy are detailed in Appendix C.
- 4.3 Direct written responses were also received, a summary of which can be found at Appendix D. These were grouped into one of 5 topic areas: i) Policy/Strategic issues; ii) Technical issues; iii) Communication and engagement issues; iv) Presentation issues; and v) Items for the Delivery Plan.
- 4.4 A series of public engagement events were facilitated by consultants at WSP who provided a summary at Appendix E.
- 4.5 A series of general public drop-in sessions were also arranged and the feedback summary is detailed at Appendix F.
- 4.6 The project team has undergone a process of considering the responses from the different elements of the consultation and engagement (as set out in sections 5.10 – 5.13). As a result of this process a series of 18 key themes have been identified. Table 1 below shows these key themes grouped into firstly those that are proposed to be taken forward within the strategy and / or Delivery Plan or through other areas of the Council's work and, secondly, just two themes that are not considered appropriate to take forward

in the final strategy. Further detailed responses to each of the key themes are provided in the supporting information (section 5) along with the proposed actions where relevant.

Table 1: Key themes from the consultation and engagement on the Draft Strategy

Key themes to be taken forward within Strategy / Delivery Plan or through other areas of the Council's work	
1	We should work with a wider data set, including academic institutions, to help understand and improve the accuracy of our journey towards carbon neutrality. This should also include an acknowledgement about scope 3 emissions and how these will be monitored even if they are not included in the 2030 target.
2	There should be clearer incentives for business to improve their carbon reduction activity and ensure there is a clear link with the Economic Development Strategy.
3	There should be effective enforcement of the current (and future) environmental standards.
4	The role of agriculture and farming should be more prominent.
5	The Council should aim for renewable energy to be on all their sites (including schools).
6	Increase the uptake and incentivise the use of electric vehicles, mindful of the impact of affordability to avoid social justice risks.
7	Greater focus on education and training (schools, residents and businesses) with sustained engagement events to try and persuade the wider community to believe in the vision.
8	The document should use more reader friendly diagrams to explain its key messages.
9	Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards the Council's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing the citizens.
10	The Council should show leadership to local businesses in the way it procures supplies and services.

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

11	Improve links with local food producers and find ways to get their produce to local markets.
12	Fundamental changes to kerbside recycling.
13	Show more desire to influence planning/housing policy.
14	Stronger emphasis on the policy and financial commitments related to sustainable transport systems.
15	Improved provision of cycling infrastructure.
16	There should be more emphasis on air quality.
Key themes not proposed to be taken forward	
17	Bringing forward the 2030 target.
18	Form a citizen assembly.

- 4.7 Since the draft strategy was published there has been ongoing research into the various styles and subjects covered by other local authorities, public bodies and the business community in relation to climate change and carbon reduction measures. In addition some good examples were identified by those who engaged in the consultation. This research and the examples put forward by others have been used to influence the contents and presentation of the proposed final strategy.
- 4.8 The final proposed strategy which takes account of the consultation and engagement feedback as outlined above is included in Appendix G.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.2 The Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency on 2nd July 2019 and in doing so highlighted the fact that the Council, its partners and local communities all needed to play their part in response.
- 5.3 Following the declaration, work to develop an Environment Strategy took place overseen by the Environment Board and influenced by the Environment Advisory Group (EAG). Following the publication of a draft Environment Strategy on 9th January 2020, the Council embarked upon a 6-week consultation period. Comments were invited using an online survey with a broad range of questions examining the main sections of the strategy. A summary document and further supporting information were also made available at the same time to assist with the consultation.
- 5.4 The supporting information below sets out:
- (a) the approach that was taken to ensure good engagement with the draft Environment Strategy,
 - (b) a description of the process of analysis of the consultation feedback,
 - (c) a summary of the feedback and explanation of appendices
 - (d) the proposed response to the feedback
 - (e) the next steps for progressing the Environment Strategy

Consultation and Engagement Approach

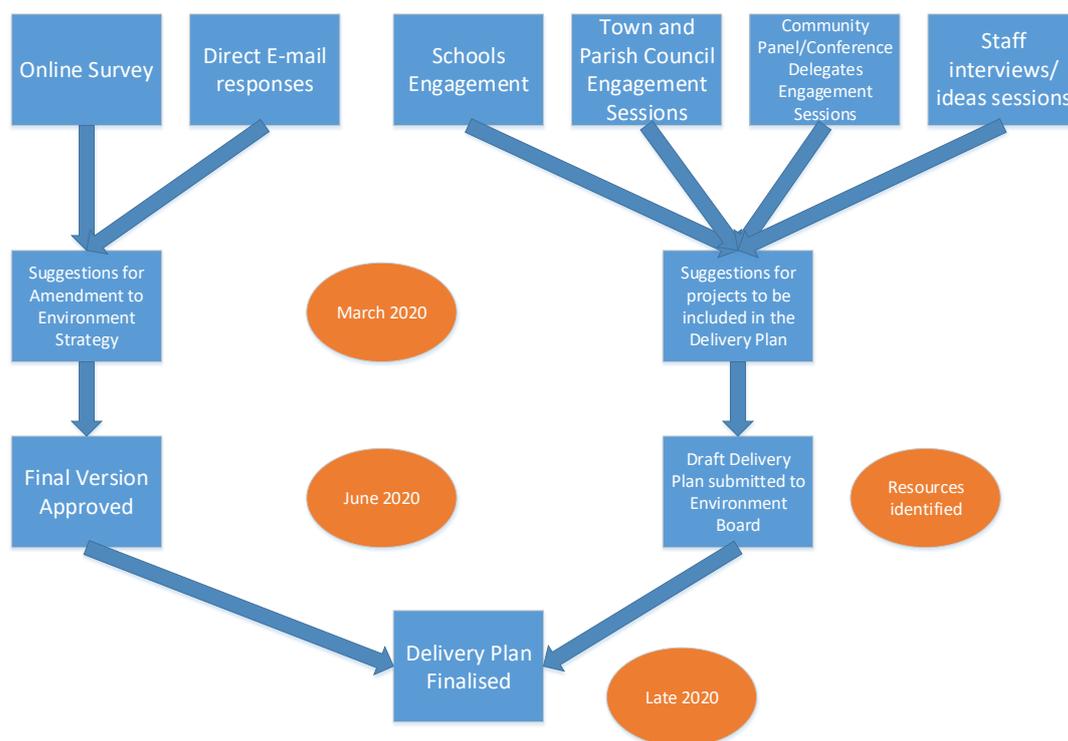
- 5.5 The high level of interest generally in climate change across all ages of the population and from numerous groups and organisations was recognised by the Executive. This led to the Executive expressing a desire to ensure that a comprehensive approach was planned for the consultation and engagement around the draft Environment Strategy. The standard approach of an online survey was not seen as enough given the significant profile of this topic. The project team therefore put forward a series of ideas for wide ranging engagement and a new approach was agreed.
- 5.6 The diagram below at Figure 1 sets out the strategy agreed for the consultation and engagement work. The online survey remains an important part of gathering feedback with additional events and ways of engaging specific groups planned alongside.
- 5.7 In addition to this enhanced approach to consultation and engagement, the draft strategy itself benefitted from comments and suggestions made at West Berkshire's first Climate Conference held on 28th October 2019. This popular event engaged a wide range of people from our community including residents, businesses, interest groups and community groups and set a good foundation for bringing together ideas for improving the environment in West Berkshire.
- 5.8 Figure 1 demonstrates that using the consultation feedback to help develop an agreed strategy is just the start of the process. It was always anticipated that specific projects

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

would be put forward as part of the engagement making this exercise a valuable part of informing the development of the Delivery Plan as well as the final strategy.

- 5.9 Some of the engagement sessions were undertaken with the help of consultants, WSP, held at Shaw House. Town and Parish Councils were invited, as were all the members of the community panel who had expressed an interest in the environment. This was very much a follow up to the Climate Conference held in October 2019 with a focus of moving forward with the Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Figure 1: Consultation and Engagement Strategy

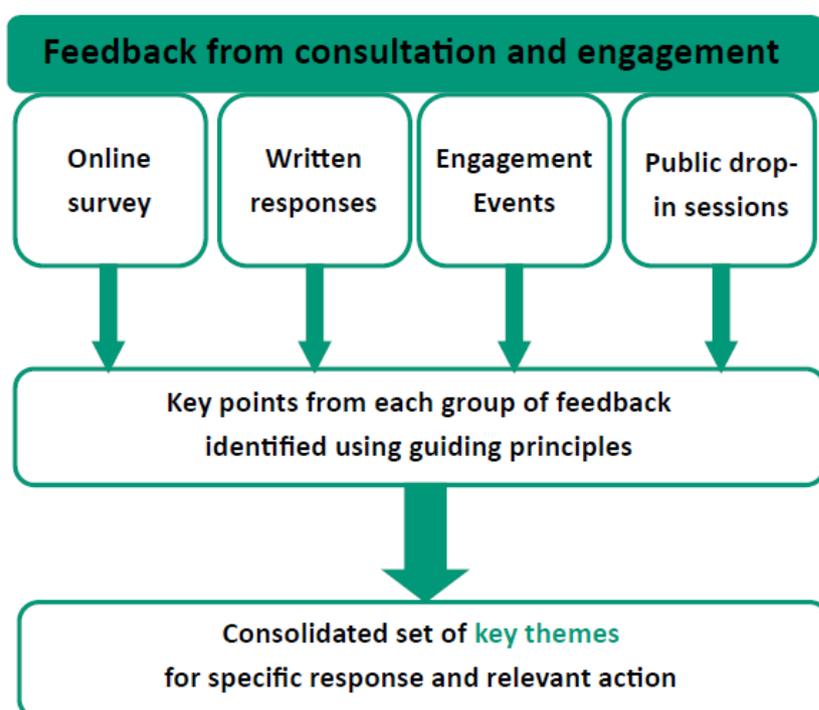


Process for Analysing Feedback

- 5.10 The enhanced approach to consultation and engagement described above led to a wealth of information, views and ideas being provided in the feedback received. Contributions to the feedback consisted of direct survey results, written responses from residents (many highly detailed and technical in nature), political party narratives and commentaries, local and national organisational statements and analysis from local media. In addition, there is also feedback from the public drop-in sessions and the facilitated engagement sessions with interested parties.

- 5.11 The process used for analysing the feedback is shown in Figure 2 below and described in the following paragraphs.

Figure 2: Process for analysing feedback



5.12 The feedback received was reviewed initially within its relevant group. For example, feedback from the online survey was reviewed all together and, separately, feedback from the different engagement sessions was considered together. Key points were identified from each of the groups of feedback. The process for helping to identify these key points from within the feedback was guided by the following principles:

- Where multiple responses were saying similar things demonstrating consistency and the weight to be given to the point, these were noted.
- Consideration of points from direct written responses which had an obvious practical or strategic benefit.
- Where responses reflected other feedback through the wider engagement it was given additional weight in the considerations.
- Where responses corresponded with technical feedback from consultants or other published data that had been researched it was given additional weight in the considerations.

5.13 The key points identified from the groups of feedback were then compared and considered all together in order to produce a consolidated set of key themes. It is considered that these key themes (18 in total) represent the most prominent feedback necessitating specific responses at this point in the process and, in some cases, proposed changes to the strategy document.

Summary of feedback

5.14 As already highlighted, the enhanced consultation was successful in producing feedback from a wide-ranging group from the community of West Berkshire. The project team considering the responses therefore brought in a range of officers who have responsibility for the delivery of functions most closely associated with the strategic

objectives and key targets. This provided a wider base of knowledge than just the project team in order to cover the range of topics covered by the responses. It also helped to ensure a greater awareness of the strategy and the comments that had been made.

5.15 The project team considered the full content of the responses and produced a series of summaries covering the different elements of the consultation and engagement process. The summaries are included in the appendices and are outlined below:

- Appendix C – Summary of survey responses by question. The survey responses are presented as graphs and charts and relate only to those who responded. A further dataset is available for all cases if requested. The accompanying comments made as suggestions to improve the strategy are also listed against the relevant survey questions.
- Appendix D – Summary of direct written responses. The direct written responses received did not follow any template and tended to reflect the background of the respondent. To help the consideration of these the following themes were used to group comments: Policy/Strategic issues; Technical issues; Communication and engagement issues; Presentation issues; and Items for the Delivery Plan.
- Appendix E - Feedback from engagement events. The programme of engagement events was a parallel exercise to the consultation and focussed on how local people could contribute to the local implementation of the strategic objectives and key targets.
- Appendix F - General public drop-in sessions. These were arranged as a parallel exercise to encourage engagement and feedback via the survey. The sessions also generated their own feedback which has been captured and recorded.
- Appendix G – Revised Strategy. The information gathered through the engagement outlined above has influenced a revised strategy which can be found in Appendix G. The revised strategy has also been influenced by a number of suggestions within the consultation responses which signposted some good examples of work being done elsewhere. These have been reviewed and used to help improve the strategy in terms of clarity of message, reducing the overall complexity of language and using pictures more readily to convey ideas.

5.16 As explained in the previous section, the analysis of the feedback from the different group summaries outlined above led to 18 key themes being identified. These themes and the responses and proposed actions are set out in Table 2 below which is an expanded version of Table 1 in the executive summary section of this report.

5.17 As well as the consultation feedback being used to improve the strategy, it will inform the development of the Delivery Plan to accompany the Strategy but also be valuable information to refer to as projects are initiated and as the Council continually monitors and reviews the progress of the implementation of the strategy.

Table 2: Response to key themes identified through consultation and engagement

Key themes to be taken forward within Strategy / Delivery Plan or through other areas of the Council's work		
Ref	Theme from consultation responses	Response / proposed action
1	We should work with a wider data set, including academic institutions, to help understand and improve the accuracy of our journey towards carbon neutrality. This should also include an acknowledgement about scope 3 emissions and how these will be monitored even if they are not included in the 2030 target.	Consideration will be given to establishing some technical advice to support the delivery of the Strategy. This advice and expertise will be incorporated into the work of the Environment Advisory Group and Environment Board.
2	There should be clearer incentives for business to improve their carbon reduction activity and ensure there is a clear link with the Economic Development Strategy.	Recommend investigation of how 'Green Incentives' might be applied within the District to the Economic Development Board. This will feed into and be monitored by the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan.
3	There should be effective enforcement of the current (and future) environmental standards.	When issues of environmental enforcement arise for example energy efficiency certification in the private housing sector, the Public Protection enforcement policy will apply. The Environment Board will consider any subject specific policies to provide a consistent approach.
4	The role of agriculture and farming should be more prominent.	This is reflected in the proposed revised strategy with recognition in section 3 that we need to find better ways to engage with farmers and landowners and a commitment in section 5.5 to work with landowners and farming/ agricultural communities to explore opportunities for natural sequestration through environmental land management techniques.

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

5	The Council should aim for renewable energy to be on all their sites (including schools).	A programme of site surveys will be commissioned including conditions surveys for reducing consumption. We will aim to deliver on all sites where it is shown there is a feasible renewable energy option. The judgement around feasibility will be based on the ability to find a structurally safe proposal in a way that is acceptable within Planning and where the required investment is justified for the predicted renewable energy return.
6	Increase the uptake and incentivise the use of electric vehicles, mindful of the impact of affordability to avoid social justice risks.	A specific strategy covering all Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles with a particular emphasis on electric vehicles will be brought forward and included in the Delivery Plan.
7	Greater focus on education and training (schools, residents and businesses) with sustained engagement events to try and persuade the wider community to believe in the vision.	We will facilitate ongoing engagement through existing channels and networks as well as examining new opportunities. A range of options will be considered such as delivering a programme of topic specific sessions each year through webinars or making use of other online platforms. The range of people who are keen to engage and the different ways in which they prefer to get involved will be considered in the education and training opportunities delivered.
8	The document should use more reader friendly diagrams to explain its key messages.	Some additional diagrams have been sourced and are proposed to be used in the final strategy document. Examples from other strategies and suggestions from the consultation feedback have been used to improve accessibility of the document.
9	Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards the Council's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing the citizens.	An annual report will be produced to set out progress against the Delivery Plan. In addition, an ongoing flow of information will be encouraged and the Council will look to a range of platforms to achieve this.

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

<p>10</p>	<p>The Council should show leadership to local businesses in the way it procures supplies and services.</p>	<p>The Council Procurement Strategy will be reviewed to include strong environmental and 'local first' principles to minimise carbon emissions from council operations.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Improve links with local food producers and find ways to get their produce to local markets.</p>	<p>This can be reviewed through the Feed and Food Enforcement Plan in the Public Protection Partnership and supplement the Economic Development Strategy.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Fundamental changes to kerbside recycling.</p>	<p>Bearing in mind existing contractual commitments with Veolia, opportunities will be explored to enhance the kerbside recycling scheme. Other possible opportunities to support recycling in the community will be explored. This will feed into the Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Show more desire to influence planning/housing policy.</p>	<p>This will be looked at through revisions of the Local Plan and the Housing Strategy. There is considerable professional opinion to suggest that the Council would be at risk to legal challenge should it go beyond existing environmental standards set by central government. The Council will, however, lobby Government to set the environmental standards in planning at the highest levels. The commitment to this has been strengthened in the Strategy to reflect the consultation feedback.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Stronger emphasis on the policy and financial commitments related to sustainable transport systems.</p>	<p>This will be dealt with through the Local Transport Plan and its associated strategies but will have the 2030 target as a central feature.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Improved provision of cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>There has been an increase in focus and delivery of cycling infrastructure particularly evidenced through the improvements to the facilities along the A4 as part of a Berkshire-wide strategic route. The momentum for this increased focus on cycling infrastructure will be continued through the updating of the Local Transport Plan and its associated strategies such as the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Particular</p>

		attention is being given to supporting cycling through the Active Travel Fund as part of recovery plans following the COVID-19 pandemic.
16	There should be more emphasis on air quality.	It is considered that the Council places the appropriate priority on air quality and will continue to address this area through its reporting to Defra, through identification of key monitoring data and through actions taken forward in the Local Transport Plan. The links with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will remain a priority. Opportunities to lock in any benefits for air quality arising from changes in behaviour as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be explored through the Delivery Plan.
Key themes not proposed to be taken forward		
Ref	Theme from consultation responses	Response / proposed action
17	Bringing forward the 2030 target.	The interpretation around levels of 'urgency' given the declaration of a climate emergency do need to be balanced against some pragmatic issues for delivery. It is not possible, in our view, to achieve our target before 2030 and in fact this is still too ambitious for many respondents who took part in the consultation.
18	Form a citizen assembly.	As a specific process this seems unnecessary if the engagement and communication improvements are made as suggested above. The response to key theme 1 in particular picks up on seeking wider advice and input in relation to our data set and technical aspects. At this stage it is considered that a citizen's assembly would take up valuable resources that should be directed at delivery of projects.

Next Steps

- 5.18 It is worth noting that towards the end of the consultation and engagement process a new structure has been agreed within the Environment Department. A new 'Environment Delivery Team' has been formed and will be responsible for progressing the Delivery Plan.
- 5.19 The immediate next step is to publish the final approved version of the Environment Strategy. Following that, the new Environment Delivery Team will have a priority of working with partners to develop the Delivery Plan to accompany the strategy.

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 It is acknowledged that there are a number of ways in which the consultation responses could have been interpreted and used to influence a final version of the strategy. This report has outlined the approach and process that was chosen to develop a series of recommendations for amendments to the strategy and elements to be taken forward in the Delivery Plan based on the content of the consultation.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The consultation and engagement process for the strategy has been a considerable task and has reflected the desire of the Executive to conduct a thorough process and provide plenty of opportunities for the community to get involved.
- 7.2 This report includes the proposed actions to be taken as a result of the consultation feedback and are a mix of direct changes to the strategy, ideas for inclusion in the Delivery Plan and elements to be picked up elsewhere in the Council's work.
- 7.3 Overall, it is considered that the feedback on the draft strategy has been positive and that the community of West Berkshire are pleased to see the Council taking the lead in developing a strategy. The level of engagement and the ideas and suggestions put forward by individuals and groups tends to suggest that the community agrees that the delivery of the strategy is a shared responsibility across the whole community.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.2 Appendix B – Data Protection Impact Assessment
- 8.3 Appendix C – Summary of survey responses by question
- 8.4 Appendix D – Summary of direct written responses
- 8.5 Appendix E - Feedback from engagement events
- 8.6 Appendix F - General public drop-in sessions
- 8.7 Appendix G – Revised Strategy

Background Papers:

All referenced with the summary report and appendices.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

Wards affected: whole district

Officer details:

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Document Control

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Version:	1.4	Date Modified:	
Author:	Paul Anstey		
Owning Service	PPC		

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1.0	05/03/2020	Initial draft based on the format used by Performance, Research and consultation team	PA
1.1	10/03/2020	Initial feedback form project team	PA
1.2	10/03/2020	EAG/Environment Board comments	PA
1.3	18/03/2020	Further project team feedback	PA
1.4	21/05/2020	Merge with consultation papers and wider research from other organisations	PA

Appendix A

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:**
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;**
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:**
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;**
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;**
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.**
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.**
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.**

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	Approve the Environment Strategy
Summary of relevant legislation:	None
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	No
Name of assessor:	Paul Anstey
Date of assessment:	10/03/2020

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	New or proposed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Function	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is changing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Service	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	Confirm the strategy for West Berkshire
Objectives:	Carbon neutral by 2030
Outcomes:	Linked into wider strategy framework for the council, improved consistency of approach on carbon emission reductions and financial decisions.
Benefits:	Reduced carbon emissions and the associated environmental and public health benefits.

Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.		
(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

		protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Disability	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Gender Reassignment	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Race	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Religion or Belief	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Sex	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.

Sexual Orientation	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Further Comments relating to the item:		
None		

Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an explanation for your answer: As projects associated with the strategy evolve there will need to be careful assessment on where investment goes to ensure that the delivery plan benefits as many people in the district as possible e.g. rural/urban compromise on infrastructure, sustainable transport solutions, cycleways. This will need to be picked up through the PMM associated with these projects individually and oversight through the Environment Board will be key.	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an explanation for your answer: In general the answer is no but this is difficult to predict. As above there will need to be careful consideration about the projects that are progressed to deliver the vision. There are views expressed in the consultation that would suggest some solutions to climate change are unpopular and may cause some adverse impact. This will need to be evaluated against the gains the majority may experience e.g. infrastructure will be desirable to some but not all, reducing car travel is difficult for some rural communities, businesses may not want to see green initiatives push up the cost of trading etc...	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered ‘yes’ to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template.

Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	Not for the strategy but to be mindful of impacts of individual projects that may be part of the Delivery Plan.
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	

Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
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Name: Paul Anstey

Date: 10.03.2020

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.

Appendix B

Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via dp@westberks.gov.uk

Directorate:	Place
Service:	Public Protection and Culture
Team:	
Lead Officer:	Paul Anstey
Title of Project/System:	Environment Strategy
Date of Assessment:	10/03/2020

Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

	Yes	No
<p>Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data?</p> <p><i>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</p> <p><i>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</p> <p><i>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will any decisions be automated?</p> <p><i>Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual’s input is “scored” or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any “profiling” of data subjects?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

	Yes	No
Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised		

If you answer “Yes” to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.

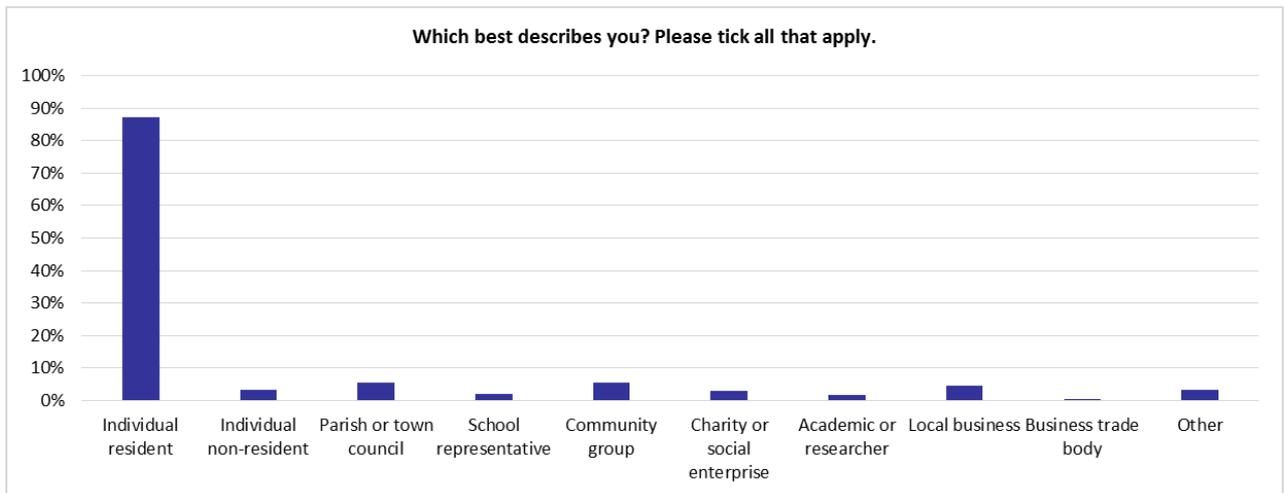
Appendix C

Summary of survey responses by question

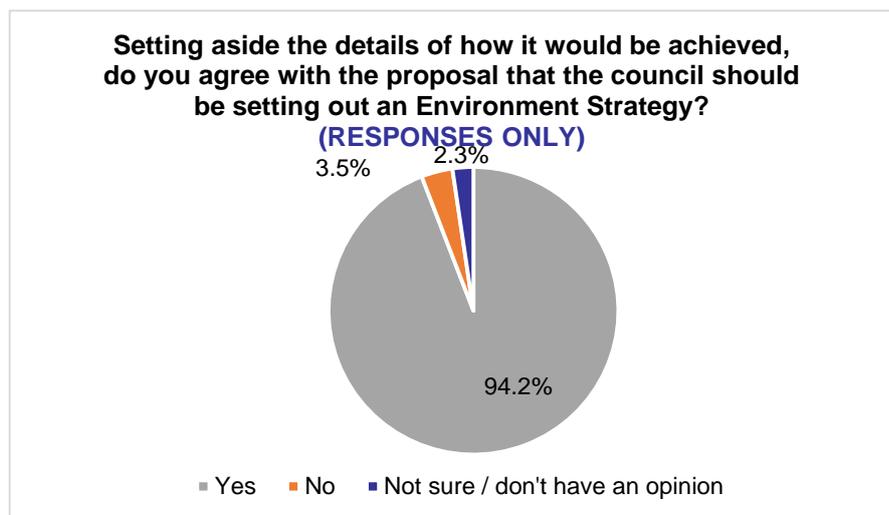
The tables and graphs represent the 'responses only' results. The total number of responses was 501. Where the response level is different it is identified in the title list by the n=##.

The bullet points under the charts are the summary of the responses for positive change, where they are in bold the comments were made by more than one person.

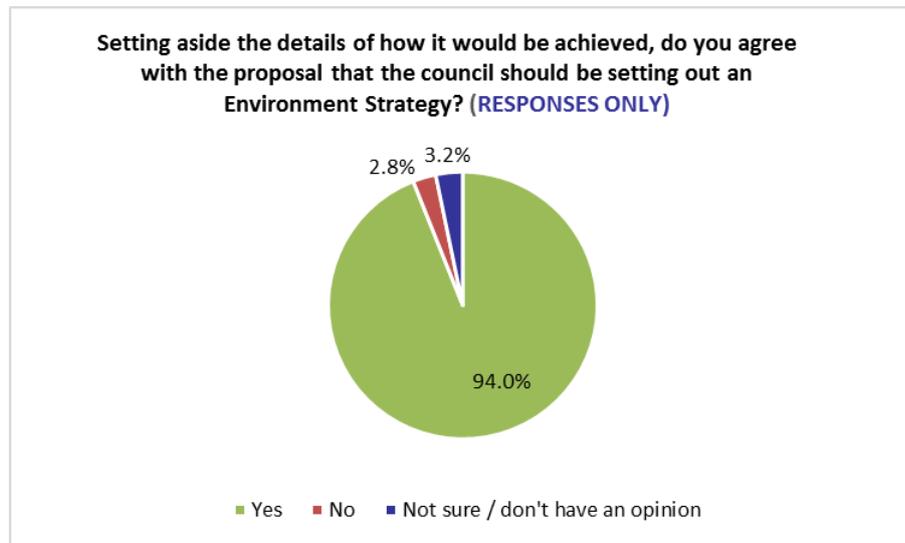
1. Response profile (all responses = 509)



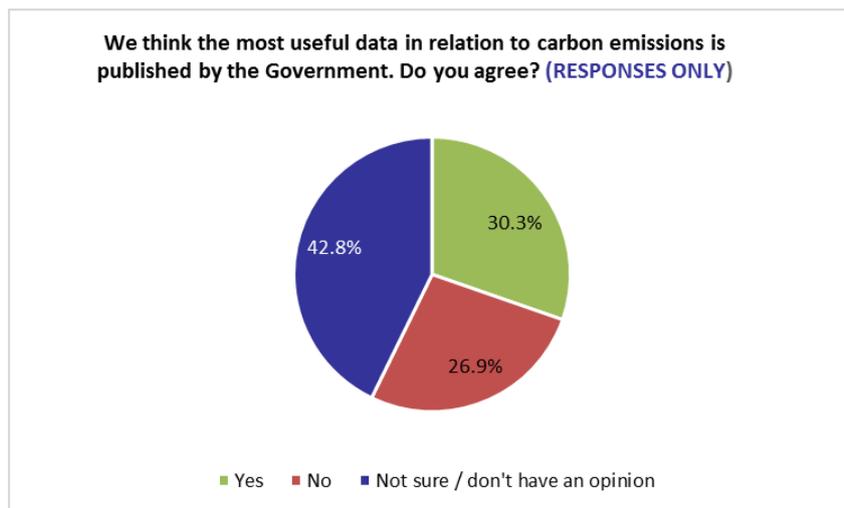
2. N= 430



3. N= 432

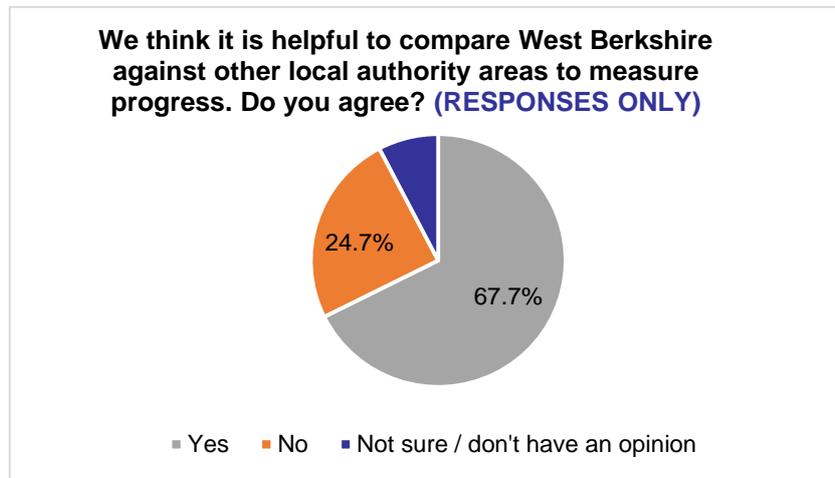


4. N= 402



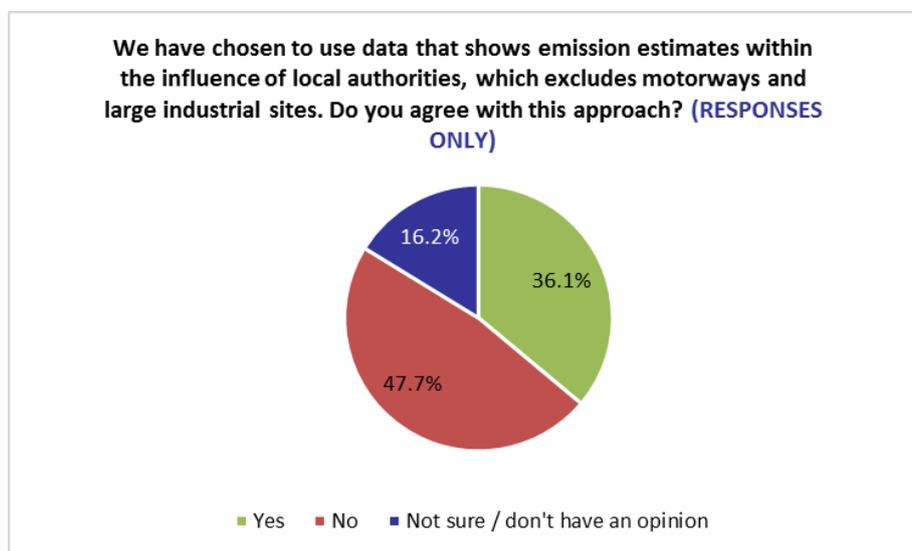
- Council should have its own data.
- NGO's and Universities
- Friends of the Earth
- MET Office Hadley Centre
- Reading University
- The Grantham Institute
- CCC/IPCC
- Greenpeace
- Carbon Trust
- NASO OCO-2 and 3
- Peer-reviewed work
- Not independent

5. N=405



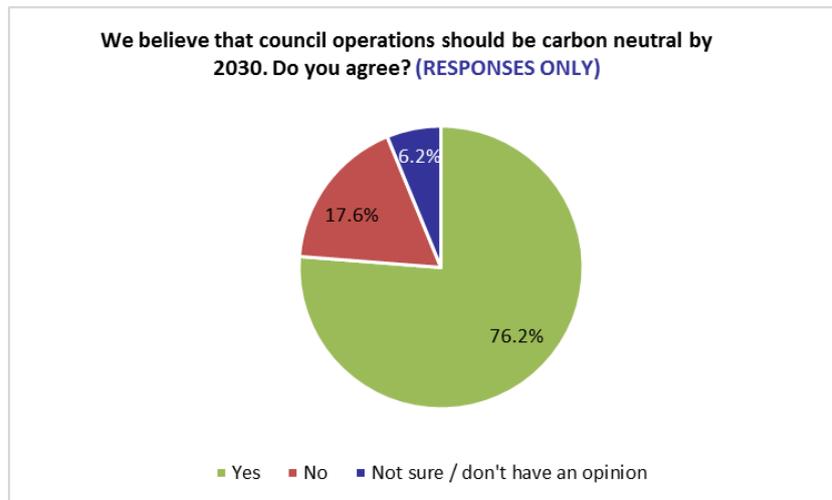
- Use the benchmarking to compare against high performing.
- Confirm what data makes those benchmarked against a fair comparison.
- Not at the expense of the main focus and targets set e.g. avoid complacency
- Look at international performance

6. N=407



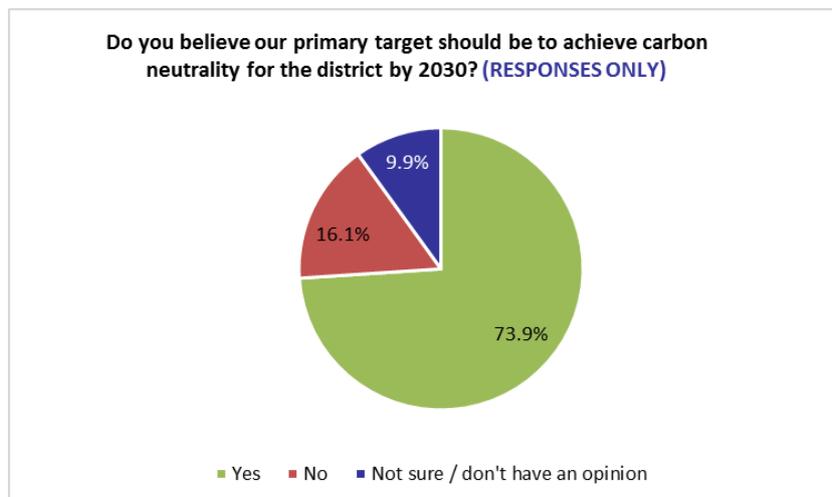
- Show a strategy for how we intend to influence those who do control them
- Monitor it even if you can't control it.

7. N=404



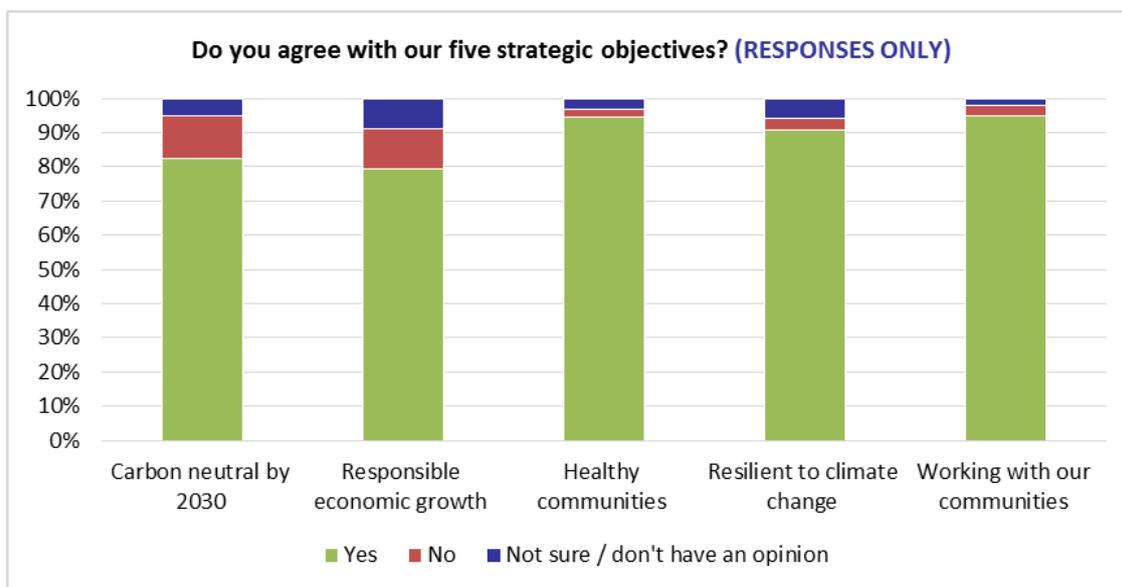
- Local first procurement strategy
- Clarify terminology net zero greenhouse gases

8. N=403



- Be clearer on what is 'in-scope'
- More focus on energy efficiency and reducing demand

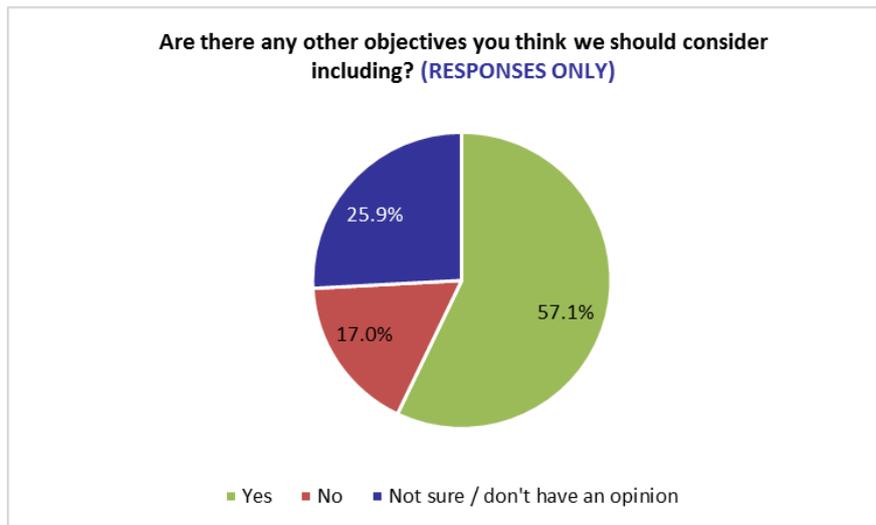
9. N=range 362 to 371



- Carbon Neutral by 2030 (13%)
 - o Needs to be earlier e.g. 2025
 - o Ground source heat pumps
 - o Need citizen assembly to drive this forward
 - o Too much emphasis on carbon offsetting
 - o More emphasis on reduce, re-use, recycle
 - o Home/SME insulation measures
 - o Balance tree planting with historic landscape
 - o More reference to natural carbon solutions rather than just planting trees
 - o Public transport

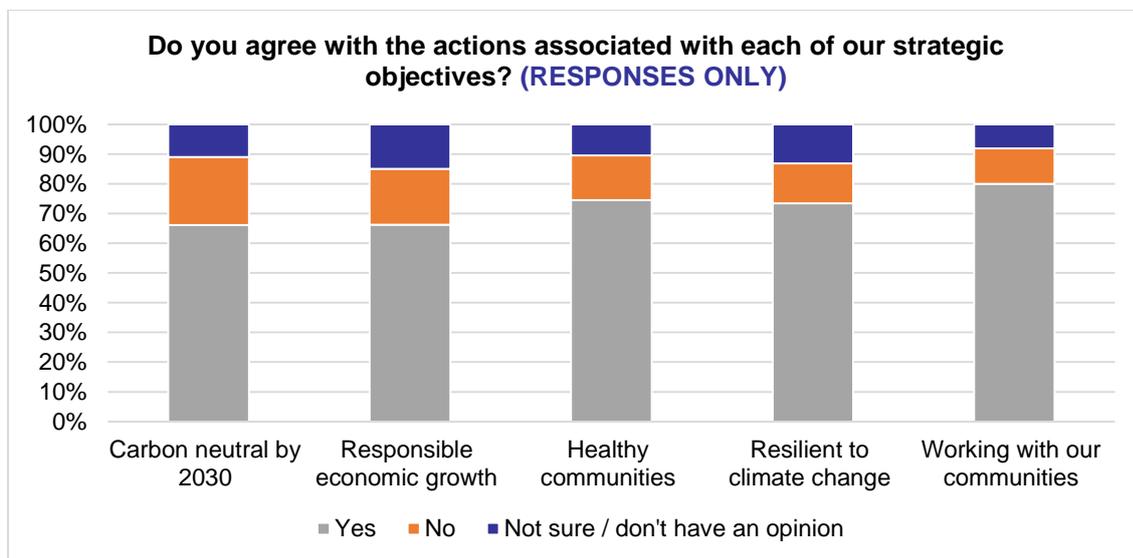
- Responsible Economic Growth (12%)
 - o **Incentives - Use of business rates/Business support funds**
 - o **Enforcement - Env Eff Cert/EPC's/DEC**
 - o Devolution of power to LA's
 - o Planning policy should be strengthened
 - o Env standards in new commercial buildings
 - o Encouraging improved use of technology
 - o Support home working
 - o Economic growth should not be mentioned at all
 - o Can we do better in explaining what types of economic growth we are looking for?
 - o How does this fit with the natural capital of west Berkshire
 - o Agricultural practices/support

10.N=352



- **Role of agriculture and farming**
- **Recycling**
 - o Restoring nature
 - o Plastics
 - o Local businesses/pension funds
 - o Public transport
 - o Schools

11.N= range 305-319



-
- Carbon Neutral by 2030 (23%)
 - **Solar and GSHP installed in all Council sites / Renewables**
 - **Sooner than 2030**
 - **Improve Sustainable Transport system and reduce costs**
 - **Increase uptake / Incentivise EV's e.g. Public Parking advantages for EV's**
 - **Improve kerbside recycling offer**
 - Incentives for private business/residents
 - Citizens assembly
 - Better education and communication of issues / opportunities / limitations
 - Education about Food waste
 - Home / SME insulation programme / actions to improve social housing
 - All licenced taxis to be EV
 - Wider consideration of other types of sequestration
 - Policy of only building on brownfields

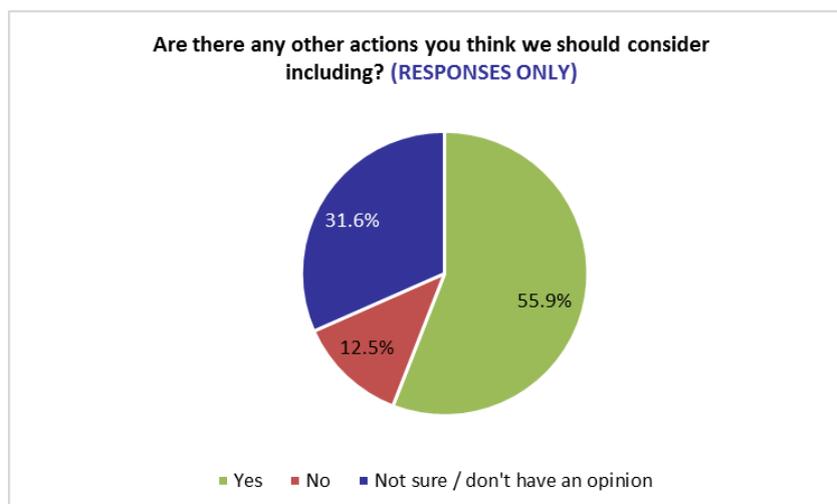
 - Responsible Economic Growth (19%)
 - **Implement/Enforce higher energy efficiency through Building Regs/planning**
 - **Use incentives/tax to help businesses make green choices**
 - **Minimum environmental standards for commercial developments are too low**
 - Lobby the Government to enforce higher environmental standards for new homes
 - Encourage PV installations
 - Encourage diverse businesses by reducing parking costs and cheaper business rates
 - What is responsible growth?
 - Agriculture missing
 - Designating London Rd Industrial Estate as a Green Development Zone
 - Business awards for green practices

 - Healthy Communities (15%)
 - **Cycle infrastructure (more and better planned)**
 - **Clean air (more joined up working)**
 - Local food supply
 - Leisure facilities
 - Improve care for the elderly
 - Reduce meat consumption/link to health eating
 - Consider mental health
 - Speed limit reductions on roads
 - Safe walking zones
 - Schools and outdoor spaces
 - New developments; better planting and more open space
 - Car free zones near schools
 - Home to School transport; cycling
 - Reduce the health inequality gap in the area
 - More use of wardens to patrol areas
 - Improve rural isolation
 - Offer workshops and guidance

-
- Resilient to climate change (13%)
 - **More emphasis on other potential climate change issues, e.g. drought, wild fires, etc.**
 - **Flood alleviation schemes / Community Flood Plans**
 - **Improved urban design, e.g. to address increases in temperature**
 - **Nature recovery network / Plant more trees**
 - Better education and communication
 - Maintenance of existing drainage systems
 - Rewilding e.g. reintroduction of Beavers
 - Community Farms / adequate allotment provision
 - No building on flood plains

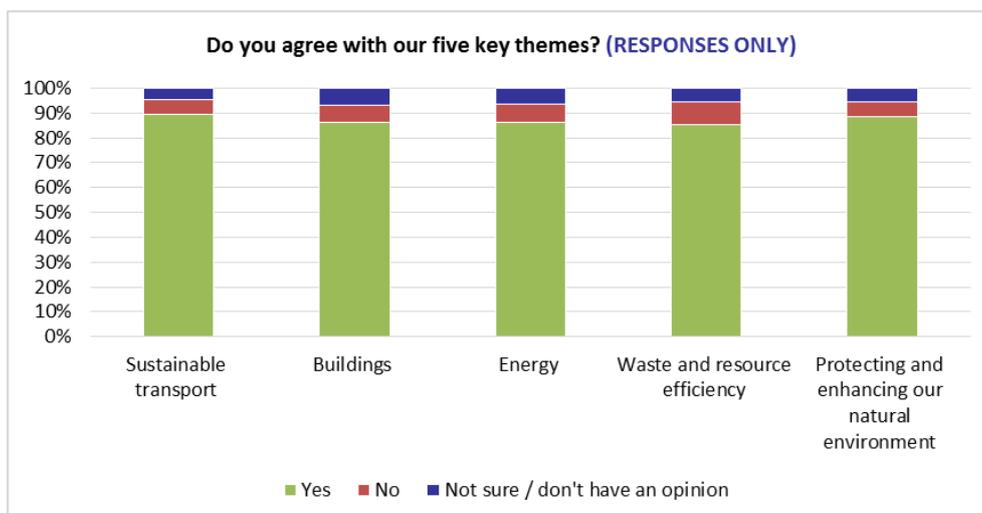
 - Working with our communities (12%)
 - **Citizens Assembly**
 - **Educate and engage people**
 - **Greater involvement of local groups**
 - Needs partnership agreements
 - Needs a direct reference to vulnerable communities
 - Involve the community at every decision making opportunity
 - Establish a working party to look at how partnership links can be formed
 - Consider all groups not just town and parish councils
 - Public transport and better integration of train and bus services
 - Improved and more frequent recycling services
 - More lobbying of government
 - Wider community involvement rather than just those with a green interest
 - More consensus between political parties
 - London Road Industrial Estate as West Berkshire's first Green Development Zone
 - Improved communications, publicity and awareness raising
 - Incentives to act

12. N=297

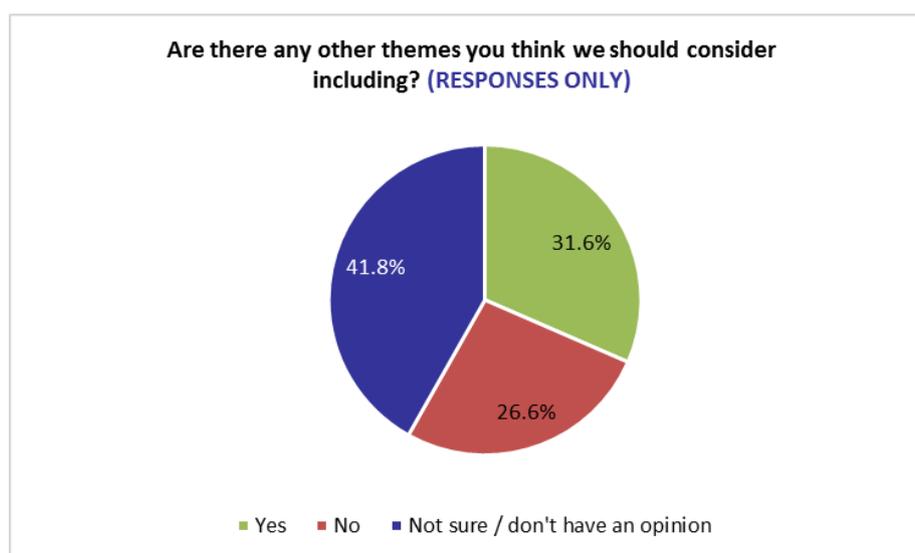


- **More attention on education and training (schools, residents, businesses)**
- **Better kerbside recycling offer**
- **Sustainable Transport System / Better rural bus service / Park & Ride**
- Look at what other municipalities beyond UK are doing
- Encourage / incentivise EV's
- Stronger local planning system requiring better design of housing and sites to include renewables from outset and adaption to climate change. Opportunity to use Faraday Road as example to rest of district.
- Proper resourcing of the issue at hand
- Workplace levy to discourage parking at work
- Rewarding those that take up and excel in the challenge (business rates / council tax)
- Renewables, hydro electric / solar PV etc.
- Citizens assembly
- Improving the profile of the local agenda e.g. only eat local sourced foods etc
- Address local agriculture activities and methods

13.N=range 301 to 318



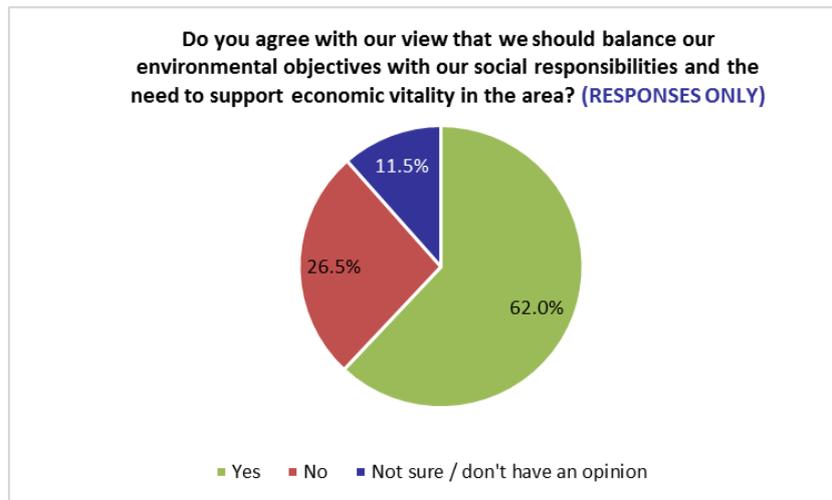
14.N=282



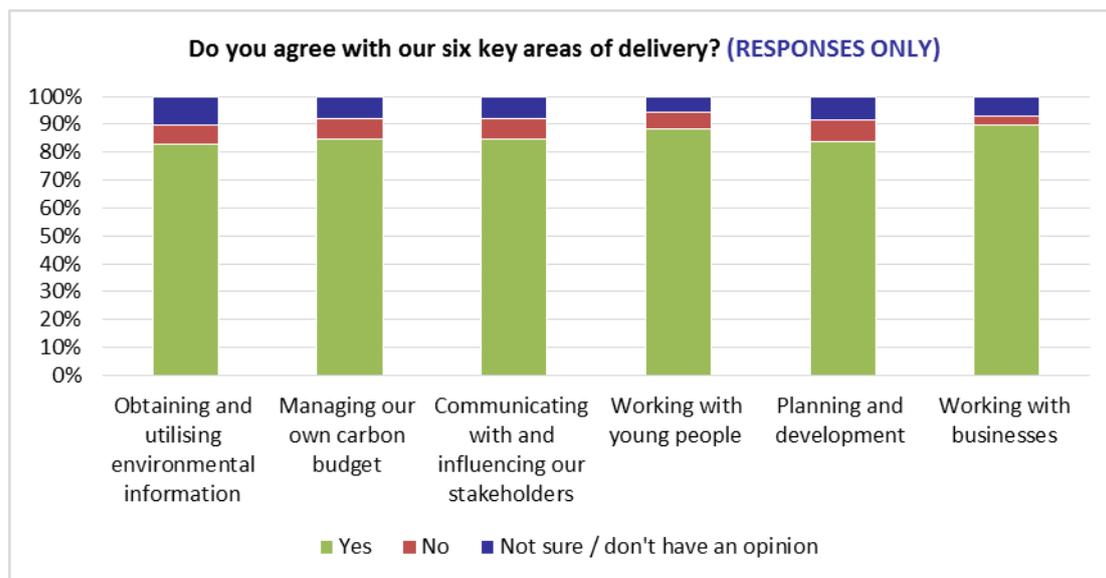
- **Plant more trees and increase green space**
- **Increase children and adult education around the environment – including WBC Councillors and Staff**
- **Agriculture and food production**
- **Improve recycling and increase plastic/Teracycle recycling – free recycling of materials at HHRCs and green waste at kerbside**
- **Comprehensive cycle network through the district**
- **No parking zones/traffic free zones outside schools**
- **Better communications and publicity**
- New walkways and nature reserves
- Improve public transport and more buses, more environmentally friendly
- Restricting bonfires and burning of waste

-
- Encourage all schools to sign up to Eco Schools programme
 - Cross party working
 - Council fleet electric
 - Lobby government
 - Reforestation of M4 Corridor
 - Cycling to schools
 - More street cleaning
 - Planning – full site environmental impact studies and low carbon buildings required
 - UN Strategic Development Goals – include recommendations
 - Focus groups
 - Free recycling for all
 - Introduce sustainable procurement processes
 - Better flood management
 - Farmers forum
 - Green Awards Scheme for West Berkshire
 - Appoint senior climate change officer – who would write weekly columns, social media accounts etc
 - Raise AQ awareness with parents at schools
 - Historic built environment needs a separate section
 - Build on brownfield rather than greenfield sites
 - More emphasis on rural areas, reduce fly tipping issues
 - Water
 - Aviation
 - Themes of Sustainable Transport to achieve Low Emissions and Clean Air, Protecting and Enhancing our Bio-diversity and Ecology - for Wildlife and Natural Environment
 - Enhancing local residents' wellbeing
 - Review street lighting. Type and timings.
 - Use the Kennet and Pang Valley aquifer for district heating
 - Park and rides
 - Promote closer local government (LG)/commercial/resident partnerships that are mutually beneficial e.g. shared use of car parks.

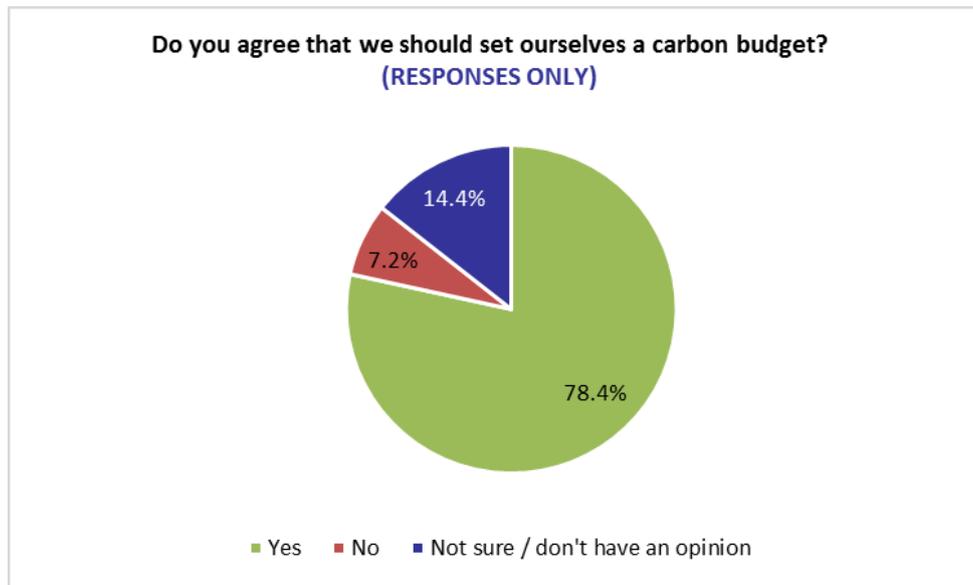
15.N=313



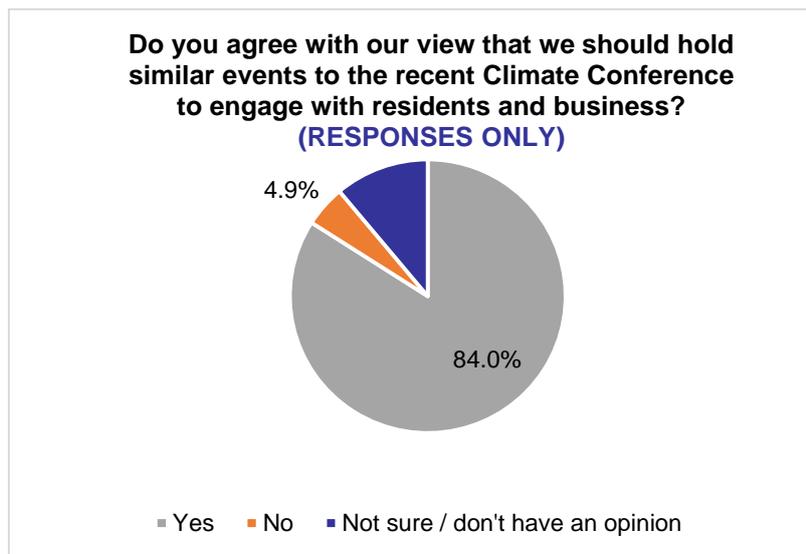
16.N=range 299-305



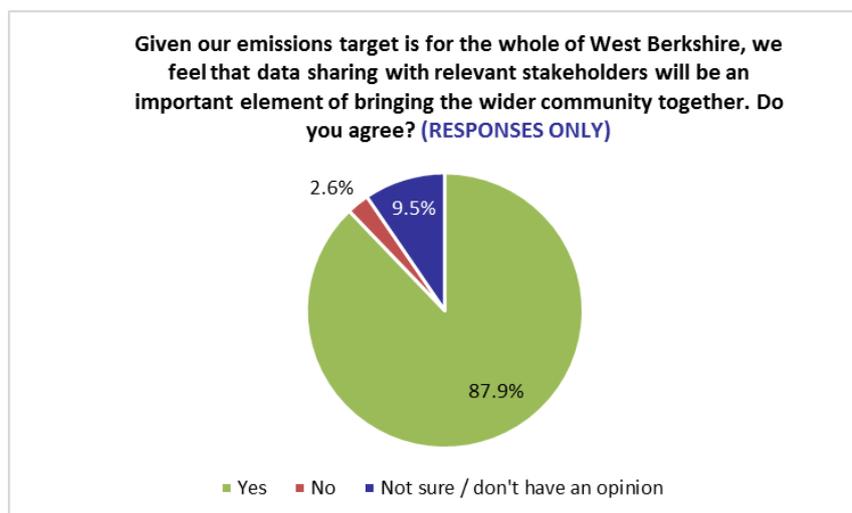
17. N=306



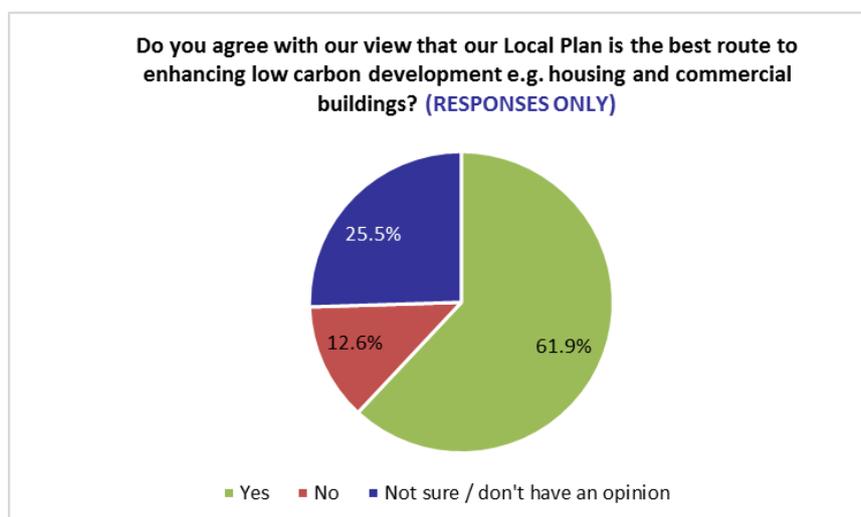
18. N=307



19.N=305

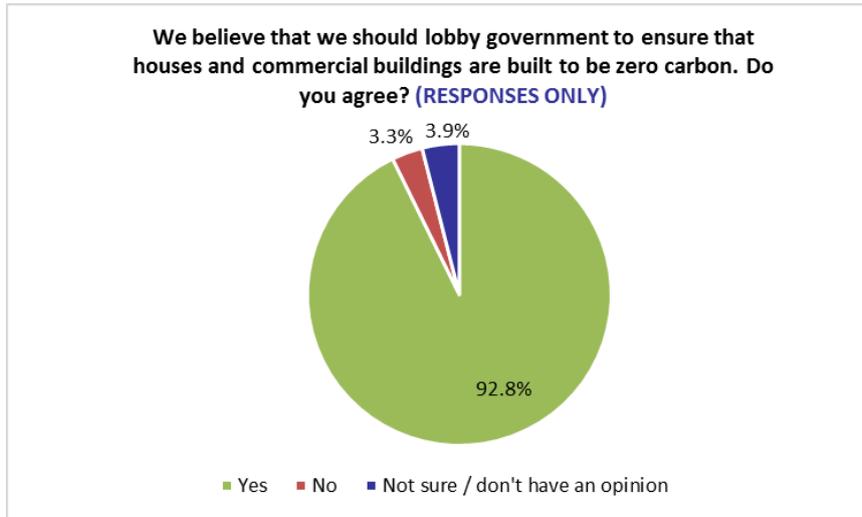


20.N=302

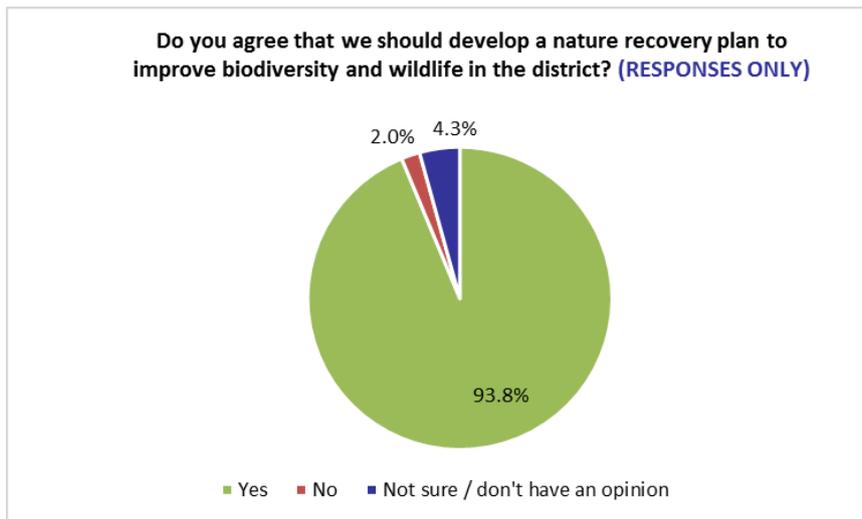


- **Merton Rule**
- **Must lobby government for more local power to set standards**
- **Zero carbon homes or equivalent standards should be adopted**
- **LDP must have renewable energy as a core policy**
- Prioritise brownfields over greenfields
- Better protection of natural environment
- Needs to have teeth / Must enforce any policy
- Like the idea of allowable solutions if realisable
- Local Area Energy Strategy to sit alongside LDP
- Needs to look at all aspects of building including construction and not just solar PV etc.

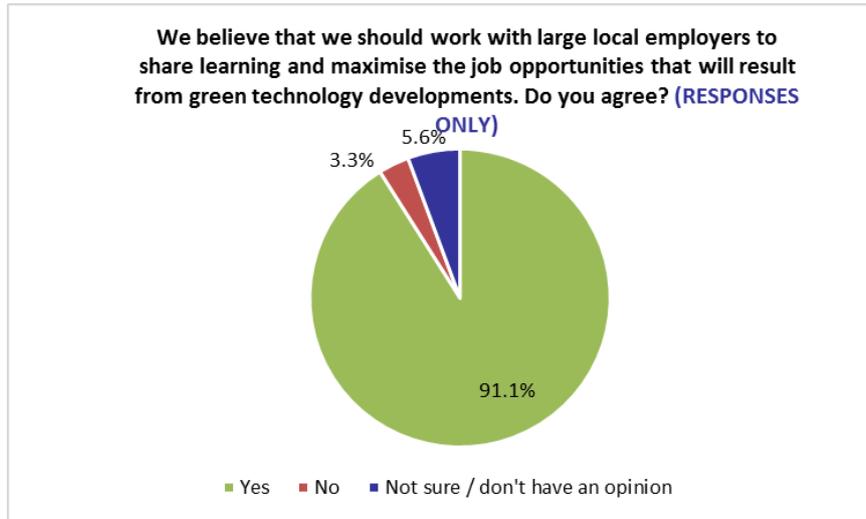
21.N=304



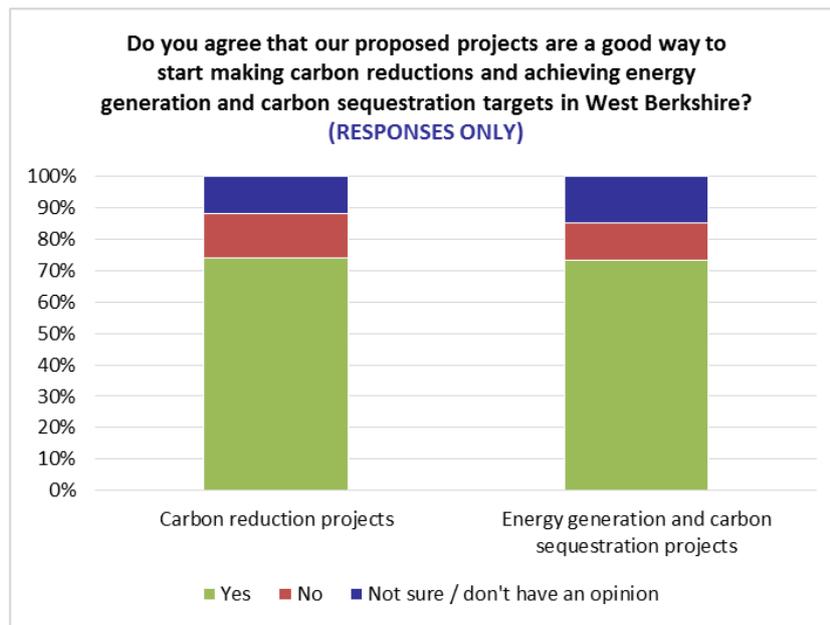
22.N=304



23. N =302



24. N=range 286 to 300



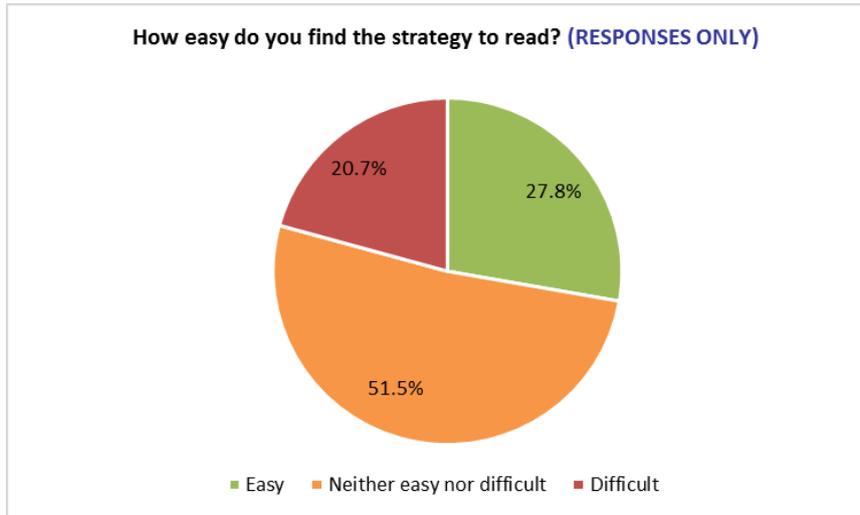
Carbon reduction projects

-
- **Need to be more ambitious**
 - **number to be agreed on first strategy review' this is a bit woolly**
 - **Need to see the targets/numbers**
 - Will need adequate communication on progress
 - Need to include timescales and measures of success
 - Lead by example and infrastructure with EVs
 - Demonstrate some practical achievements at WBC (or perhaps just promote what WBC have done)
 - Multi use paths
 - Wildflower verges, tree planting
 - Waste policy, contract length, Plastic recycling
 - Consider upstream supply chain
 - Work with schools, improve energy efficiency, solar panels etc
 - Wind energy
 - Agriculture
 - Doesn't appear to be about district as a whole

Energy generation and carbon sequestration projects

- **Tree planting**
- **More detail on targets and costs**
- **Hydro**
- **More solar projects**
- **Don't plant trees on agricultural land**
- Higher and more enforceable
- Invest in renewables and battery storage instead of commercial property
- Support local renewable projects
- Protect existing trees and hedges
- Wind investment
- Energy from waste
- Removing CO2 such as Carbon Capture
- Schools – solar panels on roof
- More advice and help
- Needs to be more about the district than WBC

25. N=299



Appendix D

Summary of direct written responses

Policy/Strategic Issues

- i) There needs to be a clear commitment that all the other Council strategies will tie in to the carbon zero objective by 2030. This should be a key element of the Delivery Plan.
- ii) Do more to seek control on emissions outside local authority influence. Find ways to explain the limitations and show practical examples of how the Council can monitor what others (government and industry for example) are doing and report back.
- iii) General scepticism in the effectiveness of lobbying central government.
- iv) Examine the links between social justice and ability to achieve behaviour change in relation to carbon reduction projects/initiatives.
- v) Show more desire to influence planning/housing policy.

Technical Issues

- i) Improve the consistency of data included in the document and get an independent third party to review what has been used.
- ii) Ensure the data is reliable and state if there are assumptions/gaps in the sources relied upon.
- iii) Find ways to measure carbon sequestration in order to assess overall balance.
- iv) Explain Scope 3 emissions in a more transparent way so people understand what it means if they are not measured, or what national data needs to be available to enable this, through to 2030.
- v) Be more ambitious and seek to achieve behaviour change through a more comprehensive approach than purely raising awareness.

Communication and Engagement Issues

- i) Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards the Council's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing the citizens.
- ii) Engage more with neighbouring authorities, specified experts, trade unions, staff and show more robust evidence that this will happen.

-
- iii) Be more outward facing on engagement, do more climate conference style events, use technology to get to 'hard to reach' people/business.
 - iv) Young people need more than 'awareness' they need projects they can get involved with.

Presentation Issues

- i) Less words, more accessible 'receiver friendly' illustrations/visuals.
- ii) Be clearer in the methodology and structure of the strategy to show how migration to a sustainable and low carbon position can be achieved:
 - Use less;
 - Increase efficiency;
 - Find carbon-friendly alternatives; and
 - Offset what's left.
- iii) Be clearer about the timescales for the delivery plan. Try to avoid the risks associated with too much talking and not enough action.
- iv) There are too many examples of clashes in style. Needs more editing by someone more removed from the process.

Items for the Delivery Plan

- i) There are lots of ideas which need to be considered. The Council needs to find an appropriate process to review, prioritise and approve projects which will maximise carbon emission reductions.
- ii) Decision making needs to be based on best available evidence, no room for short termism.
- iii) Establish a clear policy approach towards the agricultural sector to help engage on environmental improvement issues.
- iv) Maximise the number of joint projects with external partners e.g. town and parish councils, businesses, education and voluntary sectors e.g. Newbury College/Reading University/Schools/Community Hub.
- v) There should be a gap analysis of the Council as an organisation and recruitment/contracts should be mapped to address the gaps.

Full list of direct written responses

- a. *Policy/Strategic Issues*** (items where policy change needs to be considered)

-
- Develop a local offsetting scheme, which has been effectively scrutinised, for local SME's (small and medium sized enterprise) to sign up to.
 - The Council should be bolder in its attempts to provide local leadership. This should go beyond lobbying and fully embrace the 'emergency'.
 - Do more to seek control on emissions outside local authority influence, such as major roads. This should include seeking congestion charge style systems and local fuel tax systems.
 - Identify some indicative targets for others e.g. town and parish councils, local businesses.
 - Remove the green bin charge.
 - Embed ethical finance and investment as a principle.
 - Gentle 'nudge' approach is not enough. Need to be tougher in approach.
 - Support for integrated transport planning and the associated investment required to make it happen in a rural area. Focused on moving away from private cars towards better public systems.
 - In energy terms, using less and being more efficient should be the priorities.
 - General scepticism in the effectiveness of lobbying central government.
 - More emphasis on supporting local cooperatives of allotment holders, that cuts costs to Town Councils and contribute more imaginatively to food networks.
 - More comprehensive recycling services are needed to support residents.
 - A commitment to clean air zones.
 - There should be more evidence that the Council is prepared to simultaneously address social justice issues and the social inequalities evident in West Berkshire. Environmental objectives must be balanced with social justice e.g. concerns about the affordability of electric cars and how this will create a divide in the community.
 - The exclusions of certain emissions is wrong, they should be listed and shown as being the responsibility of others for monitoring purposes.
 - The Council plan to 2036 should be tied into the Environment Strategy.
 - Para 6.11 - Specific commitment to financially support bus services needed.
 - More resources should be made available for the sustainable transport initiatives described in the 2nd para of page 18.
 - Greater emphasis on new builds and set a defined target for when all houses should be carbon neutral.
 - Re-visit, with urgency, the Council's Local Plan/Core Strategy.
 - The Council needs to make the statement that overall planning policy will prioritise tackling climate change, protecting and enhancing the environment.
 - Explicit commitment on tree planting is needed.
 - London Road Industrial Estate should be designated a green development zone.
 - Specific policy on vehicle free zones near schools is needed.
 - Specific policy on increasing cycling is needed.
 - Develop a zone centred traffic plan.

-
- Introduce a workplace parking levy for those places of work with 10 or more parking spaces.
 - Review waste strategy and policy to maximise recycling. This review should also consider removing the green bin charge and the permit scheme, improving kerbside bins and more commercialisation of composting.
 - Review procurement policy to include environmental sustainability clauses.
 - Create grant funding to encourage small scale, local, projects on climate change/carbon reduction.
 - Need to reconsider the inclusion of methane as part of the target, the big input of waste to greenhouse gases should be mentioned.
 - Show more desire to train the right tradespeople to develop skills e.g. installers and engineers across the area so they can provide good quality advice for new installations. This is also a good start for west Berkshire becoming a good place for business.
 - There should be a clear organisational change policy, with adequate technical input, to show how the Council will adapt to the emergency and what steps are required to achieve sustained change.

b. Technical Issues (issues raised where there is specific scientific/technical element to respond to)

- Carbon sequestration is more than just planting trees. Find ways to measure carbon sequestration in order to assess overall balance.
- Concern about the Council's financial capacity to deliver on projects needed.
- Make clearer the reasons why certain evidence was used.
- Chart 5 (p29) data shows an artificially low carbon saving requirement. Need to see stronger evidence that the downward trajectory of emissions reductions will continue, nor that the sequestration target of 350 ktonnes is achievable. These figures should be independently underwritten. Find a partner e.g. Reading University as done by other LA's.
- P.15 should state that the provision of energy infrastructure, required to cater for economic growth, must come from sustainable sources.
- Review the claims made about electric vehicle charge points, not agreed and needs a more detailed study which engages a wider set of partners.
- Para 6.22 – mention the use of LED as a contributor.
- Para 6.25 – government consultation on Building Standards Part L (Energy Efficiency) should be noted and the Council should commit to ensuring insulation and air tightness standards are improved.
- Table 3, page 19 – why the difference? Wider consideration of other technologies needed.
- Clarify the technical references in how much renewable energy would need to be produced to sustain the Council's operations.
- Assumptions based on national data which is the basis for Charts 3 and 5 have significant risks attached and should be made clearer. Make more reference to the carbon audit and the potential for a new line requirement.

-
- Section 8 and the series of figures that are included in it should be made clearer and the logic explained. How reliable is the extrapolation and is the target realistic?
 - In relation to strategic objectives we should consider including the fact that budget planning is reflective of the strategy.
 - Need to reflect the IPCC report of October 2018 which stated that the upper target of 2°C was no longer safe and the 1.5°C should henceforth be the upper limit. This report added the huge urgency to the issue.
 - Page 10, Chart 3 needs re-modelling as the per person calculations don't make sense.
 - Page 12 para 4.1.3, please explain Scope 3 emissions and why they are excluded.
 - Page 19 section 6.1.3 1st paragraph. Could the 11,630MWh expressed here, the 11.6M kwh on page 24, fourth paragraph of section 6.2.2, and the 11.5 MW on page 29, section 8.1, first bullet, please be expressed in the same way.
 - Awareness-raising as the primary strategy for change has again and again been shown to be an ineffective – very probably even highly psychologically damaging – change strategy. What has been shown to be more effective is to bring together four factors together. These are:
'Agency', defined as the ability to do something personally meaningful in response to information received on the climate emergency;
'Association' with a supportive group, defined as being able to work together with others in a pro-climate context.
'Awareness' of the relevance of climate change to one's own life and priorities.
'Action and reflection' – Reflecting on outcomes to learn what works and to build understanding of how to do better in future.

c. *Communication and Engagement Issues* (looking at how the document reflects the Council's approach towards the 'message')

- The nature of the communications and consultation process is in need of review and modernising.
- There should be a stronger presence of a commitment to include workers and trade unions. Include them and learn from them.
- More integrated strategy work across children and families services in acknowledging the way climate change will impact on them. Include them and learn from them.
- Be more creative in the engagement process to widen the feedback and create a more inclusive environment. This includes events such as the Climate Conference, learn from the technology that is available and find ways to get to 'hard to reach' groups.
- Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards WBC's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing us as citizens (a more accurate term than 'residents').
- Embed and progress the 'shared learning' ambitions.

-
- Find more creative ways to unblock the political dimensions that have been experienced in the governance process. Environment Board and Environment Advisory Group need better engagement and communications.
 - Engage more with neighbouring authorities, specified experts and show more robust evidence that this will happen.
 - A series of face to face public events will be needed if public opinion is to be changed, which will need professional facilitation.
 - Carry out more partnership working with other LA's who are more advanced in their climate change/carbon reduction journey.
 - Explore more creative ways to engage with the public and move away from internal meetings on the subject.
 - Look for 'flagship' projects which will generate a greater level of excitement and inspirational.
 - There should be more of a steer to others, for instance Newbury and Thatcham town Councils, given they have declared climate emergencies. Can there be an allocation of the target to them?
 - Publish the planned date of issue of the draft delivery plan which should focus on energy reduction and efficiency before renewable energy and offsetting.
 - Focus the strategy on reduction, reuse and recycling.
 - It is obviously important to give appropriate opportunities to participate to the younger generation, but efforts must be led, and be seen to be led, by current decision takers in the community in businesses and in the household.

d. Presentation Issues (specifically relates to the way the document has been drafted/formatted)

- More effective use of diagrams and comparisons with other local authority output.
- Less emphasis on the Council's emissions given it is such a small proportion of the overall problem.
- Be clearer about the timescales for the delivery plan. It should be produced as soon as possible.
- Be specific about Council initiatives which aim to reduce their carbon emissions so others can follow suit.
- Include information about what the Council does in relation to air quality monitoring.
- Be clearer in the methodology and structure of the strategy to show how migration to a sustainable and low carbon position can be achieved:
 - Use less;
 - Increase efficiency;
 - Find carbon-friendly alternatives; and
 - Offset what's left.
- Better breakdown on the information that makes up the orange line in the conclusions.

-
- More emphasis on green urban spaces for play and leisure have proven links to improving physical and mental health.
 - P10 – too much cut and paste with not enough explanation of why it is included.
 - Chart 2 – doesn't work at this scale – move to appendices.
 - Include a glossary.
 - There are too many examples of clashes in style. Needs more editing by someone more removed from the process.
 - Improve the clarity about why some measures or policies have been preferred over others.
 - Question whether 'healthy communities' and 'waste and resource efficiency' are directly relevant – should this be a pointer to other strategy work?
 - Clarify some of the conclusions, explaining the connections between some of the statements made or statistics quoted.
 - Given the Councils relatively small contribution to overall emissions, there is too much focus on it within the document.
 - Include in a glossary an explanation of the terms energy, power, peak power installed and the units to measure them.
 - A section on what the council might require from town and parish councils.
 - More specific focus on air quality, low emission or zero emission zones.
 - More clarity on how progress will be measured and evaluated.
 - Repetitive nature of the document.
 - There needs to be more clarity in the context section and be consistent in referring to zero net carbon.
 - There should be more use of local data.
 - Climate change is certain to continue until late in the 21st century so adaptation needs greater emphasis.

e. *Items for the Delivery Plan* (items where policy/project is in place or where project feasibility is required)

- The potential for groundwater to be used as an energy source in West Berkshire.
- Review of Greenham Common, its potential to contribute to both carbon reduction, natural habitat, biodiversity and minerals and waste objectives.
- Find out more about existing projects where we can engage young people to get involved in environmental conservation.
- Mention how people can reduce emissions at home e.g. coal and open fires.
- Should be a project to increase pedestrianisation and Ultra Low Emission Zones.
- Research energy generation methods such as Bio-energy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS).
- Wider use of speed lowering schemes.
- Review the Newbury bus station project and consider its suitability for a more integrated transport system.

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- Carry out a dedicated assessment of the effects on accessibility issues raised for older people, disabled people, wheelchair users, and families of young children using buggies, all of whom who are most affected by changes to car usage, parking and public transport.
 - All new homes should be fitted with solar panels, super-efficient insulation and triple-glazed windows, and are not fitted with fossil fuel heating systems such as gas boilers as standard.
 - Need to see more information about how Veolia can help the Council make producers responsible for the waste they create and for the full cost of recycling or disposal, encouraging more sustainable design and manufacturing.
 - Greater investigation into the links between flytipping and the waste services provided by the Council.
 - The Council should produce, and make public, robust environmental impact assessments coupled with an infrastructure strategy that identifies shortfalls in existing drainage systems and renew/maintain where appropriate.
 - The Council should have a register of land owners to ensure their land is managed in an environmentally responsible manner.
 - Where 'lobbying' of government is referred to this should be a set of clear and publicly available objectives sent to the MPs for an answer.
 - Specific lobbying of the AONB so as to permit the use of land for power generation, food production and recreation.
 - Encourage the take up of 'green roofs'.
 - Work with the Licensing Committee to improve air quality policy, vehicle standards and enforcement.
 - Review all council associated travel, officers and members, and introduce policy incentives to reduce it.
 - Review policy on bus provision, evaluation of cost for a sustainable and free service to connect key public infrastructure.
 - Engage with Vodafone to seek wider public access to bus routes.
 - Greater use of education campaigns to reduce consumption to minimise overall waste levels.
 - Clear action plan on reducing plastics, specific commitments on single use both for the Council and their contractors.
 - Full consideration of retro-fitting council buildings to improve energy efficiency.
 - Specific commitment on solar PV for all council buildings, including schools.
 - Review all other Council estate to look for renewable energy opportunity.
 - Specific policy on schools to enable them to take maximum advantage of energy saving technology.
 - Evaluate the potential for a private landlord licensing scheme which includes energy standards.
 - Establish a clear policy approach towards the agricultural sector to help engage on environmental improvement issues.
 - Review flood management policy to include more specific ways to improve sustainability.

-
- Dedicate resources to the management of climate change within council structures.
 - Provide a wider training programme for senior officers on climate change and carbon reduction.
 - Evaluate the potential benefits of a green awards scheme.
 - More Council run car parks should offer EV charging points.
 - Page 18 section 6.1.1 Sustainable Transport quotes 'large number' of EV charging points which seems inappropriate. A more considered view of the subject is needed.
 - 'Decoupling emissions and economic growth is already a reality in the world's major economies' has only been achieved by rich nations exporting their manufacturing emissions to poorer nations where manpower is cheaper as you noted in your own comment earlier in the strategy. Under this heading there should be included an item for investigating how a zero growth strategy might be achieved.

Feedback from the Engagement Events

i. Community Conversations facilitated by WSP

Climate Change Workshop

3rd & 4th February 2020

Shaw House, Newbury



Background

In July 2019 West Berkshire District Council declared a Climate Emergency

On the 28th October 2019 West Berkshire District Council held a Climate Conference

West Berkshire District Council have made a commitment to be "carbon neutral" by 2030

The objectives of the workshop were:

To explore and identify practical steps which can shape our response to tackling the Climate Emergency. This can include:

- Identifying how Parish Councils can help to achieve the Climate Change Strategy?
- How can the community support the District Council in their responses?
- How can the District and Parish Councils support the wider community to contribute to the Strategy's targets?



N.B. This workshop was not part of the Consultation run by WBDC.

Workshop Format



WSP provided 4 workshops on the subject of climate change

Workshop 1 – Mon 3rd Feb 2020; 6pm – 7.15pm – Parish & Town Councils

Workshop 2 – Mon 3rd Feb 2020; 7.30pm – 8.45pm – Residents

Workshop 3 – Tues 4th Feb 2020; 9.30am – 10.45am – Parish & Town Councils

Workshop 4 – Tues 4th Feb 2020; 11am – 12.15pm – Residents



Participants heard a 20 minute [presentation](#), outlining the background to the workshop, some ideas and potential solutions in order to inspire a discussion. Participants were then divided into topic groups.

Topics were:

- Renewable energy, heating & buildings
- Transport
- Waste
- Green district and tree planting



In their topic groups, participants discussed the following questions:

Q1 - What is going well in the District?

Q2. What could be done better in the District? List key priorities

Q3 - We want to be ambitious. What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?



Participants fed back their thoughts to the facilitators and Council Officers, and had some Q&A regarding certain points

Group 1 - 3rd February 2020



Photos show the 6pm-7.15pm session attended by Town and Parish Councils



Group 2 - 3rd February 2020



Photos show the 7.30pm - 8.45pm session attended by residents.

Group 3 - 4th February 2020



Photos show the 9.30am - 10.45am session attended by Town and Parish Councils.



Group 4 – 4th February 2020



Photos show the 11am – 12:45pm session attended by residents.

Workshop 1 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious, What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 1 were divided into three groups. They covered Renewable Energy & Heating, Transport and Waste. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy & Heating:

Battery technology and incorporating solar panels; Community ownership of future technologies; Education in green technologies.

Transport:

School buses that are subsidised by parents who choose to drop-off themselves; Open disused rail lines which are flat, direct and could be developed. Combine this with promoting use of electric bikes; Planning decisions - if it has a detrimental impact don't allow it to be built.

Recognition that many planning laws are bound by national guidelines - lobby Government.

Waste:

Education - food waste, attitudes, local coupled with national campaigns; Terracycle; Eat local initiative.

Workshop 2 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious, What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 2 were divided into four groups. They covered Renewable Energy & Heating, Transport, Waste and Green Districts & Tree Planting. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy & Heating:

Energy switch - point people towards 'green suppliers'; Solar panels on all new housing; Lobby Government; Hydrogen power; Battery storage for electricity.

Transport:

Explore Greenham Park to Vodafone Park and Ride via dedicated bus lane; Make sustainable modes more attractive than driving; Integrated approach to public transport - integration of bus and rail stations; Strategic planning of cycle routes and desire lines.

Waste:

Increase recycling of all types of plastic; More water fountains to avoid disposable bottles; re-instate compost withdrawn by council due to cost; introduce school compost bins (for school food waste). Cut verges less often.

Green District and Tree Planting:

Seed funding community groups; Supporting local farmer clusters - soil health; Use of extracted ground land; Use local planning process to get communities involved; Restoring gravel land; Create new bonds; Effective management of woodlands; Sustainable drainage systems; Assisting in the integrating of wildlife; Education for people to have a more green mindset; Landscape experts; Looking at our biodiversity; Encourage regenerative agriculture

Workshop 3 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious. What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 3 were divided into three groups. They covered Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings, Transport and Waste. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings:

Utilising schools and community halls for solar panels; Selling energy back to schools; expanding solar panels on to all buildings; Council advertising what grants are available; use any ground unsuitable for housing development for renewable energy sources.

Transport:

Properly integrated transport & park and ride; Cooperation between parishes and WBDC and neighbouring boroughs e.g. Basingstoke and Deane; Free public transport for those in education. Promote car clubs ; only allow electric taxis; Speed limits reduced from 70mph to 60mph; Parish EV charging made available; Introduce idling as a traffic offence; Bus to school that parents pay as you go; More cycle paths and electric bikes.

Waste:

Well designed green bins - rewards / points system / council tax deductions; Consistency in recycling practices across the district & collaboration with neighbouring boroughs; Communicate key successes in waste management; Electric vehicles charging points at the parish level; Council more proactive with supermarkets and local businesses; Look at historic methods e.g. milk floats & recycled bottles etc; Do more to promote refillable businesses.

Workshop 4 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious. What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 4 were divided into four groups. They covered Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings, Transport, Waste and Green Districts & Tree Planting. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings:

Local community action - Community Interest Company / sharing profits / investing in community bonds; Wind turbines with solar panels around the base; Passive house- energy efficient house design; Capital fund set up by WBDC to enable schools to improve energy efficiency; pool of things where people are able to purchase e.g. insulation; Local governments together as one voice; zero carbon new build houses and schools; Building infrastructure for biomass; Voice the need for battery technology; Conserve water - underground storage for re-use in new houses.

Transport:

Ban idling (including buses at bus station); Run electric-vehicle shuttles between train and bus stations; New housing provision for charging; Local authority planning decisions taken with Climate Change in mind; Monitor travel plans effectively (including school); Why is new development allowed if there's no footway? Don't allow dumping electricity; Taxi licenses only given for electric vehicles (and no idling of old stock); Work with parishes to install EV charging on street; Promote car clubs.

Workshop 4 Discussion Outputs Continued

Waste:

Design of recycling bins (lids and wheels); More options for recycling large materials / reduce charge to encourage proper disposal (could reduce fly tipping); More high street recycling; Repair Cafés instead of disposing items; education about climate change; Plastic bag free Newbury - share best practice; More degradable bin liners; Terracycle; Business rate reductions to incentivise more recycling; Hungerford Hopper - expand across the district; Review current waste contractors/contracts; Champion local businesses with good practices; Food waste initiatives (e.g. community fridges); Better communication around waste initiatives (e.g. food waste) & public education and engagement in relation to the science behind the climate; Disincentivise buy one get one free.

Green District and Tree Planting:

AONB & WBDC needs to work together to be more progressive and flexible; Multi use land, biodiversity, soil quality, solar farm; Education (bee hives & bug hotels, dirty hands, growing plants); Promoting what we have already; Trees - planting public / private land; conserve water/ river / flood management; Roof planting; Land owners to collaborate.

Key Themes

The shortlist below outlines recurring themes from two or more of the workshop groups:

Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings:

- Expand solar panels to as many places as possible incl. all new build roofs and schools.
- Education / communication about best practice & community involvement.
- Storage for energy (batteries).

Transport:

- Bring back school buses as 'the norm'.
- Integrated public transport - enable smooth transition between modes (e.g. train and bus).
- More strategic planning when thinking about cycle routes (and walking desire lines) especially in rural areas.
- Address idling - taxis, buses and the public.

Waste:

- Education and engaging certain parts of the community with large outputs e.g. schools.
- Increase what can be recycled, and make it easier to recycle small and large items (and possibly incentivised).

Green District and Tree Planting:

- Education and engagement, especially from a young age.
- Collaboration between organisations (e.g. AONB), Councils and community groups.

Overall:

- Lobbying Central Government and a coordinated approach with other Districts/Boroughs came up in nearly all of the discussions. All participants seemed to agree that taking action NOW was very important. Better planning laws, better strategic thinking, and improved building regulations were also brought up several times across the groups.

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We asked the participants for their feedback on the Workshops



	Please circle one				
<i>Did the workshop meet your expectations?</i>	Exceeded	Yes	No		
<i>Overall how much did you enjoy the workshop?</i>	Really enjoyed	Enjoyed	Did not enjoy		
<i>Could you describe what you enjoyed about the workshop in one word? (open question)</i>					
<i>Overall how well was the workshop delivered?</i>	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor
<i>Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve the workshop? (open question)</i>					

Feedback (56 respondents)



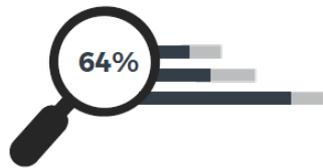
63%

Of respondents said the workshop met their expectations, while 5% said it exceeded their expectations. 27% said it didn't meet their expectations and 5% said 'other'.



74%

Of respondents said they enjoyed the workshop. 13% of respondents said they really enjoyed the workshop. 8% did not enjoy it and 6% said 'other'.



64%

Of respondents felt that the way in which the workshop was delivered was good. 5% thought it was excellent and 25% ticked neutral. 4% of respondents thought it was poor or very poor. 1 person (2%) selected other.

Feedback

Feedback from participants included

Many of the comments on the feedback forms related to not feeling as though 1 ¼ hours was long enough to get the discussion going and to develop ideas about how the concepts could be developed across Parishes / with WBDC and other Boroughs (and nationally).

Other feedback included:

Would have liked to know agenda/have reading-materials in advance so they could prepare more and discuss with others.

Would have preferred if some individuals had taken their points up privately with WBDC rather than during discussions as it limited others' ability to share ideas.

Would have liked groups to be targeted per Parish so ideas could be more specific.

Limit individual questions during presentation to enable more time for discussion.

There was also a full set of feedback on specific projects that will be incorporated into the Delivery Plan process.

General public drop-in sessions

As part of wider public engagement around the Environment Strategy the Council undertook a number of drop-in sessions across the district utilising our libraries. There was positivity expressed about the Council meeting residents outside of Newbury.

- Thatcham (Monday 11:00 – 12:15) 2 conversations
- Mortimer (Monday 13:00 – 14:15) 2 conversations
- Pangbourne (Monday 15:00 – 16:15) 5 conversations
- Newbury (Tuesday 10:00 - 11:15) 2 conversations
- Hungerford (Tuesday 12:00 – 13:15) 3 conversations
- Lambourn (Tuesday 14:00 – 15:30) 7 conversations

There were common themes raised:

Transport

- local bus services featured in conversations in Mortimer, Pangbourne and Lambourn. Dial and Ride electric buses perhaps a viable solution.
- Accessibility for disabled users at certain train stations makes using public transport challenging.
- Electric taxis only should be licenced.
- EV charging points – rapid chargers and need to be part of planning infrastructure

Waste

- Residents commonly expressed strong dissatisfaction with Veolia and limited recycling options offered. Frequently compared with South Oxfordshire provision.
- Food waste collection in communal buildings.
- Taking tin trays and foil.
- More emphasis on reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Education on achieving higher recycling rates.
- Explain why things can't be recycled (shredded paper etc).
- More co-operation between local authorities on waste sites.
- Anxiety around litter and fly-tipping (anti-social behaviours).
- Cross about Chieveley Waste Incinerator not going ahead.

Tree Planting

- Huge appetite for tree planting (30% cover to align with France and Germany).
- Working with land owners to allow planting on their land.
- Richard Benyon to use his influence to co-ordinate farmers and land owner.
- Direct communities what to do and they will do it.

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- Deeper grass verges and wild flowers/tree planting.
 - Deeper grass can also become a litter trap.

Renewable Energy

- PV all available roofs.
- Solar farms accepted as part of solution.
- AONB and renewable energy not mutually exclusive.
- AONB need to modernise or become obsolete.
- No room for NIMBY.

Buildings

- Don't build on flood plain.
- High quality new builds.
- Make it policy that new builds have solar panels.

General

- Council should seize the opportunity to be exemplar.
- Talk positively about the Environment.
- The influence of the Council should not be underestimated.
- Celebrate community success in measures other than economic growth.
- Enable communities to do the right thing.
- Tell communities how they can help and they'll do it.
- Educate our young people on environment.
- Educate residents on their carbon foot print.
- Ask residents to make three small changes to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Effective communications and keep repeating them.
- Use village news letters to get information out to the public.
- Not all residents are internet or social media connected.
- Lobbying government on planning especially.
- Walk the walk, not just talk the talk.
- Don't be afraid to take difficult decisions.
- Keep the district updated about milestones achieved

Overall Feedback

It was an extremely worthwhile exercise and provided residents a non- confrontational way to talk about what concerns them about climate and environment and West Berkshire's response.

Residents expressed their views with moderation and acknowledgement that the Council can't do it all. They are extremely willing to support but want direction. There was also degrees of misunderstanding around how Councils work.

The community has excellent knowledge, skills and connections which the Council can tap into as free additional resource.

Although the document was 'imperfect' two different sources said we should be applauded for creating the Environment Strategy to address climate change.

Revised Environment Strategy

Appendix G