

## Climate Change Consultation Report

### Executive Summary

The majority of people (89.95%) feel that the climate is very important and 78.31% of respondents are very committed to tackling it.

83.52% of people felt that they could do more to tackle climate change but the main obstacle to doing this is cost.

The table below shows how far people agreed or disagreed with the actions we propose within our strategy:

Action	Level of agreement
Council CAN	86.24%
Climate Friendly Borough	85.19%
Low Carbon Buildings	85.19%
Renewable Energy	87.30%
Sustainable Transport	85.71%
Natural Environment	91.01%
Sustainable Financial Appraisal	90.34%

In terms of priorities, these can be summarized as

- Sustainable transport
- Cycle infrastructure
- Investing
- Protecting greenspaces/ planting more trees
- Investing in renewable energy

When asked what people would be willing to do to tackle climate change, the main suggestions were:

- Reduce personal consumption and buy sustainable or second-hand products
- Retrofit own home to improve energy efficiency
- Use public transport more
- Cycle more
- Switch to using an electric vehicle
- Dietary changes

Most people responded to say that they were aware of carbon footprints but didn't know what their own was (68.18%). Fewer people (28.41%) said they were aware of carbon footprints and did know what their own was.

## **Methodology**

The consultation on the climate action strategy went live on the Council's Have Your Say webpage on 31st July 2020 and closed on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. In order to make people aware of the consultation there was an accompanying social media campaign.

Emails were also sent out to special interest groups. Emails were also received from community groups and their views are incorporated within this report.

There was also a separate survey sent to businesses for their views which received 6 replies.

In addition to this, an online workshop was held with a group of young people to hear their views on climate change and our climate action now strategy. Their views are included within this report.

There were 189 responses to this consultation.

The majority of respondents either live or work within Stockport.

## **Results**

### **How important is the climate to you?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Very important</b>	170	89.95%
<b>A little important</b>	13	6.88%
<b>Not very important</b>	4	2.12%
<b>Unsure</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Not Answered</b>	1	0.53%

The table above shows that the majority of respondents (96.59%) feel that the climate is important to them. 100% of businesses also said the climate was either very or a little important to them.

In the workshop with young people they also felt the climate emergency was important, in particular the impact that the climate has on the health and wellbeing of people.

### **How committed are you to tackling climate change?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Very committed</b>	148	78.31%
<b>A little committed</b>	35	18.52%
<b>Not very committed</b>	3	1.59%
<b>Climate change is not something I think about</b>	2	1.06%
<b>Unsure</b>	0	0%
<b>Not Answered</b>	1	0.53%

Most respondents felt that they are very committed to tackling climate change. Only 1.06% (2) said that climate change was not something that they think about. 100% of businesses also said that they are committed to tackling climate change.

Of those 148 people that said they were very committed to tackling climate change 62 of them (46%) had their main method of transportation as a car, followed by 34 (25%) who said that they walk and 20 (15%) who cycle.

### **Do you think you could do more to tackle climate change?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	159	84.13%
<b>No</b>	27	14.29%
<b>Not Answered</b>	3	1.59%

Of those that felt they could do more to tackle climate change there were some themes that emerged both online and from the young people's group:

- Learn more about climate change
- Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
- Buy second hand goods/Buy goods made locally
- Dietary Changes
- Switch to EV
- Use public transport more
- Cycle more
- Reduce consumption/buy sustainable products

- Holiday locally/ take fewer flights
- Lobby for change
- Switch to a renewable energy provider
- Retrofit home to improve energy efficiency
- Install solar PV
- Work from home more

100% of businesses said that there is always more that can be done to tackle climate change. They mentioned utilizing green electricity tariffs, becoming more carbon literate developing and utilizing new technologies and removing non-biodegradable plastics from their products.

Unsurprisingly, analysis shows that of those that said they could do more to tackle climate change 140 of these were respondents who said that the climate is very important to them.

#### **What obstacles are stopping you from doing more to tackle climate change?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Cost</b>	101	53.44%
<b>Time</b>	72	38.10%
<b>Too difficult</b>	42	22.22%
<b>I don't know how to</b>	36	19.05%
<b>I don't think I can make a difference</b>	17	8.99%
<b>I'm not interested in changing</b>	4	2.12%
<b>Other</b>	48	25.40%
<b>Not Answered</b>	13	6.88%

Respondents were most likely to say that cost is the thing that stops them from tackling climate change (54.55%). This was the biggest obstacle across all age ranges. Of those who said cost was the main issue 57% of these have children and 63% use a car as their main method of transportation.

The lowest response, (2.12% of responses) was by people saying that they were not interested in changing.

25.40% of people gave a different reason to what stops them tackling climate change. These are summarized as:

- Time
- Public transport
- Lack of information on how to do this
- Prevalence of single use plastics in supermarkets
- Community uptake of sustainable living is low

- Lack of cycling infrastructure
- Personal apathy
- Structural change being required to enable them to do their part
- Higher cost of climate friendly products
- Higher cost of EVs and public transport

Next, respondents were asked for their views on the actions we are proposing within the Stockport CAN Strategy

### **Council CAN – Leading the way to build climate action into everything we do.**

**We will** incorporate climate impact assessment into everything we do by incorporating it into decision making, report templates and all key strategies.

**We will** support our staff to be carbon literate by making Carbon Literacy Training mandatory by March 2021.

**We will** encourage our staff to change behaviour by reducing the resources they use such as energy, fuel, and materials.

**We will** upgrade our staff travel plan and aim to reduce carbon in staff journeys by 20% by 2025.

**We will** use our role as a place shaper to invest in local markets and be transparent in our activity to encourage others.

### **How far do you agree or disagree with these actions?**

Option	Total	Percent
<b>Strongly agree</b>	110	58.20%
<b>Tend to agree</b>	53	28.04%
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	6	3.17%
<b>Tend to disagree</b>	5	2.65%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	10	5.29%
<b>Don't know</b>	3	1.59%
<b>Not Answered</b>	2	1.06%

The table shows that overall agreement with these actions was 86.24%. Respondents were also asked whether they had any comments to make. The responses from 98 comments are summarised below:

- More support for residents is needed to continue work
- Need SMART targets and specific actions

- The proposed actions should be more ambitious overall
- Need more support for businesses
- Need more support for community groups
- Better waste management needed
- Staff travel target needs to be more ambitious
- Climate Impact Assessments should be incorporated to Council decision making
- Investing in local markets as a priority
- Staff training should be mandatory
- Accountability needed
- Cheaper/ more investment in public transport
- Cycling networks need to be improved
- Protect greenspaces
- The actions are good and should be carried out

**Climate Friendly Borough – Working with businesses and local people to take action.**

**We will** develop a Stockport CAN (Climate Action Now) campaign, including social media, that provides information and advice to residents about action they can take.

**We will** continue to put children and young people at the heart of our approach utilising established forums and developing a climate change network.

**How far do you agree or disagree with these actions?**

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	116	61.38%
Tend to agree	45	23.81%
Neither agree nor disagree	10	5.29%
Tend to disagree	5	2.65%
Strongly disagree	8	4.23%
Don't know	3	1.59%
Not Answered	2	1.06%

The table shows that overall agreement with these actions was 85.19%. Respondents were also asked whether they had any comments to make. The responses from 74 comments are summarised below:

- Resident campaigns and involvement

- Education is important
- Need more awareness raising
- Support for communities/businesses needed
- Involve children and young people and older people
- Work with schools, community groups and businesses to achieve these actions
- Need to include parents and adults
- Address fly-tipping
- Have Stockport become a Transition Town

## Low Carbon Buildings

### **Low Carbon Buildings – more energy efficient homes and buildings, now and in the future.**

**We will** reduce the carbon emissions for our Council services' buildings by 10% by the end of 2021.

**We will** complete the replacement of traditional lighting sources across the borough with LED replacement units by 2023.

**We will** ensure that at least 40% of the Council housing stock will incorporate one or more renewable technologies by the end of 2021 (for example, solar PV). We will work with Stockport Homes who are committed to delivering the Homes as Energy Systems project, which will see approximately 300 homes with improved ground source and air source heating within the next 24 months.

**We will** promote renewable and sustainable technology for newbuild and major renovations within our Local Plan by 2021, including encouraging PassivHaus developments.

**We will** produce an annual report on planning approvals detailing the carbon savings from developments that exceed government standards.

**We will** seek government funding and work with developers to deliver renewable technologies for the 3,500 homes built within the Mayoral Development Corporation urban neighbourhood.

**We will** promote opportunities such as the iChoosr solar initiative so that those that can afford to invest in their homes introduce renewable technologies.

**We will** work with GM colleagues to lobby government for funding and legislative change to deliver the scale of retrofitting needed in the private housing sector

### How far do you agree or disagree with these actions?

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	124	65.61%
Tend to agree	43	22.75%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	4.23%
Tend to disagree	3	1.59%
Strongly disagree	5	2.65%
Don't know	4	2.12%
Not Answered	2	1.06%

The table shows that overall agreement with these actions was 88.36%. Respondents were also asked whether they had any comments to make. The responses from 86 comments are summarised below:

- Need to be ambitious
- Harness renewable energy
- Source funding to enable older homes to be retrofitted and insulated
- Biodiversity net gain should be incorporated into new builds
- Greenbelt should be protected as a priority
- There should be stricter environmental requirements in planning regulations for new developments
- Renewable energy technologies should be incorporated into new developments
- Improve cycle infrastructure and storage
- Need to include measures to tackle energy efficiency in private homes
- Information and guidance on retrofitting would help residents in private homes understand what can be done to improve energy efficiency of their homes
- These actions should be carried out
- Look into reusing and recycling of building materials
- Keep up to date with emerging new renewable technologies as they become available

### Renewable Energy

#### **Renewable Energy – Ensuring that future energy needs of the Borough can be met in a sustainable way.**

**We will** install three innovative Solar PV roof mounted arrays with EV charging within the borough, and share the learning with other Councils, should we be successful with our funding bid through the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF).



**We will** develop a programme of renewable energy interventions and promote community and private investment.

**How far do you agree or disagree with these actions?**

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	120	63.49%
Tend to agree	45	23.81%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	4.76%
Tend to disagree	3	1.59%
Strongly disagree	4	2.12%
Don't know	4	2.12%
Not Answered	4	2.12%

The table shows that overall agreement with these actions was 87.30% Respondents were also asked whether they had any comments to make. The responses from 51 comments are shown below:

- Need to be ambitious and focus on the main problems
- Solar PV would be welcomed
- Measures to help private homes adopt renewable energy measures needed
- Look at green opportunities for Council Fleet
- Increase opportunities for EV Charging
- Alternative renewables should be considered – not just solar PV
- More education and information is needed
- Cost and incentives to change required to enable private sector to play their part

**Sustainable Transport – Moving to carbon-free transport options and increasing walking, cycling and use of public transport.**

**We will** continue to transform walking and cycling opportunities across the borough, encouraging people to take part in active travel.

**We will** develop 14 walking and cycling schemes to be delivered in the next two to three years with the unprecedented funding from the Mayoral Challenge Fund (MCF).

**We will** continue to improve our public transport, including the introduction of the Metrolink, creation of a new Cheadle train station, and improvements through bus franchising.

**We will** increase council maintained public electric charging points up to 30 by 2025 and ensure all new vehicles which form part of our fleet will be non-carbon within five years where technology allows.

**We will** consult residents on the introduction of a clean air zone.

**How far do you agree or disagree with these actions?**

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	122	64.55%
Tend to agree	40	21.16%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	5.82%
Tend to disagree	4	2.12%
Strongly disagree	10	5.29%
Don't know	1	0.53%
Not Answered	1	0.53%

The table shows that overall agreement with these actions was 85.71% Respondents were also asked whether they had any comments to make. The responses from 106 comments are shown below:

- More walking and cycling schemes
- Develop public transport including Metrolink and buses
- Introduction of Clean Air Zone
- Prevalence of private cars as the easiest option
- Promote Active Travel
- More education needed
- Cost of public transport is high

**Natural Environment – Protecting and enhancing our natural environment.**

**We will** plant at least 11,500 standard trees in parks and along the highway by 2030.

**We will** create one new woodland each year, for the next ten years, using up to 80,000 whips (young trees) in total. These woodlands will be created in partnership with community groups.

**We will** ensure that all developers are encouraged to include sustainable drainage and biodiversity net gain wherever possible as part of our planning policy.

**We will** continue to encourage recycling by promoting correct recycling practice and educating our residents.

**We will** create areas managed for long grass in every ward across the borough by 2025.

**We will** create an orchard in every ward across the borough by 2025/26, planting over 3,500 fruit trees by 2030.

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	135	71.43%
Tend to agree	37	19.58%
Neither agree nor disagree	7	3.70%
Tend to disagree	2	1.06%
Strongly disagree	3	1.59%
Don't know	1	0.53%
Not Answered	4	2.12%

The table shows that overall agreement with these actions was 91.01%. Respondents were also asked whether they had any comments to make. The responses from 98 comments are summarised below:

- More woodland
- Increase biodiversity
- Increase recycling
- Improve drainage
- More long grass, orchards and green walls
- Increase community engagement
- Need to be more ambitious

### **Sustainable Financial Appraisal – Putting climate impact at the heart of everything we do.**

**We will** put in place a new model of financial appraisal for 2020/21 that will ensure that climate impact is embedded into decision making.

**Do you agree that we should consider carbon in all of our financial decisions where possible?**

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	172	91.01%
No	10	5.29%
Unsure	6	3.17%
Not Answered	1	0.53%

90.34% of respondents agreed that we should consider carbon in all of our financial decisions. They were further asked if they had any other comments to make. The responses from 51 comments are summarised below:

- Funding is need
- Residents should come first
- Focus on carbon does not fully address climate responsibilities
- Work with the community
- Council should lead the way
- Needs to be strong and ambitious
- More education needed

**Which climate actions are most important to you and should be a priority?**

When asked about their priorities 164 people commented. They are summarised as:

- Woodlands
- Biodiversity
- Greenspaces
- Recycling
- Renewable Energy
- Transport
- Air Quality
- Housing
- Cycle Lanes
- Education
- Lobbying government
- Engaging (with residents, communities and/or businesses)
- Areas of largest carbon contribution

The young people's group mentioned walking and cycling opportunities as being very important to them as well as focusing on improving public transport.

Businesses felt that there should be a focus on renewable energy, carbon literacy and investment in new technologies and initiatives to bring social, environmental, and economic benefit to the town, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Which actions do you think are less of a priority?**

There were 88 responses to this part of the question. These are summarised as:

- Most people feeling that all the actions are important
- Investing more in public transport than electric vehicles
- Less engagement initiatives and more action
- Focus on larger areas of transport such as large vehicles rather than private cars
- Walking and cycling initiatives are important but not the answer to everything

### **Do you have any other suggestions for tackling climate change?**

There were 108 responses to this part of the question. These are summarised below:

- Local area initiatives and engagement
- Focus on businesses
- More education is needed
- Explore funding opportunities to reduce carbon
- Introduce Clean Air Zone
- Less single use plastics
- More natural spaces within the borough
- Focus on renewable energy
- Make cycling and walking safer
- Work with residents and community groups

### **What would you be willing to do to help tackle climate change?**

There were 151 responses to this part of the question. These are summarised below:

- Engage with the local community
- Change transport habits (drive less/use public transport more)
- Talk to family and friends
- Reduce consumption of plastics
- Reduce consumption of other materials
- Lifestyle changes
- Get better educated on carbon

- Plant trees
- Switch energy provider
- Switch to EV
- Invest in renewable power (Solar PV)
- Shop locally
- Fly less
- Housing retrofit
- Walk and cycle
- Dietary changes (vegetarian/vegan)

The young people's group also said there could be more education in schools and colleges so that they know how they can make a difference. Localise the climate change agenda more so that it resonates with people.

### **Are you aware of 'carbon footprints' and, if so, do you know what yours is?**

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, I am aware of carbon footprints, but I do not know what my carbon footprint is	126	66.67%
Yes, I am aware of carbon footprints and I know what mine is	55	29.10%
No, I don't know what carbon footprints are	3	1.59%
Not Answered	5	2.65%

When looking at awareness of carbon footprints, those aged between 35-54 were most likely to be aware of them or know what their carbon footprint is.

## Demographics of respondents

### Age

Option	Total	Percent
0 - 17	0	0%
18 - 24	5	2.65%
25 - 34	35	18.52%
35 - 44	41	21.69%
45 - 54	44	23.28%
55 - 64	27	14.29%
65 - 74	21	11.11%
75 - 84	7	3.70%
85+	1	0.53%
Prefer not to answer	5	2.65%
Not Answered	3	1.59%

### What best describes your gender?

Option	Total	Percent
Male	72	38.10%
Female	102	53.97%
Prefer to self-describe	1	0.53%
Prefer not to answer	7	3.70%
Not Answered	7	3.70%

### Prefer to self-describe:

There were 3 responses to this part of the question.

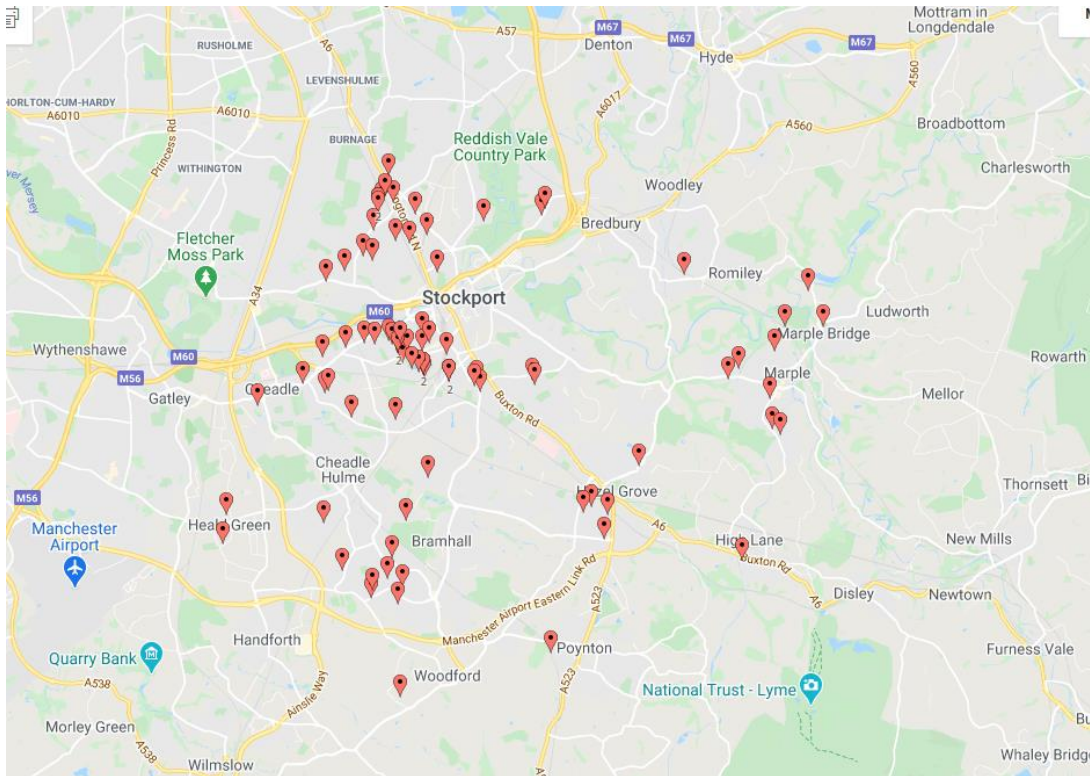
### Do you consider yourself to have an impairment, disability or long term health condition?

Option	Total	Percent
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<b>Yes</b>	33	17.46%
<b>No</b>	144	76.19%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	8	4.23%
<b>Not Answered</b>	4	2.12%

### What is your Postcode?

There were 170 responses to this part of the question and postcode analysis is mapped below.



### How would you define your religion or belief?

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>No religion</b>	101	53.44%
<b>Christian</b>	57	30.16%
<b>Muslim</b>	3	1.59%



<b>Hindu</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Buddhist</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Jewish</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Sikh</b>	0	0%
<b>Other</b>	5	2.65%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	15	7.94%
<b>Not Answered</b>	5	2.65%

**If other, please specify:**

There were 5 responses to this part of the question.

**How would you define your ethnic group?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>White- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British</b>	160	84.66%
<b>White- Irish</b>	2	1.06%
<b>White- Gypsy or Irish Traveller</b>	0	0%
<b>White- any other White background, please specify</b>	4	2.12%
<b>Mixed- White and Black Caribbean</b>	0	0%
<b>Mixed- White and Black African</b>	2	1.06%
<b>Mixed- White and Asian</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background, please</b>	0	0%
<b>Asian or Asian British-Indian</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Asian or Asian British- Pakistani</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Asian or Asian British-Bangladeshi</b>	0	0%
<b>Asian or Asian British- Chinese</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Any other Asian background, please specify</b>	0	0%
<b>Black or Black British- African</b>	0	0%
<b>Black or Black British- Caribbean</b>	0	0%
<b>Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please specify</b>	0	0%
<b>Other ethnic group- Arab</b>	0	0%
<b>Any other ethnic group, please specify</b>	0	0%

<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	9	4.76%
<b>Not Answered</b>	8	4.23%

**If other, please specify:**

There were 6 responses to this part of the question.

**How would you define your sexuality?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Asexual</b>	4	2.12%
<b>Bisexual</b>	3	1.59%
<b>Heterosexual/Straight</b>	132	69.84%
<b>Gay man</b>	6	3.17%
<b>Gay woman/Lesbian</b>	2	1.06%
<b>Other</b>	1	0.53%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	29	15.34%
<b>Not Answered</b>	12	6.35%

**Do you have children?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	109	57.67%
<b>No</b>	61	32.28%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	10	5.29%
<b>Not Answered</b>	9	4.76%

**What do you use as your main method of transportation?**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	109	57.67%
<b>No</b>	61	32.28%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	10	5.29%
<b>Not Answered</b>	9	4.76%

**If Other, please specify**

There were 17 responses to this part of the question.

**Which of the following best describes you? (Select all that apply)**

Option	Total	Percent
I live in Stockport	177	93.65%
I attend school or college in Stockport	0	0%
I work in Stockport	56	29.63%
I own a business in Stockport	7	3.70%
I run a not-for-profit organisation in Stockport	5	2.65%
I do not live, work or attend school/college in Stockport	0	0%
Not Answered	3	1.59%