

A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's

Carbon Neutrality Action Plan Consultation

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Final

Executive summary and conclusions

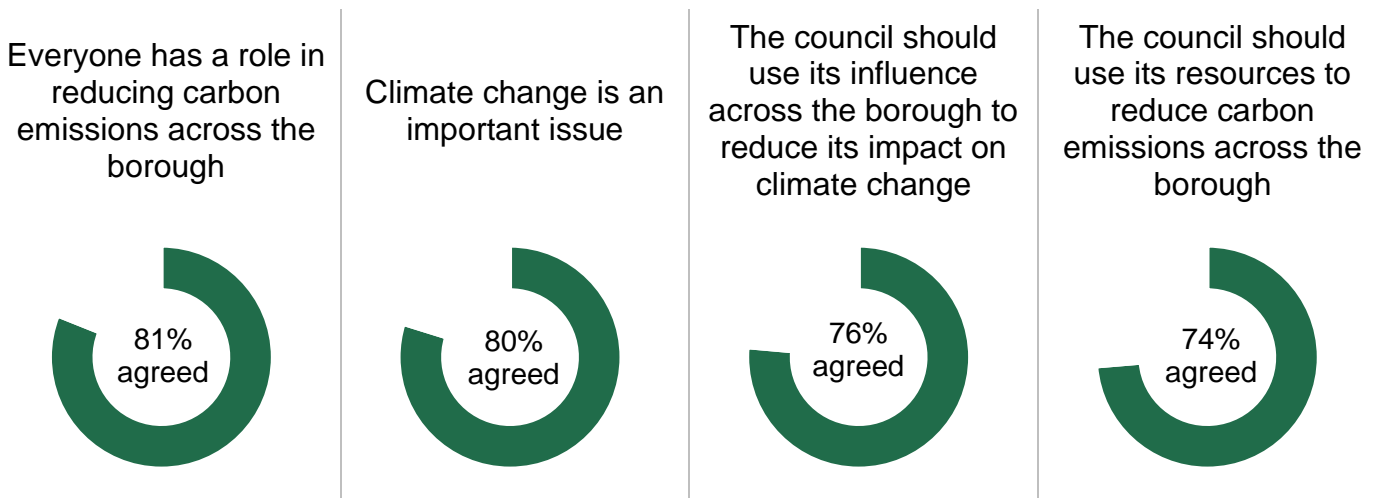
Introduction

During April/May 2024 Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation on its draft Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2024 - 2029

In total, 414 responses were received including 408 paper / online survey responses and 6 emails.

Respondents' views on climate change

The **majority of respondents agreed** (answering either strongly agree or tend to agree) that:



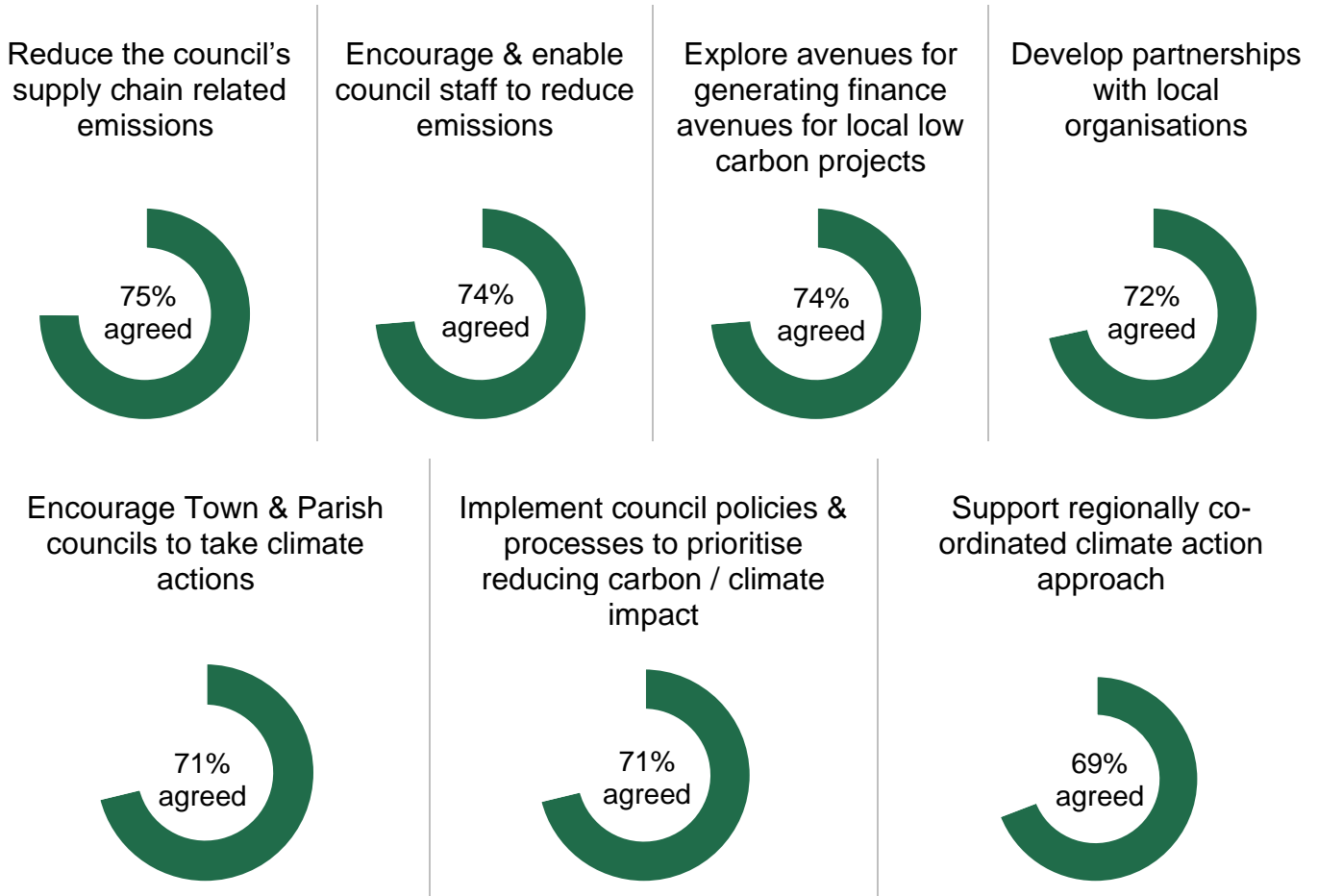
The **top three barriers to limiting carbon emissions** were as follows:

1. Cost, 52%
2. Lack of trusted advice/ guidance, 35%
3. Distrust that their actions will make a difference, 26%

Please note that respondents could select as many that applied.

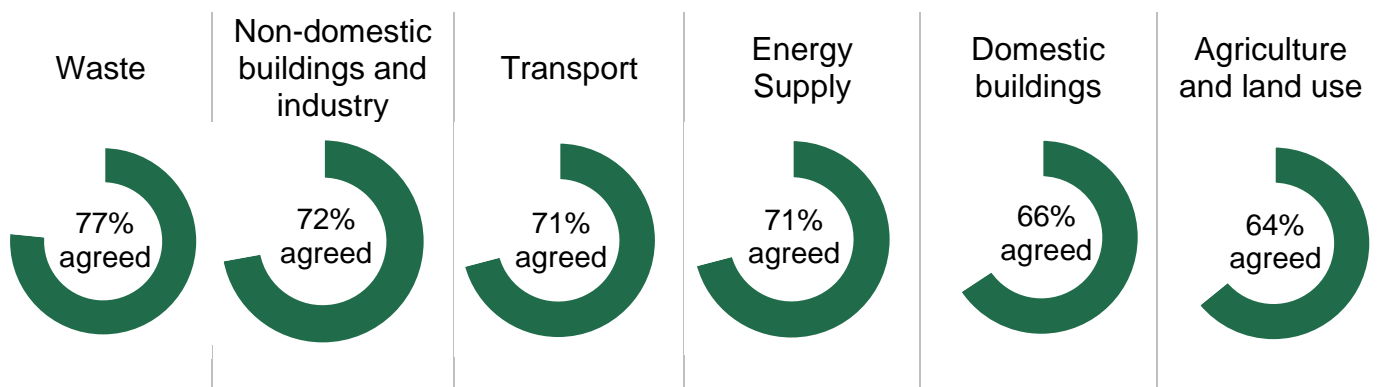
Views on our overarching actions

The **majority of respondents agreed** (answering either strongly agree or tend to agree) that the overarching actions within the draft action plan are the right areas for Cheshire East Council to focus resource on:



Views on the other actions

The **majority of respondents agreed** (answering either strongly agree or tend to agree) that the actions under the following areas are the right ones for Cheshire East Council to focus resource on:



The actions overall

Respondents were asked to consider each of the areas and the actions within them and rank them in order of importance. The **top three ranked areas** were as follows:

1. Transport (with a ranked score of 5.1 out of a maximum score of 7)
2. Waste (score 4.4)
3. Energy supply (score 4.1)

The **top three additional areas of influence** mentioned, which have not been identified in the carbon action plan, were:

1. More collaborative working, provide advice and guidance, 39 mentions.
2. More trees, greenery, allotments, carbon sinks, 39 mentions.
3. Reduce the amount of congestion, traffic, and speed limits, 35 mentions.

The **top three actions that were considered as not needed, unachievable and or not valid**, for the council's carbon action plan were:

1. All actions are not needed, 50 mentions.
2. All actions our valid, 19 mentions.
3. Electricity generation, electric vehicles, and wind/ solar installations, 13 mentions.

The plan overall

Around one half of respondents agreed that being a carbon neutral borough by 2045 is an achievable target and the action plan is realistic/achievable.

Being a carbon neutral borough by 2045 is an achievable target



The carbon neutral action plan is realistic/achievable



Conclusions and Recommendations

Encouragingly the majority of respondents agreed with the actions within the plan. There was however less certainty as to whether the plan, along with the 2045 target is realistic and or achievable. Whilst there are those respondents who do not agree that climate change is an area for the council to be concerned with, the majority agreed that it is an important issue, and that the council should be using its resources to tackle climate change. The Research and Consultation Team recommend that the details within this report are thoroughly reviewed and considered before finalising the details of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.

Introduction

Purpose of the consultation

During April/ May 2024 Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation on its draft Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2024 - 2029. The action plan aims to focus the council's limited resources to have the biggest impact in speeding up climate mitigation efforts and use its influence in the most constructive way to achieve its goal to become a carbon neutral borough by 2045.

Consultation methodology and number of responses

The consultation was held online with paper versions being available on request, hard copies of the consultation were also provided at our libraries. It was promoted to:

- The general public
- Cheshire East Digital Influence Panel
- Town and Parish Councils
- Businesses in Cheshire East, including rural businesses
- Community and faith groups
- Students

In total, 414 responses were received including 408 paper/ online survey responses and 6 emails.

All emails received have been provided to the relevant persons for full review. A summary of the emails received can be seen in Table 4. A breakdown of survey demographics can be viewed in Appendix 1.

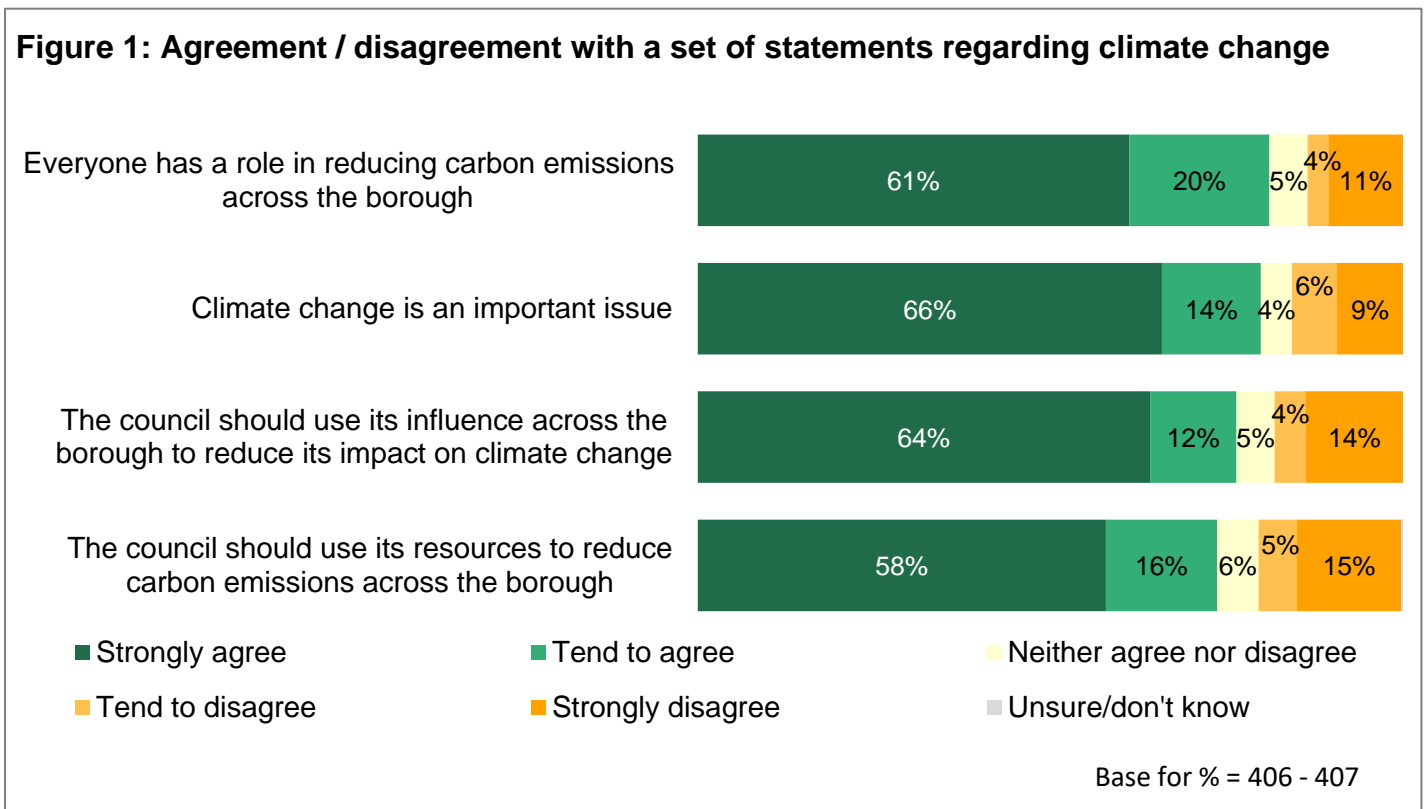
Section 1: Respondent views on climate change/ carbon emissions

Respondents were asked a set of questions to determine how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a set of statements regarding climate change/ carbon emissions and what, if any barriers limited them in reducing their carbon emissions.

The statements provided within the questionnaire were as follows:

- Climate change is an important issue.
- Everyone has a role in reducing carbon emissions across the borough.
- The council should use its resources to reduce carbon emissions across the borough.
- The council should use its influence across the borough to reduce its impact on climate change.

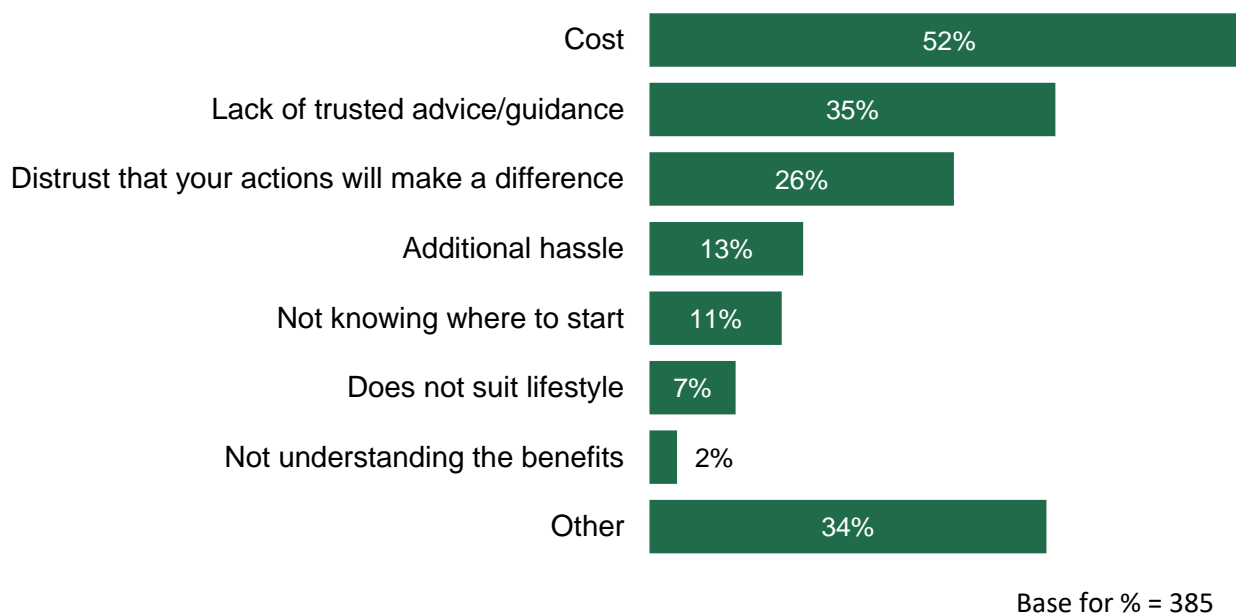
The majority of respondents agreed with all of the statements provided. Respondents were most likely to agree (answering either strongly or tend to agree) that ‘everyone has a role in reducing carbon emissions across the borough’, (81%). The statement with the least agreement was ‘the council should use its resources to reduce carbon emissions across the borough’, (74% agreed). Figure 1 shows the full breakdown of response.



The main barrier to limiting carbon emissions was cost with around one half of respondents (52%) choosing this option. Lack of trusted advice/guidance was also seen as a main barrier with around one third of respondents choosing this option (35%), and a distrust that their actions will make a difference with around one quarter of respondents choosing this option (26%). Please note that respondents could select as many options that applied. Figure 2 shows the full breakdown of results.

Figure 2: Barriers that limit respondents in reducing their carbon emissions.

Respondents could select all that apply.



129 people provided another comment concerning the barriers to carbon emissions. These comments have been grouped into the following themes:

- Lack of supporting infrastructure and services e.g., roads not suitable to cycle, lack of electric vehicle charging points, lack of public transport, 32 mentions.
- Carbon is essential, don't believe in global warming, waste of time and money, 25 mentions.
- Frustration that others aren't doing the same, lack of action by others inc. business', lack of political will from the government, 14 mentions.
- Do what I can, already have a low carbon footprint. None of these, no barriers, 14 mentions.
- Time needed to research alternatives, expertise, knowledge, awareness & guidance, 11 mentions.
- Planning and property constraints, e.g., listed building, live in an old building, live in a maisonette, 10 mentions.
- Financial support / viability inc. electric vehicles too expensive, no council help living in a rural area, 10 mentions.
- Conflicting messages from the council e.g., green bin tax and closing refuge centres, allowing building on green field sites, cutting down trees, 8 mentions.
- Age, energy, complexity, impact on lifestyle, 5 mentions.

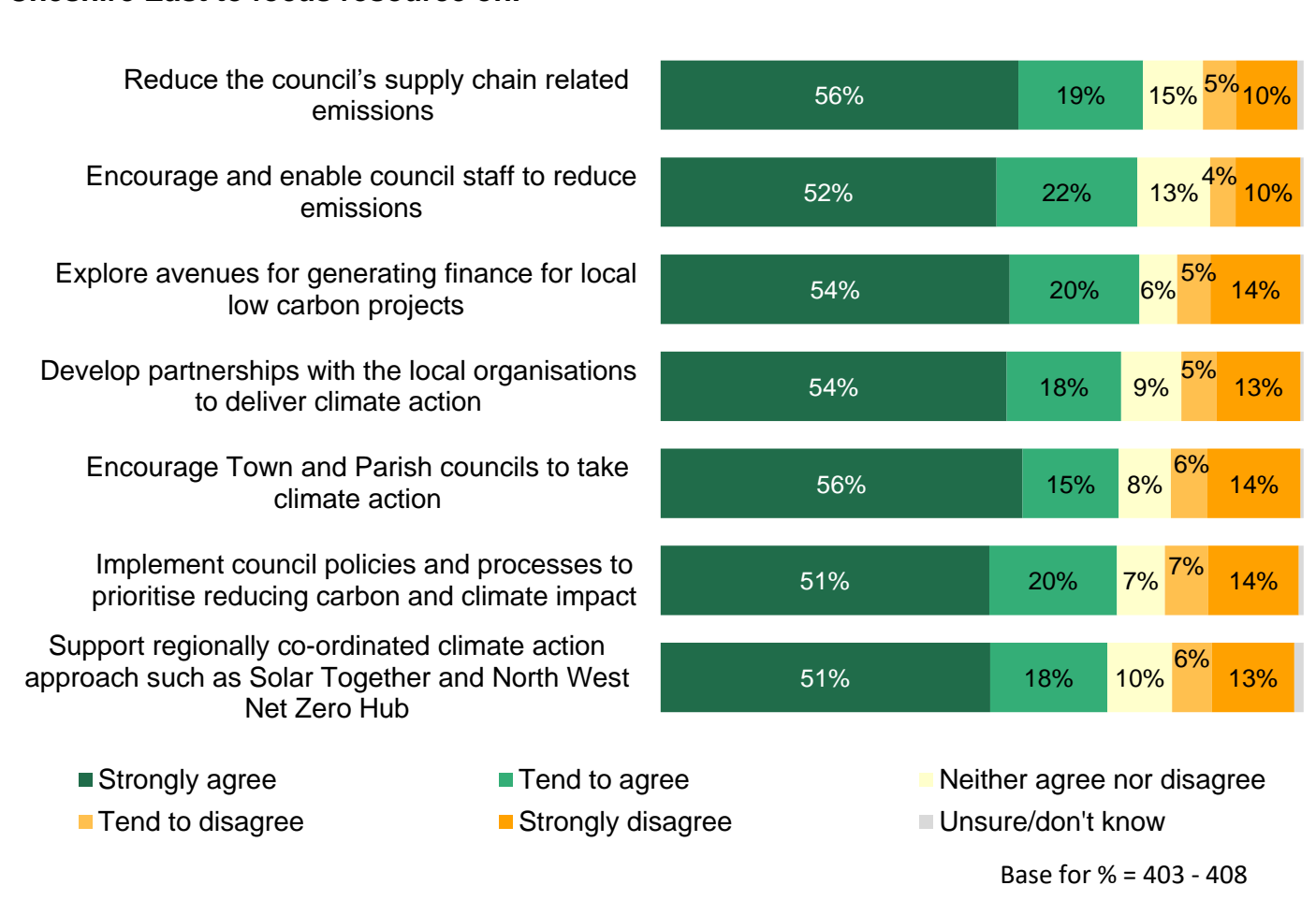
Section 2: Overarching actions

The draft strategy presented seven overarching actions:

- Encourage and enable council staff to reduce emissions.
- Implement council policies and processes to prioritise reducing carbon and climate impact.
- Reduce the council’s supply chain related emissions.
- Support regionally co-ordinated climate action approach such as Solar Together and Northwest Net Zero Hub.
- Develop partnerships with the local organisations to deliver climate action.
- Encourage Town and Parish councils to take climate action.
- Explore avenues for generating finance for local low carbon projects.

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed that these are the right areas for Cheshire East Council to focus resource on. The majority of respondents agreed (answering either strongly or tend to agree) with the overarching actions. The action with the most agreement was ‘reduce the council’s supply chain related emissions’ (75% agreed). Figure 3 shows the full breakdown of response.

Figure 3: Agreement / disagreement that the overarching actions are the right areas for Cheshire East to focus resource on.



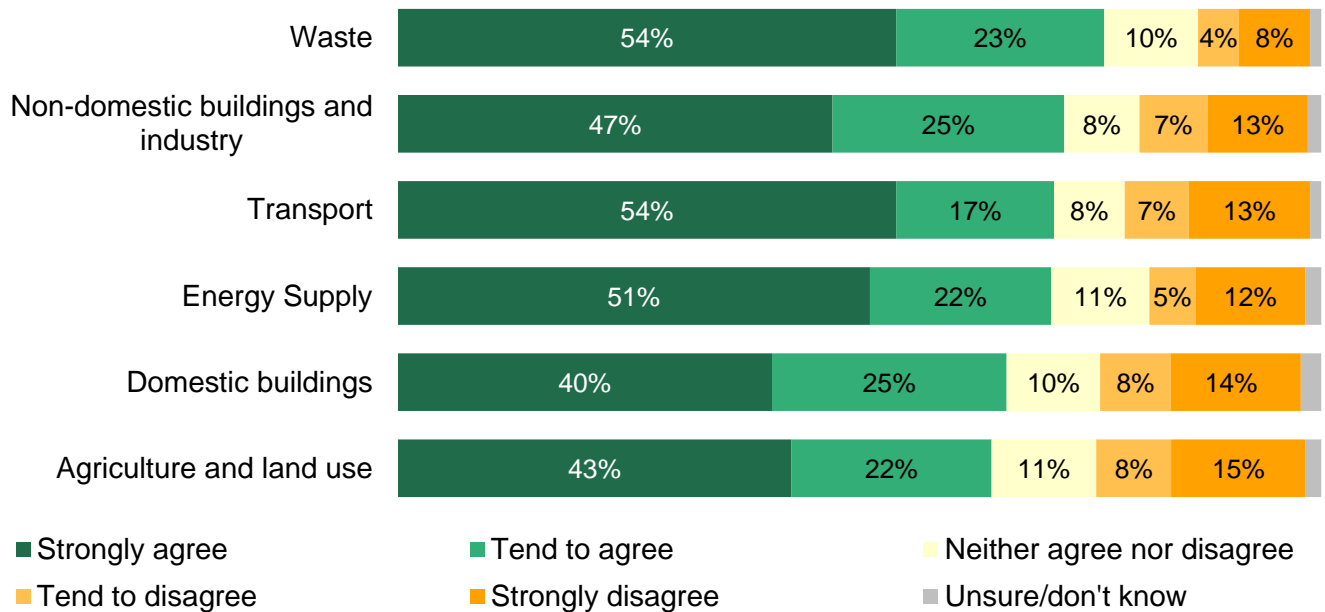
Section 3: Other actions

The draft strategy also presented a set of actions within each of the following areas:

- Domestic buildings
- Non-domestic buildings and industry
- Transport
- Agriculture and land use
- Waste
- Energy supply

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed that the actions within each of the above areas were the right ones for Cheshire East Council to focus resource on. Over 60% of respondents agreed (answering either strongly or tend to agree) with the actions within each area, agreement varied from 76% for the actions under ‘Waste’ to 64% for the action under ‘Agriculture and land use. Figure 4 shows the full breakdown of response.

Figure 4: Agreement/ disagreement that the actions within each of the following areas are the right ones for Cheshire East Council to focus resource on

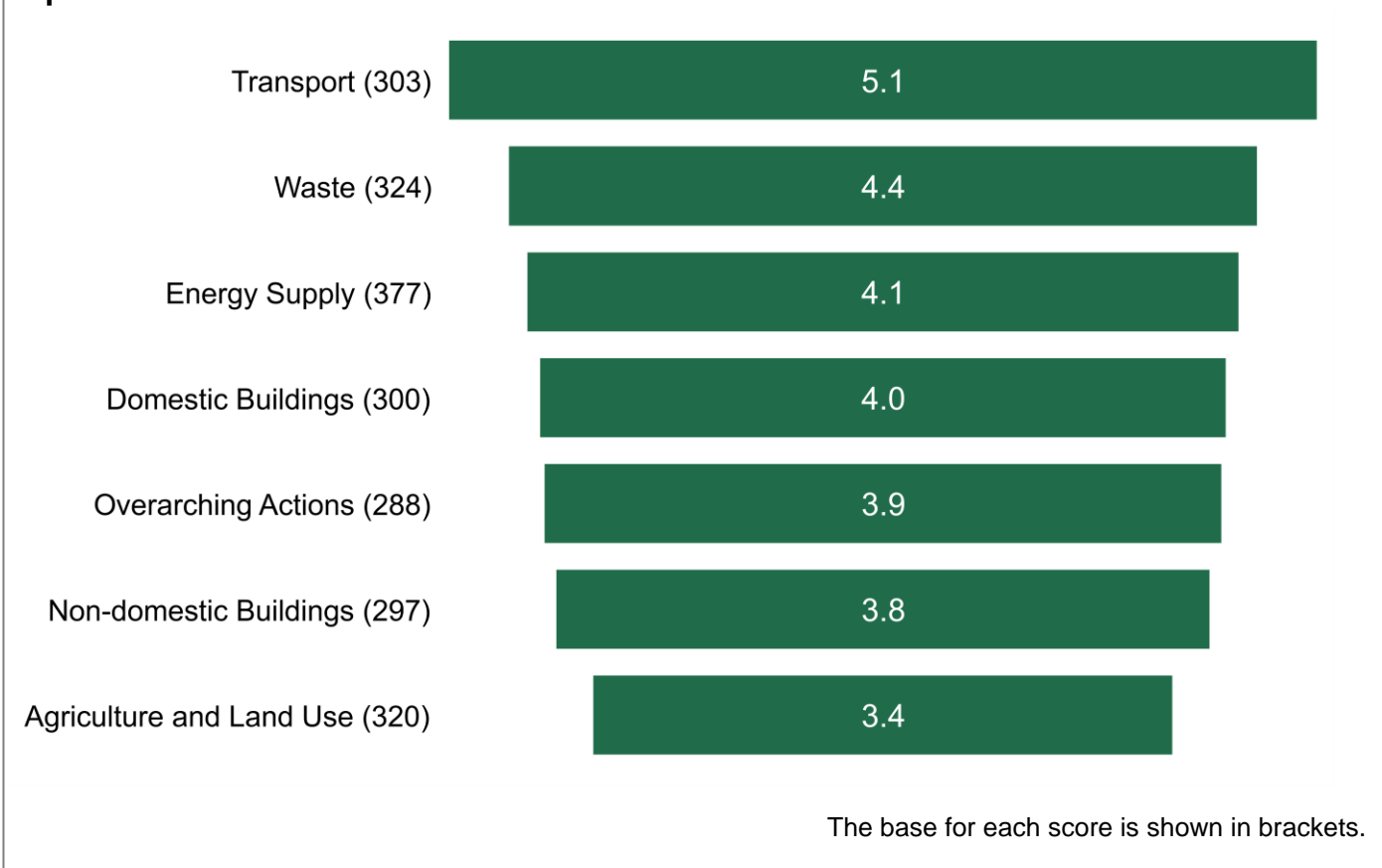


Base for % = 403 - 406

Section 4: The actions overall

Respondents were asked to consider each of the areas and the actions within them and rank them in order of importance where 1 equalled most important and 7 equalled least important. Ranks were then calculated by inverting the scores (i.e., areas that scored a 1 were given a rank score of 7 and so on), the overall score is a sum of all rank counts divided by the number of those who responded overall. The maximum score achievable would be 7. 'Transport' was seen as the most important area (with a ranked score of 5.1), followed by 'Waste' (score 4.4). The least important area was seen as 'Agriculture and Land Use' (with a score of 3.4). See Figure 5 for the full breakdown of response.

Figure 5: Ratings of the overall areas / actions within the draft action plan in order of importance



Respondents were asked if there are **additional areas of influence** that the council has across the borough which have not been identified in the carbon action plan. In total 176 respondents chose to leave a comment. The comments provided were coded into the following overall themes and sub themes:

Suggestions for additional areas of influence:

- More collaborative working, provide advice and guidance, 39 mentions.
- More trees, greenery, allotments, carbon sinks, 39 mentions.
- Reduce the amount of congestion, traffic and speed limits, 35 mentions.
- Planning in support of the environment, don't build on greenbelt or peat land, 28 mentions.
- Improve public transport, active travel, cycle lanes and footpaths, 25 mentions.

- Discourage consumption and waste, 21 mentions.
- Encourage carbon neutral buildings / properties, 15 mentions.
- Introduce schemes to help fund electric cars, install more EV chargers, 5 mentions.
- Improve procurement process / divert away from fossil fuels, 5 mentions.

Negative comments:

- Waste of money, will make little difference, focus resource on other things, general negative comment, 29 mentions.

Other comments:

- Other comments on the actions / plan, 17 mentions.

Respondents were also asked if there is a **specific action that they believe is not needed**, unachievable and or not valid for the council's carbon action plan. In total 144 respondents chose to leave a comment. The comments provided were coded into the following overall themes and sub themes:

Specific action that is not needed, unachievable and or not valid:

- All actions are not needed, 50 mentions.
- All actions our valid, 19 mentions.
- Electricity generation, electric vehicles, and wind / solar installations, 13 mentions.
- Waste management, 9 mentions.
- Agriculture and land use, 7 mentions.
- Cheshire East roles and job descriptions, 4 mentions.
- Public transport a national issue / may not be achievable, 3 mentions.
- Housing stock and funding, 3 mentions.
- Disagree to low emission zones / charging, 2 mentions.

More information / detail needed:

- Need to have costs, targets and added value associated with them, 15 mentions.
- More detail / reword needed on specific actions, 3 mentions.

Other comments

- Stop building on green fields / removal of green areas, 9 mentions.
- Improve public transport / traffic, fuel consumption, 7 mentions.
- More practical action / improved thinking generally, 6 mentions
- Focus on the key objectives, 3 mentions.

Some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore total mentions won't add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment. The full summary of the comments received by theme and sub theme is presented in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

Table 1: Are there additional areas of influence that the council has across the borough which have not been identified in the carbon action plan?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Suggestions for additional areas of influence		212
More collaborative working, provide advice and guidance	There are lots of groups working towards climate change who would welcome working closely with the council towards the same aim - develop a functioning mechanism for achieving co-ordination of, and collaboration with local community groups. Support national initiatives, access funding for change. Encourage climate change awareness in local schools from primary to high school level. Encourage behaviour change on e.g., flying, diet, consumption of goods. Support training and workshops. The importance of tackling climate change should be front and centre in statements from the council and its leaders. Need public engagement about why the plan is necessary and the benefits. Create a citizen's assembly or jury - work with them to monitor progress and review the plan. Ensure carbon reduction is included a key criterion when commissioning services, support businesses to decarbonise their operations through energy assessments/grant schemes.	39
More trees, greenery, allotments, carbon sinks.	Adding more trees and greenery. Returning parts of gardens to nature, creating wildlife corridors. Create more carbon sinks, there is no strategy to improve carbon storage and improve or restore/re-wetting peat bogs inc. Danes Moss. Should not encourage the use of 3G-4G astroturf football pitches - the use of any plastic material will do nothing to help the environment, Encouragement of allotment space. Stop water companies dumping into waterways.	39
Reduce the amount of congestion, traffic, and speed limits	The major omission is an aim to reduce the volume of traffic. Tackle traffic jams and vehicle idling. Work on ways to reduce individual car use, penalise those driving. Less carparks as they encourage car use to town centres. On-street car charging needs to be increased in areas where off-street parking is not available. Introduce charges for digging up roads to reduce congestion. Get freight off the roads and on to rail. Pilot use of electric scooters to make low carbon short distance travel quicker and easier. Reduce and enforce speed limits such as 20mph in all built up areas so that people feel safer to use alternative modes of transport and drivers cut emissions. Provide more efficient services e.g., when repairing potholes (ANSA) and the handyman service (ORBITAS) to reduce travel needs. Support buying local to reduce freight miles.	35
Planning in support of the environment, don't build on greenbelt or peat land	Need to plan in support of the environment - the planning system should be much more proactive when it comes to climate change. Reduce the number of new homes built as this will reduce energy, materials used in building and the number of vehicles on the roads. Plan does not address building on green field sites. Prioritise building on brownfield sites, unused industrial units should be re purposed for housing. Stop development on peat land, should be our policy to never build or disturb peat land, save Danes Moss, Macclesfield.	28
Improve public transport, active travel, cycle lanes and footpaths	Need more frequent and more reliable public transport so less reliant on cars. Introduce public transport links where none currently exist - public transport options to Manchester airport. More cycle ways / require cycle lanes on all new roads being built. Build cycle and footpaths between major towns. Providing infrastructure for cycling in	25

Table 1: Are there additional areas of influence that the council has across the borough which have not been identified in the carbon action plan?		
Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	urban areas is almost always done incorrectly. Create green/ active travel corridors to generate a range of benefits including increased walking and cycling.	
Discourage consumption and waste	Discourage consumption and waste, it is the consumption of goods and materials that is the major driver of emissions and climate change. Improve access to recycling by increasing the opportunity for waste disposal through reducing garden waste recycling charge, opening more council recycling centres and improving access to existing centres. The closure of waste sites across the borough having a negative impact on climate action. Prosecute those who dump unauthorised waste. Actively retain re-usable/ recyclable items and provide centres where these can be re-sold/ up cycled.	21
Encourage carbon neutral buildings/ properties	Require developers to deliver lifetime carbon neutral buildings. All future building regs could carry a Cheshire East regulation for carbon neutral targeting. All new builds to be fitted with heat pumps, add solar panels, EV charge points and water meters as standard. Water reclamation should also be considered on all new properties. Put solar panels on everything. Consider whether domestic properties which are on the gas grid should continue to be allowed to burn solid fuels.	15
Introduce schemes to help fund electric cars, install more EV chargers	Schemes to help domestic properties afford electric vehicles (EV). Provision of re-charging infrastructure within the Council area for commercial EV and or H2 vehicles. Installation of EV chargers throughout the borough.	5
Improve procurement process/ divert away from fossil fuels	Linking of the plan and policies to Cheshire East procurement processes and standards so that lower supply chain emissions are recorded, influenced, and selected. Suggest a form of emissions accounting for all supply companies, More consideration of 3rd Party CO2. Complete divestment from fossil fuels, investment in fossil fuels should be ended and reinvested into renewables.	5
Negative comments		29
Waste of money, will make little difference, focus resource on other things, general negative comment	Carbon action is a waste of money and resource. Will make no difference to worldwide/ UK carbon emissions. Need to focus on more local matters / matters that are their direct responsibility/ provide sufficient services. The council are hypocritical e.g., cut down trees, build on farmland	29
Other comments		17
Other comments on the actions/ plan	The plan lacks ambition, identify and quantify actual benefits. Milestones need adding for the areas where they don't yet appear in the tables. Cannot see anywhere in the Councils plan for solar PV a provision for battery storage. Should only implement if cost effective. Keep things in house. The plan seems to cover everything – all vital/ important.	17

Table 2: Is there a specific action that you believe is not needed, unachievable and or not valid for the council's carbon action plan?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Specific action that is not needed, unachievable and or not valid		110
All actions are not needed	All of the proposed actions are not needed. Funds should be allocated on improving existing services/ infrastructure. Not a priority with the current financial position. Much of what is proposed is 'nice to have', and that Council Tax could be put to better use. Net zero is a waste of time and money – did not vote for the green agenda. There is no climate emergency, climate change is a natural occurrence. None of the proposed actions will make the slightest difference to the global position. The whole plan is invalid. Carbon dioxide constitutes 0.04% of our atmosphere/ UK is less than 1% of emissions. There should not be an attempt to accelerate a low carbon future at a greater rate than the Government legislates for.	50
All actions our valid	None. All actions are vitally important. Bold action is required, nothing in unachievable. More of everything is needed, Cheshire East needs to lead the way. Everything needs to be addressed to some extent.	19
Electricity generation, electric vehicles, and wind/ solar installations	The council has no skill or knowledge of electricity generation and should not be involved. The power grid upgrade won't be achieved until probably 2050, so electric domestic heating and vehicle use will be restricted until that point. Electric cars are a waste of time, they need more scrutiny, they will cause more pollution, the batteries are a huge environmental disaster and aren't a viable option for many due to their cost. Don't believe EV uptake is as critical as active travel / public transport. Heat pumps are useless. There are issues with the blades and motors used on wind farms and the production of solar panels. The decarbonisation of the bus fleet, through switching buses to 100% electric is not achievable, will lead to bus services closing in rural areas where journeys are longer. Provision of power sources for EVs should be funded solely by those owners of EV's or if installed by the council should be charged at rates that represent the true cost to the council including care and maintenance. Widespread installation of wind and solar could also count as damaging to local land and wildlife, these only work on already domestic land such as housing, locating these on fields and in the ocean could be more disruptive to local wildlife.	13
Waste management	Don't see how the council can improve in waste management when it is closing tips. This will mean longer journeys to dispose of waste so increased emissions and the likelihood of more fly tipping so requiring more resources needed to clean up. Also charging residents for collecting green waste, which will encourage it to go into land fill or fly tipping. Neither encourage green policies.	9
Agriculture and land use	Need to look at the benefit agriculture delivers to the local economy - instead of trying to reduce land use for farming should be encouraging buying locally/ the overall aim should be to reduce food miles by using local produce. Reducing farmers livestock is an awful cynical move that should never be considered. Unless you reduce food consumption any restrictions to farming will only export emissions.	7
Cheshire East roles and job descriptions	Sceptical about changing people's existing job descriptions - change through creating dedicated posts and building carbon reduction into policy are far more important. Not convinced having a person responsible for carbon monitoring in	4

Table 2: Is there a specific action that you believe is not needed, unachievable and or not valid for the council's carbon action plan?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	each department is efficient. Remove the need for a certified carbon expert on each committee, all committee members to have a basic understanding. The council should not be supporting their staff taking any action not legal even if it is in support of climate change - the current wording in the document is very ambiguous on this.	
Public transport a national issue / may not be achievable	Would not concentrate on transport as this is a national issue for Government. I agree that there needs to be a huge change in transport from private cars/taxis to busses, trains, and other more green effective methods yet I wonder how achievable this due to the rural nature of Cheshire.	3
Housing stock and funding	It is not achievable to upgrade current housing stock to high enough insulation levels to meet the targets set. Even current new builds in the Borough do not have sufficient levels of heat loss prevention. Private landlord properties - if improvements mandatory landlords will increase rents or sell the property meaning more council housing will be needed. Developers should be required to look at carbon neutral and/ or energy saving inclusions in any plan the council supports. Costs where possible should be funded by public/ private partnerships.	3
Disagree to low emission zones/ charging	Disagree to low emissions zones and low traffic areas or emission charging/ pay per mile	2
More information / detail needed		18
Need to have costs, targets and added value associated with them	Difficult to judge as they don't seem to have a budget/ cost attached. Any action is challenging due to cost, money is always the deciding factor otherwise it doesn't seem achievable – where will the money come from? Value and expense of carbon reduction initiatives must be quantified against the opportunity cost they represent. Few of the actions have specific numerical targets to able to judge ambition or success. Should continuously evaluate feasibility, costs, benefits, and timelines. Should only implement if cost effective.	15
More detail/ reword needed on specific actions	There is not enough clear detail about the transport proposals. The action on 'divesting from fossil fuel investments in the council pension fund' should be removed or reworded; it is ill-thought through and unhelpful - Cheshire Pension Fund has already set and is working to achieve more meaningful targets. The comments on peatland on page 37 should be revised - over 10% of UK land is peatland. What is meant by 'healthy peatland'? '2024-2029 Actions: Explore the opportunity to expand cycle lanes across the borough, specially creating a link from Cheshire to Stockport and Manchester' - it depends on the quality of the cycle facility provided. Shared footways in urban areas are almost always the wrong choice.	3
Other comments		25
Stop building on green fields/ removal of green areas	Stop building on green field. Stop building homes. Don't build on Peat Land (Danes Moss). Stop removal of trees, gardens, and hedgerows.	9
Improve public transport/ traffic, fuel consumption	Need much better public transport. Only grant travel expenses to Councillors and staff for public transport. New roads lead to more private car travel which leads to more carbon emissions. Reduce food miles by using local produce. Provide more local offices so staff do not have to travel far.	7

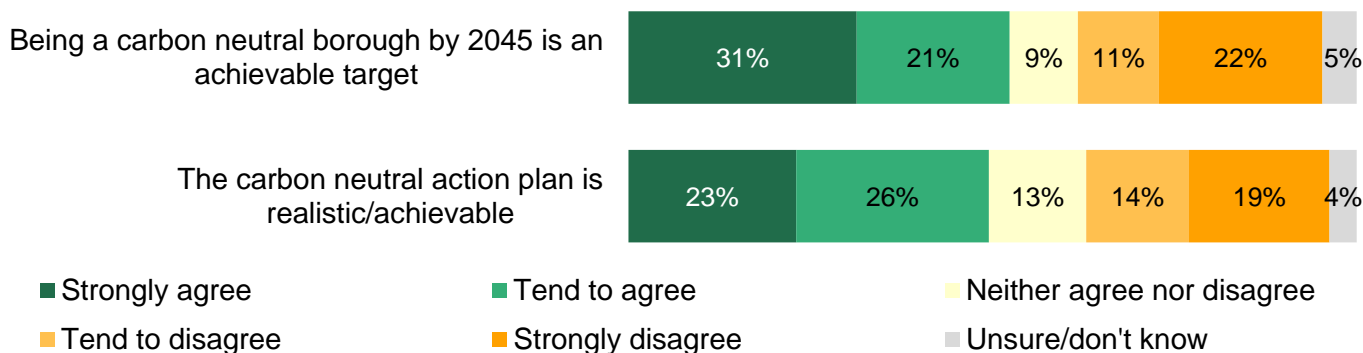
Table 2: Is there a specific action that you believe is not needed, unachievable and or not valid for the council's carbon action plan?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
More practical action/ improved thinking generally	More action should be undertaken by the Council itself as an employer, owner of buildings, land etc. Money seems to be going into fact-finding missions as opposed to direct action. Reducing consumption of goods and materials is the major driver of emissions. There must be an alternative to electrical energy and power. New thinking around communal power sources.	6
Focus on the key objectives	Perhaps the Carbon Action Plan is too ambitious, focus more on the key objectives. Avoid actions that risk people thinking that acting individually they cannot make any difference because the problem is too big.	3

Section 5: The action plan overall/ further comments

Respondents were asked a set of questions about the action plan overall, whether they felt it was realistic/achievable and whether they felt being a carbon neutral borough by 2045 is an achievable target. Around one half of respondents agreed that the action plan is realistic/achievable (50%) and that being a carbon neutral borough by 2045 is an achievable target (52%) whereas around one third of respondents disagreed (34% selected either tend to disagree or strongly disagree for both statements), see Figure 6.

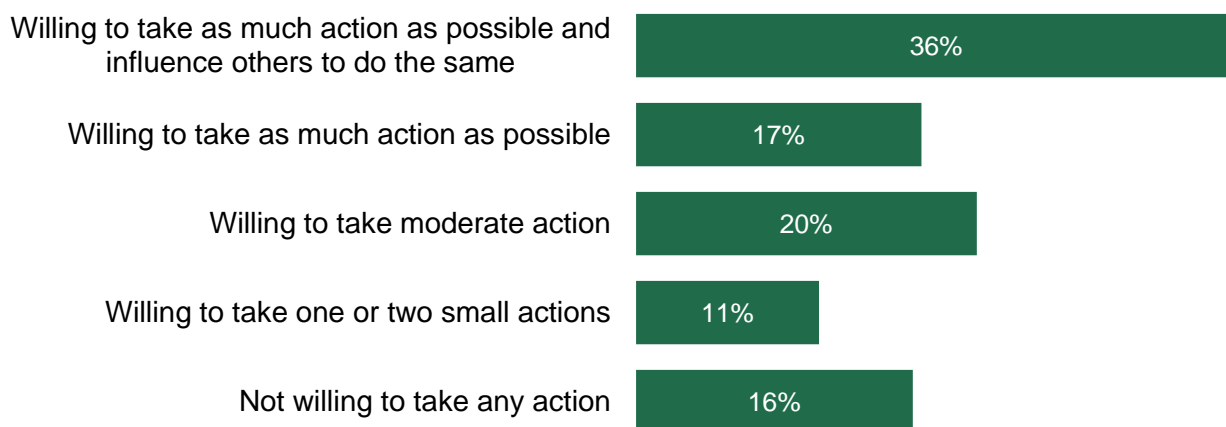
Figure 6: Agreement/ disagreement with aspects of the draft action plan overall



Base for % = 404 - 405

Encouragingly 84% of respondents stated that they were willing to take some action to reduce their carbon emissions after reading the action plan with 36% of these were willing to take as much action as possible and influence others to do the same. 16% of respondents were not willing to take any action, see Figure 7.

Figure 7: Respondent willingness to take action after reading the draft plan.



Base for % = 407

Finally, respondents were asked if they had any further comments to make on any aspect of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. In total 224 respondents chose to leave a comment. The comments provided were coded into the following overall themes and sub themes:

Comments on the plan overall:

- Waste of money, the plan will make little difference, focus resource on other things, 55 mentions.
- Agree with the plan, needs to happen sooner rather than later, 43 mentions.
- Collaboration approach promotion and support needed, 38 mentions.
- Need more specific actions/ targets/ data and clear text, 19 mentions.
- Needs to be cost effective, schemes too expensive/ not feasible in current financial climate, 18 mentions.
- Actions speak louder than words, 9 mentions.

Suggestions for additional actions, areas of influence:

- Stop building on green field/ need more green areas, 28 mentions.
- Improve public transport / active travel inc. cycle routes, 18 mentions.
- Waste is a big issue, encourage recycling/ reduce consumption, 13 mentions.
- More support/ infrastructure for electrical vehicles, heat pumps and solar panels, 7 mentions.
- Specific change/ addition, 2 mentions.

Other comments

- Should be led by Central Government, 4 mentions.
- General observations, 3 mentions.
- Already do all that I can, 2 mentions.
- Disagree to low traffic zones, 2 mentions.

Some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore total mentions won't add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment. The full summary of the comments received by theme and sub theme is presented in Table 3.

The summary of comments from those who provided an email response can be seen in Table 4.

Table 3: Summary of the comments received on the action plan overall

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Comments on the plan overall		182
Waste of money, the plan will make little difference, focus resource on other things	Waste of taxpayers' money, especially in the current economic climate. Did not vote for the green party. Need to focus resource on other things/ local issues/ stick to what can be achieved e.g., fixing potholes, emptying drains, waste management. Do not believe in the climate crisis – follow the science. Will have little or no impact worldwide, UK is less than 1% of emissions. Individual local authorities have relatively little influence on the actions of national government.	55
Agree with the plan, needs to happen sooner rather than later.	Good work so far, this is important, do as much as you can, must be made a priority. All departments should work towards these goals not just some. Need to do more now - a quicker version must be enacted; the goal should be reduced to 2030 not 2045. Would like to see more urgent and bolder actions. Recommend the Council moves quickly towards inspiring communications on this topic designed to mobilise the population. Need to ensure the plan is communicated well and that staff and residents are engaged. Some practical tips and advice on how to reduce carbon would be helpful to show how actions can make a difference.	43
Collaboration approach promotion and support needed	Can only achieve the bigger things by working together, a major focus of the plan should be on co-benefits. Ensure that there is consistency across all departments and in all actions of the council, need to look at this in its entirety - how land-use planning impacts on the emissions from transport, how housing development policy impacts carbon emissions. What is the scope for joint initiatives with local NHS bodies. One of the biggest challenges is the attitude of business and commerce, there needs to be incentives for people and businesses to act on climate change and penalties for those that don't. People need to see the benefits, greater awareness, and promotion of what can be achieved by individuals. Consult other boroughs plans and seek central government support. Lobby central government for stronger enforcement and legislation. The plan can't go further with any benefits without significant financial support from Government. Local Carbon neutral bodies should be established and encouraged in every council ward. There must be communication and coordination between the Borough and local towns and parishes. Local groups are important drivers of change e.g., repair cafes, community gardens, tree replacement strategy. Would like to assist in the plan in any ways possible.	38
Need more specific actions/ targets/ data and clear text	Its mostly 'explore' with no specifics, need to pay more attention to the detail when trying to set targets. Clarify what actual legal powers the Council has. Much of the plan is 'woolly' and vague which suggest a lack of action and ambition. Not enough emphasis on what Council can achieve - lots of caveats about needing external support. Requires cost/benefit proposals, how will they be funded. Need face to face models for the new season and the upcoming seasons. Too many targets and actions - concentrate on achieving two or three key deliverables on time and to cost. Need to produce the science and the data to show how they came to some of the solutions and ideas. Plan is not easy to read or understand - too much jargon - what is overarching and in setting?	19

Table 3: Summary of the comments received on the action plan overall

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Needs to be cost effective, schemes too expensive/ not feasible in current financial climate	Should only implement if cost effective - with good ROI. Needs to be carefully budgeted - will have little support if it costs residents money either directly or indirectly through increased local taxes. The cost to individual's vs the implementation timescales must be realistic. For individuals the cost of sustainable, carbon neutral energy is too great, EV'S, air source heat pumps or solar panels are too pricey. Further financial support is required to retrofit existing housing stock with improved insulation. At the present time think need to focus on balancing your budget, question how feasible and achievable this is given the poor financial situation. We don't have the means to action this change in culture or lifestyle – e.g., housing that doesn't support electric vehicles, finances don't support life changes, electric cars not environmentally friendly, public transport not user friendly.	18
Actions speak loader than words	Actions speak loader than words and the Council are for e.g., closing recycling centres, introducing green waste charge, allowing out of town retail parks, cutting bus services, developments on Danes Moss & Poynton Pool. Large scale housebuilding, not repairing roads - repairs must be done time and time again. The council needs to meet its own targets. Do not believe Cheshire east can manage emission reduction.	9
Suggestions for additional actions, areas of influence		68
Stop building on green field/ need more green areas	Could there be an overarching policy to protect nature and wildlife. Stop building on green field, do not build houses on Danes Moss, leave the peat and wildlife alone, do not cut down trees. Would like to see stronger wording surrounding peat and the protection of it against development. Tree and woodland cover have an important role to play in the climate agenda. Any spare council land needs to be planted to create biodiversity. Stop the use of astroturf sports pitches. Green job creation was not mentioned.	28
Improve public transport/ active travel inc. cycle routes	Better connectivity for public transport – a bus connection to Manchester airport. Increase school (electric) bus services to reduce multi-vehicle school runs. Should not be building more roads. Funding to implement highway schemes that support active travel, the plan only mentions exploring facilities for active travel. Prioritise safe cycle routes, proper Cycling schemes, and cycle parking in towns needed.	18
Waste is a big issue, encourage recycling/ reduce consumption	Waste is a big issue. Encourage responsible recycling, a lot of people don't understand the rules of recycling properly. Encourage re-use of items/ re-sell facilities, introduce 'repair cafes'. Need free green waste bins and local HWRC's. Need to reduce plastic waste. Look at potential for carbon capture and storage of both fossil and biogenic carbon emissions from incinerated waste. The key to reduced emissions is reduced consumption.	13
More support/ infrastructure for electrical vehicles, heat pumps and solar panels.	Get electric or hydrogen transport for public and commercial vehicle. Electrical vehicles are too expensive – also need better infrastructure. All new builds should be fitted with heat pumps and solar panels, install solar, wind and heat pump technology in all public buildings. Introduce substantial grants for residential solar, heat pump and wind energy sources. Need to offer help for the elderly to get smart and offer classes or home tuition on broadband and computer skills to so that the elderly and the venerable can keep up with modern life.	7

Table 3: Summary of the comments received on the action plan overall		
Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Specific change/ addition	Overarching actions - need to include more actions for engaging with elected members. If you explore options to divesting from fossil fuels, need to ensure you have the buy in from fund trustees and ensure measures to protect the investments. Domestic - It is good that you aim to influence and educate private landlords but securing needs to be given to tenants, and the potential for rising rents. Non-domestic - interesting that S106 funding will be considered to deliver net zero infrastructure when in Nantwich S106 funding is about to be used to increase car parking facilities. Agriculture - important that water course quality is considered. Waste – ensure ANSA services offer a recycling service to businesses and consider the environmental impact of reducing the waste recycling centres from 7 to 4. Was there anything about clean air?	2
Other comments		11
Should be led by Central Government	National plan required from central Government. Local councils are not responsible for power generation. There is a lot of energy waste within the borough which is outside your control.	4
General observations	Scored everything highly but may look different in two years' time. May be forced to make changes due to EU and other regions – impacting on supply chains and local businesses. Can't see how fossil fuels can be totally replaced.	3
Already do all that I can	Already doing things to cut my carbon footprint, already aware of the need to reduce energy costs at home don't need a smart meter to remind me.	2
Disagree to low traffic zones	Do not believe that there is a need for low/ slow traffic neighbourhoods in Cheshire Eas / No low traffic zones.	2

Table 4: Summary of Email comments received

Responding as	Summary of comments received
The Countryside Charity Cheshire (CPRE)	<p>The scale of the challenge facing CEC on climate change is evident from a number of sources however fear the climate aspirations are unlikely to come to fruition. Amount of officer resource needed is huge, there is a suggestion that a member of each Council team should take on carbon reduction “as an element of their key roles” - is this realistic? Will job descriptions have to be re-written and agreed? And if “avenues for generating finance for local low carbon projects” are identified, who will pursue/ write grant applications for them and, if they are successful, manage and monitor them?</p> <p>The Plan does not include: A strategy to enhance carbon storage /improve peat bogs. There are links in the agricultural section to two other strategies (the Green Infrastructure Plan and the Cheshire East Greenspace Strategy) but they need updating to connect into the climate change strategy. There is also a link to a Cheshire Wildlife Trust report that charts where peatlands exist, what type they are and the very poor condition they are in. A plan is now needed to restore them. An educational element for schools aimed at engendering strong environmental consciousness in the young. A commitment to stop building new roads which further embed the wrong culture and encourage more trips. Current constrained financial circumstances and proclivities to pursue new roads do not give confidence CEC will be able to produce /move forward quickly with the type of robust carbon neutrality plan that is urgently needed.</p>
Cheshire East Climate Alliance	<p>Only 'Tend to agree' that 'Everyone has a role in reducing carbon emissions...' as there are people who simply cannot take much action, for medical, financial or other reasons such as not being an owner occupier of their homes. To address 'Lack of trusted guidance' would need a careful analysis of the gaps there are. Would add, culture wars, lack of leadership, persistence with policy restrictions, shortage of people skilled and trusted to carry out refurbishment tasks as barriers.</p> <p>Additional Areas of influence: supply chain emissions are largely excluded in the plan; the council should show strong leadership in this area. More recognition of potential land use changes to create more carbon sinks. Create a citizen's assembly or jury, start a comprehensive public engagement and adult education programme on why the plan is necessary. Reduce the volume of freight on Cheshire East roads, address speed limits and road infrastructure so that people feel safer to use alternative modes of transport and drivers cut emissions. Encourage behaviour change on flying, diet, alternative modes of transport, returning parts of gardens to nature, creating wildlife corridors, buy less new stuff. Given that many of the actions in the first 5 years are of an exploratory/ feasibility nature, there is nothing to which we would say 'don't go there.' The trick will be to get the balance right so we can get additional benefits. Recognise there will be constraints on CEC's resources and that there will be a need for prioritisation. Would be helpful to show a table of likely cost and likely achievable reduction in emissions, against each of the proposed actions which could then be used in prioritisation. We would also like to see more information on how Cheshire East plans to account for its natural assets.</p> <p>There are several areas where the plan can be enhanced, for example: Act together with other Councils to lobby the government for stronger legislation/ create extra powers for Las. Actively work together with all community groups and environmental organisations in the promotion of a common message. The leadership role of CEC could be emphasised more in the Plan. The term 'Insetting' needs clarification, as it is not a familiar term and because many aspects of offsetting are known to be suspect. It would be better to use clearer terms such as carbon sequestration or carbon capture, or solar energy generation. The policy regarding 'consumption-based emissions' needs clarification, it is the consumption that has the greatest contribution to global warming and climate change. Clarify what actual legal powers the Council has. Under section 3.3, is there an option for diverting section 106 funds in their entirety for the mitigation of climate change? Under section 3.5, could this be prefaced by an overarching policy of 'protect and</p>

Table 4: Summary of Email comments received

	<p>preserve' nature, as a default position of the Council. The section headings should be made consistent throughout - so that the categories in Appendix 2 can be related to each of the action areas of the main text.</p>
<p>20s Plenty for Cheshire East</p>	<p>Only 'Tend to agree' with 'Everyone has a role in reducing carbon emissions...' as there are people who simply cannot take much action, for medical, financial or other reasons. Other barriers would add: Road Safety Concerns, Difficulty in engaging with council on proposed solutions.</p> <p>Additional Areas of influence. A comprehensive public engagement and adult education programme on why the plan is necessary, what the other benefits are - better air quality, healthier people, safer and nicer streets, greater community spirit. What about reducing the amount of freight on our roads. Addressing other road safety issues could help remove barriers to active travel. Actions to encourage behaviour change on any opportunities to educate themselves, families and friends, reducing flying, driving less and using alternative modes of transport. Review of land use, identifying opportunities for more cycling and walking paths. Actions not needed. In transitioning from fossil fuels, we have an opportunity to make life better, people healthier and society more equal, especially with regard to transport. Simply swapping every old car for an electric one (even if there were sufficient resources to do so) will not solve road safety issues and it will not change driver behaviours that make active travel too frightening. So, while we must clearly accommodate electric vehicles and build a charging infrastructure, we must not do so at the expense of improving public transport and creating opportunities for active travel.</p> <p>Our campaign is for 20s Plenty for Cheshire East. We believe that if this were to be done sensibly and over 2/3 years to spread implementation costs it would reduce collisions and injuries, reduce emissions, cut noise, make our residential streets nicer, encourage more active travel.</p>
<p>Poynton Town Council</p>	<p>Poynton Town Council broadly welcomes the Action Plan but is concerned that Cheshire East are currently pursuing numerous policies that will have the direct effect of increasing road traffic and urbanisation so increasing carbon emissions. If they wish to achieve "net zero", these policies should be withdrawn. For example, closure of HWRC sites and leisure centres, building new housing estates on Green Belt, there is no real alternative to the private car for residents. No matter how well new houses are insulated, their construction and use will inevitably increase carbon emissions.</p>
<p>Bollington Town Councillor/ Chair of Community & Environment Committee</p>	<p>The major contributors to Carbon emissions in Cheshire East are domestic buildings and road transport. To meet the 2045 target, action needs to be accelerated in these areas in particular. Domestic buildings. New builds should be required to move rapidly to pass insulation standards and CEC must vigorously enforce standards. The document refers to CEC having 'some influence on new developments' such wording betrays a lack of ambition and determination. CEC, with other unitary authorities must actively lobby central government to provide more grant resources to retrofit poorly insulated housing stock as a priority, and then support the roll out of ASHP systems. Transport: The transition to e vehicles is not happening quickly enough to achieve targets. Further encouragement of active travel and public transport is required. CEC should rapidly move to '20 is plenty' across all built up areas and remove all bureaucratic and cost hurdles to enable this to happen. Waste: All current HWRC centres should remain open.</p>
<p>Sandbach Town Council</p>	<p>Overall, we recognise this document as a step forward if implemented and encourage council to accept the proposals. We suggest in summary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the role of legal and financial services in encouraging and ensuring a net zero bias is part of each department's decisions. • Inclusion of policies around better car use like car sharing and driving choice. • A proactive and innovative approach to supporting community lifestyle change. • Be proactive in areas where residents are unaware, they can make a difference to our carbon footprint and encourage uptake by confirming where no obstacles to change would exist and individually confirming they should consider options and engage. • Bringing net zero choices and recommendations into all conversations Council has with residents to educate and inform.

Appendix 1: Demographic breakdowns

A number of demographic questions were asked at the end of the survey to ensure there was a wide range of views from across different characteristics. All of the questions were optional and therefore won't add up to the total number of responses received.

Table 5: Number of survey respondents by representation

Category	Count	Percent
As an individual (e.g., local resident)	371	92%
As an elected Cheshire East Ward Councillor, or Town/Parish Council / Clerk /Councillor	13	3%
On behalf of a group, organisation or club	11	3%
Cheshire East staff member / employee	5	1%
On behalf of a local business	< 5	< 5%
Grand Total	405	100%

Table 6: Number of survey respondents by gender

Category	Count	Percent
Male	211	58%
Female	132	37%
Other gender identity	< 5	< 5%
Prefer not to say	17	5%
Grand Total	361	100%

Table 7: Number of survey respondents by age group

Category	Count	Percent
16-24	8	2%
25-34	8	2%
35-44	28	8%
45-54	52	14%
55-64	108	29%
65-74	90	25%
75-84	42	11%
85 and over	< 5	< 5%
Prefer not to say	28	8%
Grand Total	367	100%

Table 8: Number of survey respondents by ethnic origin

Category	Count	Percent
White British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / Irish	316	87%
Any other White background	12	3%
Black African/Caribbean/Black British	< 5	< 5%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	< 5	< 5%
Asian/Asian British	< 5	< 5%
Other ethnic origin	< 5	< 5%
Prefer not to say	30	8%
Grand Total	366	100%

Table 9: Number of survey respondents by religious belief

Category	Count	Percent
Christian	150	42%
No Religion	148	41%
Buddhist	8	2%
Other religious belief	14	4%
Prefer not to say	38	11%
Grand Total	359	100%

Table 10: Number of survey respondents by limited activity due to health problem / disability

Category	Count	Percent
Yes, a lot	20	5%
Yes, a little	66	18%
Not at all	255	69%
Prefer not to say	26	7%
Grand Total	367	100%