Appendix 3d: Climate Emergency Action Plan Consultation Survey Summary Report

Key summary results

Some of the key findings in response to Blackpool Council's Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan were:

- **83.7%** of respondents 'agreed' with the council's proposed principles for tackling the climate emergency;
- **76.8%** of respondents 'agreed' that the council should aim to make Blackpool net-zero by 2030;
- **70.2%** of respondents 'agreed' with the principle that climate issues had to be addressed in a fair way, which would mean not expecting people with less money or assets to contribute as much as other people;
- Respondents thought the key areas where action needed to be taken was across housing, buildings and the built environment, transport and digital and power heat;
- Respondents thought that business (in terms of promoting resources efficiency and accreditation for tourism businesses) and building knowledge, capacity and financial resources were seen as the least important areas where action needed to be taken;
- In terms of adapting and mitigating the effects of extreme weather, the need to tackle rising sea levels was seen as the most important issue locally, with the issue of extreme winds and heatwaves and drought seen as the least important.

Background

The Climate Emergency Action Plan consultation survey was made available via the council's website for just over four weeks between 22nd September and 21st October. Hardcopies were made available at libraries and children's centres, with freepost reply envelopes to encourage responses from people without access to online services. The survey included a link of the draft action plan. The surveys were publicised via a press release and promoted via the council's social media channels.

302 people responded to the survey, with 296 completing the survey online and six sending a response via a hard copy. 102 responses were "partial" responses, which can include people leaving the survey part way through or not clicking "submit" at the end of the survey.

101 respondents were female (52.3%) with **82** respondents identifying as being male (42.5%). Eight respondents preferred not to state their gender (4.1%) and two respondents preferring to self-describe (1%). The age range of respondents skewed towards those in the 35-44 to 45-54 year old category, the number of responses by age group is shown in the table below:

Age Group	Responses	Percentage
18 - 24	11	5.6%
25 - 34	22	11.3%
35 - 44	44	22.6%
45 - 54	53	27.2%
55 - 64	32	16.4%
65 - 74	22	11.3%
75+	4	2.1%
Prefer not to say	7	3.6%
Total	**195**	100%

139 respondents (71.6%) stated they did not have a disability or health problem. **55** respondents (28.4%) reported they had with a disability or health problem expected to last for 12 months that either limited their activity "a little" or a "a lot".

286 (95%) of responses were from individuals. 10 (3.3%) were made on behalf of organisations and five respondents it was unknown if they were responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. **230** respondents (80.7%) identified as residents, with 23 respondents (8.1%) stating they work in Blackpool, nine respondents (3.2%) saying they were are visitors and eight respondents (2.8%) stated they are a business owner in Blackpool.
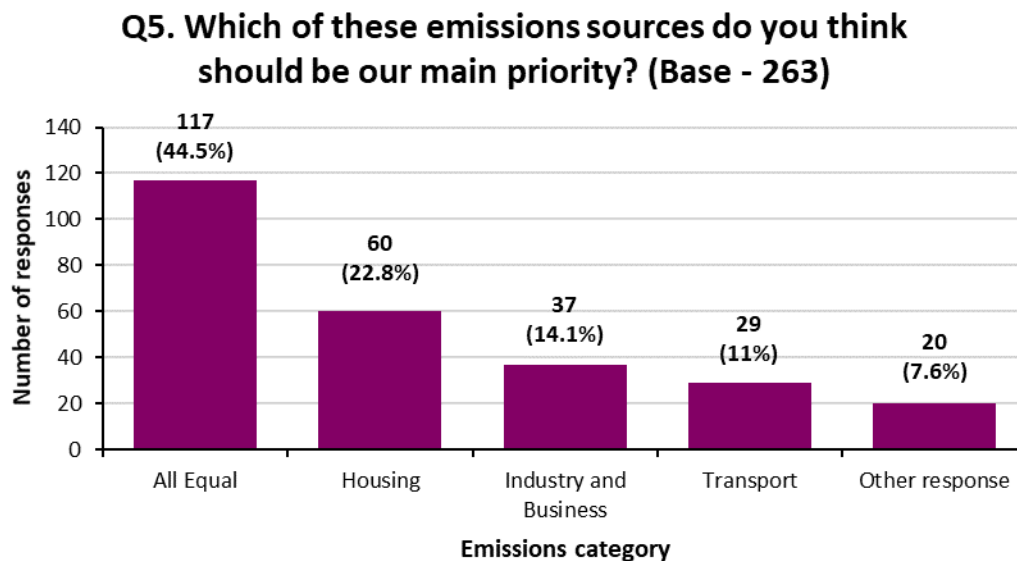
177 respondents (90.8%) identified as White (including English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/ British or any other white background). 12 respondents (6.2%) preferred not to state their ethnicity and a further six respondents (3.1%) identified as 'other' ethnic identities (including those within Asian, Black, Mixed or 'other' ethnic identities).

Excluding respondents where no postcode was submitted, **73.8%** of respondents came from Blackpool postcode areas (FY1-FY4), with 40.6% of these responses coming from FY4 postcodes. A further 8.6% of respondents were from FY5 postcodes, where some of these may be in Blackpool. Elsewhere, 12.8% of respondents responded from postcodes outside of Blackpool with 4.8% of postcodes also being unknown.

Findings

Which of these emissions sources do you think should be our main priority? **(Base - 263)**

The Draft Action Plan explains the proportion of emissions coming from main emission categories, in line with the availability of climate emissions data. **117** respondents (44.5%) felt that all were equally important, with the highest proportion of those selecting an individual emission source opting for housing (22.8%). The following figure details the emission source that respondents felt should be the main priority.
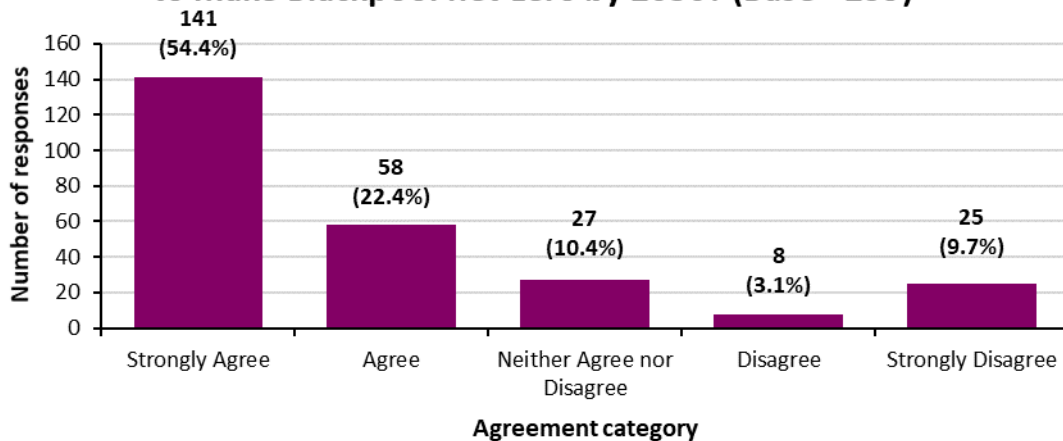

Of those selecting "other", five respondents said none of the emissions categories were a priority and four made points about specific areas of emissions.

Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments about emissions, with **82** comments made in total. Most of these **focussed on housing (28 comments)**, with a further 11 comments mentioning heating/insulation specifically. 16 comments were around transport, including comments around public transport. Other comments covered various aspects of a climate positive response such as the use of green space (nine comments), specific businesses, electric vehicles (seven comments)) and solar roofing amongst (six comments) others. A total of 14 comments were made generally negative comments or noted the role of emissions from other countries, with four comments stating that they did not believe there was a climate emergency.

Do you agree or disagree that the council should aim to make Blackpool net-zero by 2030? **(Base - 259)**

76.8% respondents either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with the council's proposed aim to make Blackpool net zero by 2030:

Q6. Do you agree or disagree that the Council should aim to make Blackpool net-zero by 2030? (Base - 259)

Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments about the council's net zero target, with **72** comments made in total. **18** respondents noted the urgency to act including calling for a quicker timescale, balanced by 11 who suggested that the target was unrealistic, whilst a further four respondents said that the work was ongoing and not deadline-driven. Nine respondents specifically mentioned the costs of getting to net-zero, some saying that it depended on the cost, with others saying that it was unrealistic to expect people to take on additional cost at a time when utility bills are increasing. Amongst other responses, four respondents noted the role of tourists and visitors in contributing to emissions in Blackpool.

Do you agree with the principles of a "fair transition"? (Base - 248)

One conclusion of the Blackpool Climate Assembly was that climate issues had to be addressed in a fair way, which would mean not expecting people with less money or assets to contribute as much as other people. **70.2%** respondents either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with the Climate Assembly's view and 16.1% of respondents disagreeing with the Climate Assembly's view.
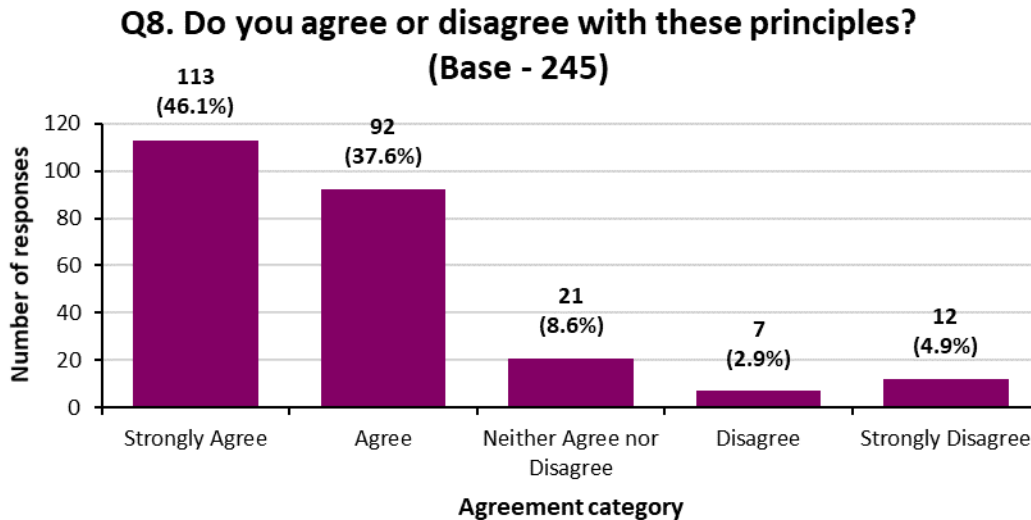
Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments about the Climate Assembly's view, with **56** comments made in total. 18 respondents were based on the need to have a fair contribution from across society, with nine respondents focusing on cost of addressing climate change, with comments varied on the need from some calling on the need for more private investment, and others noting that one of the benefits of some climate action was that it can save households money in the long-term.

Do you agree with the council's principles for tackling the climate emergency? (Base - 245)

The survey noted that the council included the following four principles in the Draft Action Plan, which would inform how it would go about delivering the actions:

- Continuing to work with residents as we develop new actions;
- Reducing emissions, not compensating for them;
- Leading by example by making use of the latest innovations where possible;
- Focusing on the positive benefits of reducing our individual emissions, such as saving money and getting healthy.

83.7% respondents either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with the principles laid out in the Draft Action Plan with 7.8% of respondents disagreeing with the Climate Assembly's view. The following figure details the level of agreement amongst respondents regarding the council's principles for tackling the climate emergency.

Q8. Do you agree or disagree with these principles? (Base - 245)

Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments about the council's principles, with **66** comments made in total. Suggestions made by respondents tended to focus on specific actions rather than the principles involved, particularly around the **use of green space (12 comments)**, electric vehicles (eight comments) and six comments were made around public transport.

Ranking the Themes in the Action Plan **(Base - 206)**

The survey asked respondents to rank the 10 themes of the action plan in priority order, allowing us to focus on those which are considered to be more important as the action plan develops and includes further activity. In the table overleaf, a lower score indicates that the theme is a higher priority, as respondents ranked from 1-10 with 1 being the top priority. The table therefore shows that based on the 206 responses received. It should be noted that respondents had only ranked issues they felt to be important or had stated they felt all the themes were important. Power and heat via renewable energy is ranked top, housing is second, and buildings third. The lowest priority is the internally-focussed building knowledge, capacity and financial resources, with a clear gap in the average rank between the highest priority actions (the lowest of which is cleansing, food, water and waste, ranked 4.4) and the lowest priority ones (the highest of which is community leadership, ranked 6.0).

Theme	Average rank
Q9.1. Housing **– including building new energy efficient houses, and improving heating systems and the energy efficiency of current houses**	3.8
Q9.2. Buildings and the Built Environment **– such as tightening planning rules and encouraging business to install solar panels and insulation**	4.1
Q9.3. Transport, Getting Around and Digital **– for example, new electric buses and charging points for electric cars, encouraging walking and cycling, and better broadband to reduce the need to travel for leisure and work**	4.1
Q9.4. Power and Heat **– such as generating more energy locally from the sun and wind, and looking at battery storage to make the most of this**	3.6
Q9.5. Cleansing, Food, Water and Waste **– e.g. reducing food and other waste, encouraging the re-use of materials, collecting more types of recycling**	4.4
Q9.6. Community Leadership, Communication and Involvement **– better information for everyone, and promoting eco-friendly initiatives such as Eco-schools, and establishing a Climate Action Fund for local projects**	6.0
Q9.7. Working With Others **– joining up with organisations across Blackpool and Lancashire to tackle issues together**	6.5
Q9.8. Business **– including promoting resource efficiency for small businesses, and Green Key accreditation for tourism businesses**	7.6
Q9.9. Natural Environment **– working with local groups like Beach Guardians and Friends of Parks groups to support the carbon reduction agenda**	6.9
Q9.10. Building Knowledge, Capacity and Financial Resources **– campaigning for government to make more resources available, and ensuing all council projects are consistent with achieving net-zero**	8.0

Respondents were given the opportunity to make additional comments about the themes of the Action Plan principles, with **58** comments made in total. Suggestions made by respondents tended to focus on specific areas rather than general themes, particularly around the **use of green space (13 comments)** and recycling (five. comments) and six comments were made around public transport. There were also six comments stating that all the current themes were important and a further six comments about the ratings/rankings given.

Adaptation to climate change **(Base - 186 respondents)**

Respondents were asked to rank some of the major risks arising from a changing climate to identify which they saw as being particularly relevant for Blackpool, prior to the council developing a further action plan focussed on the need to adapt to and mitigate the worst effects of climate change. **186** people responded, with rising sea levels being seen as the most crucial issue. The following table details the proportion of responses in each ranking position from 1-5, with 1 being the top priority and 5 being the bottom priority.

Ranking	Rising sea level ranking %	Increases in temperature ranking %	Extreme rainfall ranking %	Extreme wind levels ranking %	Increased risk of heatwaves and drought ranking %
1 (top)	55.8%	9.9%	13.8%	10.5%	9.9%
2	21.5%	27.6%	20.4%	15.5%	14.9%
3	12.2%	19.9%	38.7%	18.2%	11.0%
4	6.6%	25.4%	22.7%	25.4%	19.9%
5 (bottom)	3.9%	17.1%	4.4%	30.4%	44.2%
	100%	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Respondents were asked what actions could be taken in the area to manage the effects of extreme weather, with 71 responses made in total. **16 comments focussed on drainage**, 10 comments on sea defences and seven comments reference house building on flood plains. Nine comments indicated that nothing should be done/can be done to mitigate the impact of extreme weather, including those referencing that the issue was global, or stating that we cannot control the weather.