

Appendix 2 – Detailed summary of consultation responses

In addition to the quantitative results from the consultation questionnaire, the council also received many comments both in the questionnaire and separately. This appendix summarises the responses received, responds to these and highlight how the strategy/action plan have been updated as appropriate.

The vast majority of responses through the survey were suggestions for actions or areas the council should be focussing on, some of which replicated existing actions within the action plan, or perhaps added additional detail. Not all of these actions have been incorporated at this stage, however, the council will consider how best to do so in future iterations of the action plan as further work is undertaken.

Other suggestions and areas have also been fed into other areas of work, such as the Local Plan Update, or waste and recycling teams.

Comments on Q2 – to what extent did respondents agree or disagree with statements about climate change and air quality, both locally and nationally

Theme	Summary of comments	BDBC response
Tackling climate change is vital and should be a priority	The gravity of climate change as a global threat was emphasised by 8 respondents. It was clear that this should be priority for all to tackle, including local authorities	The council agrees, hence the declaration of the Climate Emergency and this ensuing strategy
This is not the council's responsibility	A small number of comments suggested that, although this was an important issue, it should not be a priority of the council	Although the council remain focused on delivering frontline services to our residents, the overwhelming response from respondents was supportive of action, and that this should be a priority. Although national and international action is required, we consider it vital that we do our bit locally.
Air Quality and Climate Change are separate issues	A small number of respondents to this question argued that air quality and climate change are different and should be treated as such. Combining the issues into one strategy could confuse matters, with views air quality issues are much more localised, whereas climate change is a global threat. This comment was also received to later questions.	BDBC acknowledge that the issues are distinct, with different localities. However, as stated in the strategy, given the sources of emissions are generally common to both it is advantageous to consider policies that will tackle both, as well as avoiding or minimising initiatives designed to reduce carbon emissions that inadvertently adversely impact our air quality. The strategy has been slightly updated to clarify that the focus is on tackling climate change.
Localised air quality issues	A number of respondents highlighted the localised nature of air quality issues, either generally, or by referencing areas known to them such as idling vehicles at schools or other areas.	The council acknowledge this. This Strategy and Action Plan seek to address these problems.
The importance of education	Although there is a growing awareness of climate change and its causes, a few respondents also impressed the need to continue to educate residents and crackdown on misinformation	The council agrees this is vital as sees this as a key aspect of our strategy, particularly through our role to 'Inspire' change in the borough and facilitate 'Action by All', one of the themes in the strategy.
Querying the existence / cause of climate change	A handful of comments questioned climate change, or apportioned change to natural changes in weather, rather than the role of humans in causing this	Overwhelming scientific evidence (and consensus) now proves that the world's climate is changing, with human emissions the key driver.

Q4 - Do you have any comments on the baseline carbon footprint and air quality position as set out within the strategy?

Theme	Summary of comments	BDBC response
Scope 3 / indirect and other emissions	Several respondents wanted to see more detail on the council's Scope 3 (indirect) emissions or questioned why these were not yet included.	BDBC acknowledge the importance of these emissions but have not historically calculated all Scope 3 emissions from our activities. In order to produce this strategy and action plan in a timely and robust manner, these have been excluded where not yet known. Further clarity has been added to the strategy to this effect. Additionally, a new action has been added to the Action Plan to undertake analysis of our Scope 3 emissions to be included in a future update. Information on borough-wide emissions has also been clarified and updated data used. Although some emissions are currently omitted, work to include these in future will be undertaken.
The role of the natural environment	A variety of responses were received that impressed the importance of green space within the borough, including the desire to protect what we have and the role for additional carbon sequestration through improving green space. Others questioned figures cited or how adaptation to climate change is being tackled.	The importance of our natural environment, both in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon emissions and adapting to future changes as a result of climate change, is clear, hence BDBC including this as a dedicated area within the strategy and action plan. Currently cited figures are best available figures based on desktop analysis and literature review by consultants WSP in supporting the development of this strategy. Within the action plan we have actions to continue to improve figures based on latest data, alongside actions to increase its role. Reference to adaptation has also been increased within the strategy.
Water	Three respondents questioned why water pollution was not included	Although a significant environmental issue, it is not considered that this strategy or workstream is the most effective way to deal with this issue. A number of actions proposed do have the potential to also support this agenda and co-operation internally and externally with other teams to maximise co-benefits of any actions will happen.
Planning and development	Although not commenting on the carbon footprint within the strategy, several comments were received about the role of planning and new development	These comments are dealt with further within later sections but BDBC is currently updating its' Local Plan with tackling the Climate Emergency as a central theme to the update.
Transport	A number of respondents flagged transport emissions as a key	BDBC acknowledge this and the fact that little progress has been

	element of the borough-wide footprint and how this needs to be addressed.	made in tackling these emissions recently. To recognise this importance, Transport is a dedicated category of focus within the strategy and action plan.
Waste/recycling	This theme comes up in many areas of the strategy. Here, respondents wanted to see an increase in what can be recycled and waste reduction	<p>A key long-term aspect of the strategy is to reduce the amount of goods we consume and waste. The waste hierarchy of ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ underpins this so, although recycling is important, in many ways it is a last resort.</p> <p>Additionally, however, this strategy is not a waste-focused strategy and so does not cover further detail about waste and recycling disposal. Clarity has been added to the strategy to this effect.</p> <p>Hampshire County Council (HCC) are the waste disposal authority for Basingstoke and Deane so BDBC continues to work with them on the issues of waste and recycling. The facilities they operate (known as MRFs) dictate what materials can be sorted and separated and are not able to do this for some plastic types. There are also concerns around the viability and sustainability of markets that exist for these other plastic materials. More information is available on the HCC website.</p>
Data granularity / Benchmarking	A small number of respondents requested the carbon footprint to be broken down to a more granular level and/or benchmarked against other regions	<p>Although the aim set out in the Climate Emergency declaration is to reach Net Zero Carbon, and so the total carbon footprint is the key figure here, benchmarking could provide a useful comparison tool. Work will be undertaken to include this in future iterations.</p> <p>The Council also always seeks to use the best available data from government and, where more granularity is available, and suitably robust, will use this to prioritise action.</p>

Q6 - Do you have any comments on proposals within the strategy?

Some comments received to this question were suggestions for reducing the carbon footprint of the borough, dealt with in Q8, so have been incorporated there.

Theme	Summary of comments	BDBC response
The need for action	A number of comments, mostly positive, impressed the need to take significant action in this area, and as quickly as possible. Potentially even going further and faster than current proposals, although most of these comments thought the strategy was a positive starting point.	These comments are gratefully received and efforts will be made to accelerate action wherever possible, in the context of challenges and restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and resultant budget constraints, as well as our powers relative to other levels of government.
Needs more detail	Respondents suggested the strategy lacked sufficient detail or ambition in areas and that actions needed to be detailed, with measurable outcomes/targets	BDBC has added further detail to the strategy where possible. However, by design, the strategy sets a framework for action until 2030, so is deliberately not overly prescriptive, with room for flexibility. The associated action plan aims to set out further detail of actions the council intend to take, in line with the strategy. BDBC acknowledge that some of these actions will need further development and so the action plan will be updated annually to ensure actions are refined, as well as including updates on progress. However, the council wanted to publish these documents for consultation and also to start progressing initial actions.
Planning policy and development	There was significant overlap between comments here and those received in response to Q8 about the importance of planning and development in the borough. Many comments focused on requirements that should be expected of new developments (such as integration of renewable energy) and design with sustainable transport in mind. Other comments focused on preventing overdevelopment in the area and the importance of protecting green spaces within the borough	BDBC is currently undertaking an update to its Local Plan, which sets the local planning framework for development in the borough. This is a critical enabling policy for the borough to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and tackling the Climate Emergency is at the heart of this update. The council recently consulted on issues and options for potential policies , so additional feedback from the consultation on the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy will also be fed into that process.
'Action by all' and council	A small number of respondents questioned the importance of this category, suggesting that the role of residents and	BDBC fully acknowledge the scale of climate change and the intention of this category is not to shift the focus of responsibility onto

priority	<p>communities and even businesses in the borough is dwarfed by the need for international and national action from big businesses and governments.</p> <p>Similar comments questioned the priorities of the council and that tackling climate change was a national issue, and so shouldn't distract from running local services, or were supportive, but in the context of broader action</p>	<p>residents and communities. However, we consider it vital that there is a 'bottom up' and 'top down' approach to tackling this issue. We will need significant action from government(s) and large international businesses, however, this will still require significant change in how we live, as well as the significant influence individuals and groups can have in lobbying and sending messages to businesses through, for example, spending habits. As such, we consider this category vital, as see our role as a Local Authority as providing a link between national policies and our local communities.</p>
The importance of education	<p>In order to encourage and enable 'Action by all', respondents impressed the importance of education, in order to increase awareness about the need to take action, and what residents can do</p>	<p>This is integral to the 'Action by All' category and BDBC fully acknowledge the role it can play, as a trusted voice, in providing further information to local residents, communities and businesses, alongside other sources.</p>
Private car ownership	<p>A small number of respondents wanted to ensure that the use of private motor vehicles would not be targeted, expressing their importance, particularly in rural areas and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent concerns around public transport use.</p>	<p>In order to achieve our aims of a net zero borough by 2030 there will need to be a significant reduction in the use of private motor vehicles across the borough and a shift to public or active transport options. However, we acknowledge this is going to be more appropriate in certain settings, such as urban areas, so expect use of private cars to continue. We will be working to encourage the shift to electric vehicles through provision of sufficient charging infrastructure and education so as to reduce emissions from private vehicle use.</p>

Q8 - Do you have any other suggestions for reducing the carbon footprint of Basingstoke & Deane and improving air quality?

Some comments here build on themes already highlighted in other question responses. Others add further detail or more specific suggestions to the six categories proposed.

Theme	Summary of comments	BDBC response
Planning policy and development	<p>This theme was the most prevalent in comments received, building on those in Q6.</p> <p>Many comments focused on requirements that should be expected of new developments (such as integration of renewable energy) and design with sustainable transport in mind.</p> <p>Other comments focused on preventing over-development in the area and the importance of protecting green spaces within the borough</p>	<p>BDBC is currently undertaking an update to its Local Plan, which sets the local planning framework for development in the borough. This is a critical enabling policy for the borough to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and tackling the Climate Emergency is at the heart of this update. The council recently consulted on issues and options for potential policies, so additional feedback from the consultation on the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy will also be fed into that process.</p> <p>The process for adopting a new Local Plan is a statutory process that will take some time to complete. BDBC are pursuing opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of buildings built prior to a new Local Plan, in the absence of stronger planning policies.</p>
Green space	<p>Protecting existing green spaces alongside development of new green spaces (such as re-wilding or reforestation) was also a major theme in responses. Ensuring adequate access to green spaces also came through, particularly in light of residents' experiences during various COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>The importance of our natural environment, both in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon emissions and adapting to future changes as a result of climate change, is clear, hence BDBC including this as a dedicated area within the strategy and action plan. The action plan already includes a number of actions, many of which will develop through the course of the strategy and is linked to the council's Green Infrastructure Strategy. Green space has a number of benefits but change must be managed effectively depending on the role the space is due to play (e.g. carbon sequestration, increased biodiversity) which may lead to slightly different approaches.</p> <p>The Local Plan update is also giving significant consideration to the natural environment in the context of national targets for further development within the borough, and how to manage and mitigate this as best as possible.</p>
Waste and	<p>Many respondents would like to see an increase in the types</p>	<p>As in Q4, a key long-term aspect of the strategy is to reduce the</p>

recycling	of materials than can be recycled (particularly in kerbside collections), thus making it easier to do, with plastic the most common material cited.	amount of goods we consume and waste. The waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle underpins this so, although recycling is important, in many ways it is a last resort. Additionally, however, this strategy is not a waste-focused strategy and so does not cover further detail about waste and recycling disposal. Clarity has been added to the strategy to this effect. Hampshire County Council are the waste disposal authority for Basingstoke and Deane and so are responsible for what can be recycled, so BDBC continues to work with them on the issues of waste and recycling. The facilities they operate (known as MRFs) dictate what materials can be sorted and separated and are not able to do this for some plastic types. There are also concerns around the viability and sustainability of markets that exist for these other plastic materials. More information is available on the HCC website .
Refill/reuse and local shops	Some respondents wanted an increase in shops or facilities where goods can be refilled or repaired for reuse, rather than single-use items purchased and disposed of. Others also want to promote the use of local providers.	This certainly aligns with BDBC's ambitions and, building on the above, can help reduce waste. The council are aware of a handful of shops offering some refills through the borough, however, this provision is minimal so there is further opportunity here. An action has been added to the action plan. BDBC have launched our Borough Basket e-commerce platform since the consultation on the strategy which enables local stores to have an online presence, with many of these also having a sustainable ethos.
Public and active transport	Respondents wanted improved infrastructure for active transport, in particular for cycling, coupled with improved education and awareness. Comments on public transport generally focussed on cost, and how this isn't usually as cost effective as driving, particularly for those that might 'trip-chain', that is, take multiple small journeys in a day.	This area overlaps significantly with the council's Transport Strategy 2019 that already sets out a lot of this ambition. Work has already begun with Hampshire County Council on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and this is included as an action within the action plan, alongside others within the transport section. Costs of public transport are out of BDBC's control, as these are commercially run services.
More renewables	BDBC should invest in more renewable energy and identify sites that are suitable	Zero carbon electricity is a dedicated section within the strategy and actions have been proposed to address this.

		The Local Plan update is also considering policies that could promote renewable energy development within the borough.
More Electric Vehicles (EVs)	There was support from respondents for more EVs with requests for further charging provision, including for existing and new buildings, as well as further education on this topic.	Supporting the transition to EVs is included within the 'Transport' category within the strategy, with actions to increase EV charging provision. The council's EV charging hub has recently opened in Feather's Yard in the town centre and further provision across the borough is planned.
Education and engagement	Several respondents again reinforced the importance of education and engagement to achieve targets, with some including suggestions for this, such as local competitions.	Education and empowerment are key aspects of the 'Action by all' category within the strategy and action plan. Suggestions will be considered as part of the actions listed.

Q10 – What is preventing you taking action to tackle climate change or reducing your personal carbon footprint?

Theme	Summary of comments	BDBC response
Public transport cost/ease	Many responses here straddled the Q9 options of ‘cost’ and ‘lack of infrastructure’, in that public transport provision is perceived as both too expensive and lacking in certain areas/locations.	This was also a theme in BDBC’s Transport Strategy, in which theme three is to provide a ‘step change in the quality of local public transport’. We are working with HCC on the implementation of initial actions identified, some of which are echoed in the Climate Emergency Action Plan, such development of a Mass Rapid Transit network.
Electric Vehicle charging	Lack of EV charging infrastructure or support for installing their own charging facilities was cited by several respondents as putting them off investing in an EV themselves	As referenced above, increasing EV chargepoint provision is included as an action within the action plan, both installing infrastructure as a council and supporting private-sector rollout where appropriate. For domestic charging, the government is currently offering the ‘Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme’ as a grant towards the cost of installing home charging.
Waste and recycling collection	Inability to recycle certain materials was cited, alongside some confusion and lack of incentives to recycle, or for innovative businesses to re-use materials	Response as per Q4 and Q8. Increased education to reduce waste and work with HCC and national schemes is included in our action plan.
Cost – need for incentives	Cost of taking action was the second most selected option in the online survey. Several comments built on this saying that incentives or grants would need to be provided for change in some areas, especially to enable homeowners to make significant improvements to homes, such as insulation, renewable energy and alternative heating.	BDBC are aware that certain measures are more costly, such as investing in an EV or home retrofit. Many of these measures result in cost savings (e.g. from energy or fuel) that may result in the measure paying for itself in the long run. However, some measures may not, or the initial costs are too high for residents. Included in the action plan, the council will continue to identify and publicise grants that are currently available, such as the government Green Homes Grant while further thought is given to how the council can support home retrofit, in particular.
Feeling it won’t make a difference	There was a view among some respondents that, although they might try, their choices will have little impact, or they lack motivation because they see minimal change among big businesses and polluters.	BDBC consider that both a ‘top down’ and ‘bottom up’ approach is vital to tackling climate change. Residential emissions make up a significant proportion of emissions in the borough so changes individuals and communities make can tackle this element, as well as that of transport. Additionally, BDBC consider that consumer demand

		<p>is a powerful tool that can drive change.</p> <p>The 'Action by all' category aims to promote this bottom up approach, but we also acknowledge the need to top down policy, so includes lobbying government for national policy, as well as enabling change through policies of our own, such as the Local Plan update.</p>
<p>Planning restrictions</p>	<p>A small number of respondents highlighted that planning restrictions prevented improvements to their home</p>	<p>Some alterations to historic buildings within the borough, such as to listed buildings or to those in conservation areas may require planning permission and/or listed building consent. The council are supportive of efforts to maintain and improve historic buildings in a sustainable way, including reducing their carbon footprint, while retaining their character and heritage significance, and alterations that do are likely to be supported. The council's Historic Environment Team within the Planning department are more than happy to provide further guidance in this area.</p>

Q12 – Do you have any other suggestions on ways to reduce your carbon footprint?

Theme	Summary of comments	BDBC response
Diet	Switching to a low meat, vegetarian or vegan diet was referenced by several respondents as a way to reduce personal carbon footprint	BDBC acknowledge that diet is a significant contributor to personal carbon footprint and that we are going to need to change our diets to meet our overall carbon reduction targets, which was included as an option in Q11. However, it has been challenging to date to source data that allows the footprint of residents’ diet to be measured, and therefore, monitor progress against action here. An action has been added to the action plan to investigate this further with a view to including more detail in future.
‘ECO’ products	Many respondents highlighted more sustainable products that could be promoted, such as bamboo products, re-useable nappies, soap bars and refillable products. Local products were also highlighted	The ‘Waste and consumption’ category within the strategy and action plan includes support for ‘buying local’ and refill stores. Other areas can be included in our wider education role.
Food waste	Several respondents referenced the challenges of composting for some and so would like a food waste collection	As with waste and recycling points earlier, Hampshire County Council are the waste disposal authority. However, BDBC are working with HCC and other local authority partners to reduce food waste and investigate future options.
Others	Various other individual proposals were submitted	BDBC will consider all of these, to include on our webpages and other educational material

Q13 – Please provide any comments / suggestions on the strategy that you haven't had the opportunity to so far

Many responses were received in response to this question, however, generally replicated comments received in other questions, and have been addressed above.

There were no additional themes emerging from this section, with any new topics being individual. All have been considered and are already incorporated in the council's approach, or consideration will be given to how they can be incorporated moving forward.