

# North Yorkshire Council

## Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny

25 May 2023

### Climate Change Strategy Consultation Results

#### Report of the Corporate Director of Environment

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the feedback from the Draft North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy public consultation exercise and to receive Member's views thereon.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Draft North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 (NY CCS) was approved, by Executive, for public consultation on 17 January 2023. (Minute 155 refers.)
- 2.2 The consultation period from 13 February to 31 March involved a range of engagement activity, outlined in Appendix A. The young people's survey remained open until 15 May.

#### 3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 The public consultation exercise received over 1500 responses.
- 1530 through the *Let's Talk Climate* online platform.
  - 38 more detailed written responses from organisations, local councils and individuals.
- 3.2 The responses have been analysed over the past month to ascertain the key themes. These are outlined in Appendix A.
- 3.3 The *Let's Talk Climate* Young People's survey was co designed with young people from Harrogate. This survey is still open at the time of writing. Feedback will be included in a verbal update.

#### 4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 4.1 These are outlined in Appendix A

#### 5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to play its part in tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.
- 5.2 The NYC CCS delivers the following specific Council Plan ambitions:
- Place and Environment:
    - A clean, environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit
    - A well connected and planned place with good transport links and digital connectivity
    - Communities are supported and work together to improve their local area
    - Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of our communities

- Economy
  - Economically sustainable growth that enables people and places to prosper
  - Culture, heritage, arts and sustainable tourism all play their part in the economic growth of the county
- Health and Wellbeing
  - People are supported to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles
  - Reduced variations in health through tackling the root causes of inequality
- People
  - In times of hardship, support is provided to those that need it most
- Organisation
  - A carbon neutral council

## **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 No alternative options were considered. This report is for information only.

## **7.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS**

7.1 The Climate Change Strategy will have impact on a wide range of services. However, this report is for information only.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 As this report is for information only, there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no legal implications.

## **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken and there is no requirement for a full EIA.

## **11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken and there is no requirement for a full CCIA.

## **12.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The report will support the development of the NYC CCS for adoption.

## **13.0 CONCLUSIONS**

13.1 The NYC CCS has been through a successful consultation process whereby all residents and businesses have had the opportunity to review and comment on the draft document.

13.2 The consultation feedback will be subject of a further report to Executive for the adoption of the Strategy.

## **14.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

14.1 For Members to note the consultation process and provide their views on the consultation feedback.

## **15.0 RECOMMENDATION**

15.1 Members note the NYC CCS consultation feedback.

### **APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Report outlining North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy Draft Consultation Feedback

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy Draft for consultation. [Climate Change Strategy draft for consultation \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](http://northyorks.gov.uk)

Karl Battersby  
Corporate Director of Environment  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
05.05.23

Report Author – Jos Holmes, North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Policy Officer

Presenters of Report:

- Jos Holmes, North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Policy Officer
- Adam Vaughan, Climate Change and Environmental Project Officer

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

## North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy Draft Consultation Response Summary.

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### 1 Introduction

The North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy Draft for Consultation was approved 17.01.23. It was commissioned following the Climate Emergency declaration in July 2022. Officers from County and District Local Authorities worked collaboratively to engage with local environmental groups, the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and with all council officers (across the whole range of services) and Members (Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 20.10.22) to develop the Strategy themes, ambitions and general content throughout Autumn and Winter 2022.

As a reminder, the draft may be found here: [https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/87680\\_Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20for%20web%20-%20accessible\\_0.pdf](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/87680_Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20for%20web%20-%20accessible_0.pdf)

The report that follows provides a summary of the feedback. It does not propose a response to the comments at this time. This will be subject of a further report to Executive. However in reviewing the comments at this time, it is worth noting that

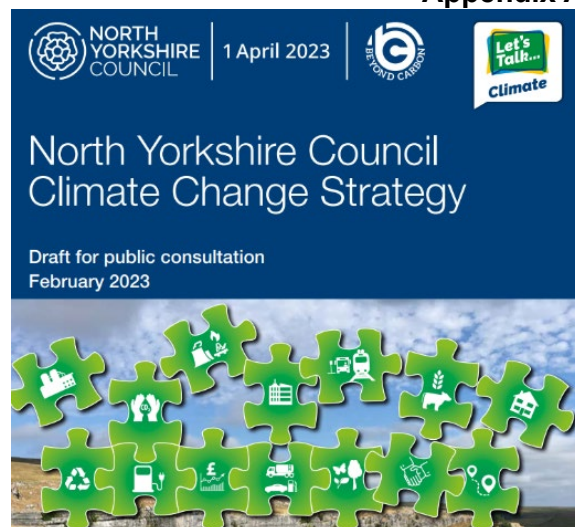
- Some reference suggested or geographically specific 'actions', which will be picked up in the development of the Climate Change Action Plan.
- Some suggest inclusion of points that are already in the Strategy. This may indicate that emphasis or clarity is required rather than specific changes.
- There were relatively few comments around the 'adaptation' theme and 'marine' within the 'supporting nature' section, indicating that this is an area of knowledge gap / growth for all.

### 2 Consultation Process

The consultation commenced 17.02.23 and concluded 10.04.23. There were three feedback methods;

- Let's Talk Climate online survey: Our ambition for Let's Talk North Yorkshire is for it to be our biggest ever countywide conversation, to help understand how the public are feeling, and use that intelligence to inform decision making and the council's policy development process.

This was a short survey that could be taken on a phone or other device. A copy of the survey can be found at the end of this report. It was also printed for people that preferred that option. Over 1500 responses were received. There were 5 questions on the Likert scale where people had a binary choice of 5 responses. A summary of those outcomes is in section 3. In addition, free text boxes enabled people to give more detailed views. A process called Natural Language Processing (NLP) has been utilised to identify the most common themes expressed and the words associated with those themes. A detailed review of 10% of the surveys was used to provide a 'sense check'. This found that the NLP process has correctly identified the most commonly used phrases and



words and the context in which they were used such as in a positive or negative way. The results are outlined below in section 3.10.

- ii. Written responses were invited via the NYCC consultation website and library service. This enabled more detailed responses for those that wanted to provide in depth feedback. 39 responses were received. The results are outlined below in section 4.
- iii. A 'young people's on online survey' which was co-designed with Harrogate Youth Council was prepared. The survey closed on 15.05.23 and the results will be outlined at the TEEOSC meeting.

These 3 approaches were outlined in webinars for Town and Parish Council, the Voluntary and Community Sector and for the general public. There were also 19 'face to face' engagement sessions at colleges, markets and community centres across North Yorkshire, staffed by colleagues from climate change and communications services. At these events, the officers talked with local people (including the Prime Minister at one event) giving background to the Strategy, handing out bookmarks with the QR code to link to the on line survey and paper copies if this was the preferred option.



Responses have been reviewed by a team of climate change officers with support from the Communications team.



### 3 Let's Talk Climate

**3.1** The survey was hosted on 'Commonplace', our digital engagement platform, and was supported by a marketing campaign to direct people to the platform.

Overall, 1,531 responses to the Let's Talk Climate Change survey were received, and this report presents the results of the survey.

As usual with self-completion questionnaires, some participants did not complete all questions. This may be because they did not have an opinion on the question asked, but we cannot make this assumption in full confidence. Such 'missing data' is excluded from the results unless otherwise stated. All charts indicate the number of responses received for each question.

The survey results are reported as whole numbers for percentages. As a result of this 'rounding' process there may be occasions when the figures do not add up to 100.

### 3.2 Reliability of the results

The number of responses received as part of the Let's Talk Climate Change survey indicates we can be confident that the survey results provide reliable estimates of the views of the North Yorkshire population as a whole. As with any estimates they include a degree of uncertainty. We have calculated confidence intervals to provide a measure for this uncertainty.

The 95% confidence intervals for overall survey results are generally calculated to be within +/- 3%, and this indicates a high level of certainty in the results.<sup>1</sup>

While the sample of responses in the survey is broadly representative of the population in North Yorkshire in many respects, the over-representation of people from some sub-groups such as districts and age groups may have an impact on the survey results if people from these groups have different views on issues. This report highlights where groups have very different views. Demographic group information was not provided by many people taking part in the survey, and this also limits the ability to determine how truly representative the sample of responses is.

We acknowledge that there is likely to be some survey error in the results, due to the over-representation of certain sub-groups in the sample. Although the survey is not truly representative, we always assume that there will be some sampling error and/or response bias in every survey, and this does not invalidate the survey findings.

The results of the survey also appear to be consistent with a number of surveys undertaken, including the Office for National Statistics (ONS), including the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

Detailed analysis of each question is available for review. It is possible to interrogate the information based on age, geographic location etc in great detail. The information below from section 3.3 to 3.9 provides a summary.

<sup>1</sup> See note on survey methodology at the end of the report.



Visit [northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY](https://northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY)  
or scan the QR code  
to take part online



If you'd like a paper copy  
of the survey please call  
01609 780 780

Free text response questions were analysed to look for patterns and themes in the responses. The result of these are outlined below in 3.10

### 3.3 Overall Summary

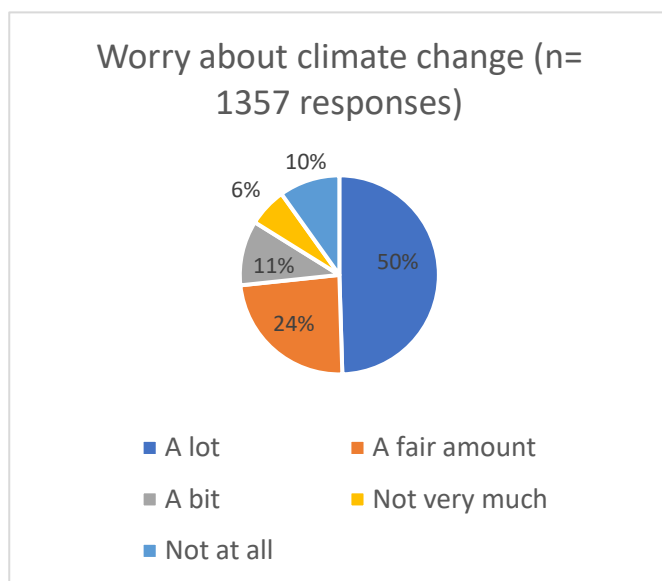
- A total of 1,531 responses were received for Let’s Talk Climate Change, and the number of responses means we can be confident that the survey results reflect the view of people in North Yorkshire.
- Responses were received from people who live and work within all districts across North Yorkshire, although people from Harrogate are over represented and those from Scarborough and Selby are under represented in the responses.
- Older people are also over represented and younger people under represented in the responses. A separate survey aimed at younger people, aged under 25, was also run and the results of this survey will be reported separately.

### 3.4 Climate change awareness

- The responses show a high level of awareness of climate change, with 91% saying their awareness level is a lot or a fair amount. Only 2% of responses are from those who describe their awareness as not very much or not at all.
- There is little difference in awareness levels by gender with responses from males and females showing similar levels of awareness about climate change.
- There are some differences in the levels of awareness for different age groups. People in the youngest age group, 16 to 29 years, are least likely to describe their level of awareness as a lot or a fair amount, and also less likely to say they are not very or not at all aware of climate change.
- People who said they are a member of a group engaged in environmental activities are more likely to be aware of climate change (96% describe their awareness as a lot or a fair amount), compared to those who are not part of a group (87%).

### 3.5 Worry about climate change

- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of responses are from people who say they worry a lot or a fair amount about climate change, while one in six (16%) are from those who do not worry at all or very much about climate change.
- This finding is consistent with data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey which shows 74% reported feeling (very or somewhat) worried about climate change in 2022.
- Responses from females show they are more likely to worry about climate change than males: 87% of female responses say their level of worry is a lot or a fair amount, compared to 68% of males. Only 5% of female responses are not very much or at all worried about climate change, compared to 20% of males.
- The ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey also found women are most likely to report feeling worried about climate change (77%, compared with 71% of men).



- There are also some differences in the level of worry for different age groups in North Yorkshire but the pattern is not straightforward.
- People who said they are a member of a group engaged in environmental activities are more likely to worry about climate change (89% say they worry a lot or a fair amount), compared to those who are not part of a group (60%).

When asked what concerns are about climate change, the most popular responses are:

- Deforestation (78% of responses)
- Landfills (65%)
- Emissions (64%)
- Fossils fuels (62%)
- Plastics (60%).

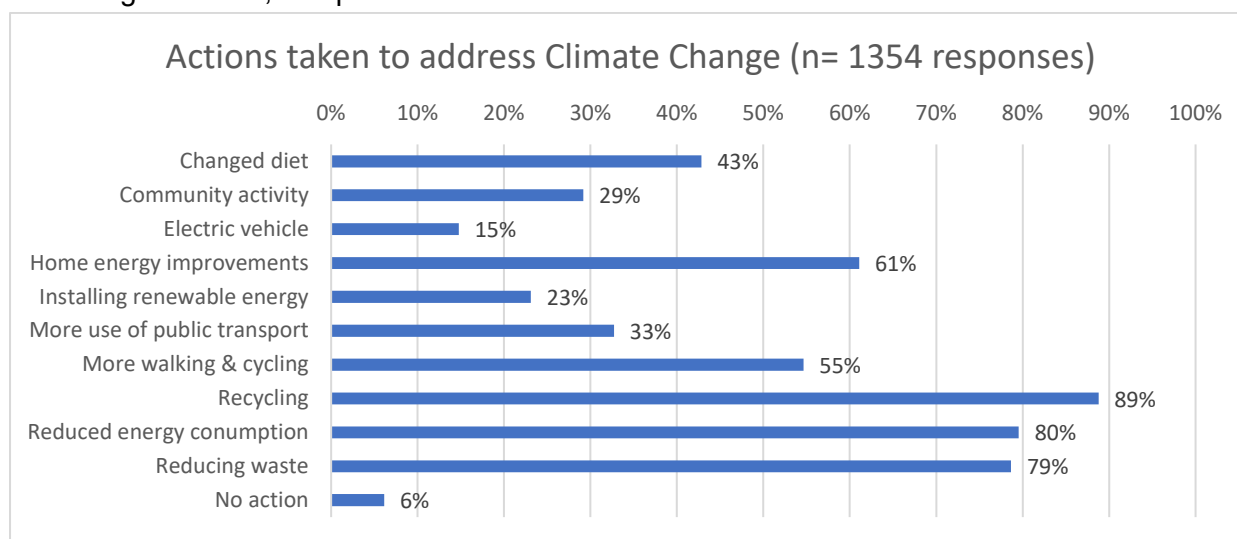
### 3.6 Actions to tackle climate change

The most popular actions taken to address climate change are reported as:

- Recycling (undertaken by 89% of people)
- Reduced energy consumption (80%)
- Reducing waste (79%)
- Home energy improvements (61%)
- More walking and cycling (55%).

Only 6% of response said that no action had been taken.

Responses show females are more likely to have taken action than males. Only 1% of females reported taking no action, compared to 7% of males.



### 3.7 Confidence in Climate Change Strategy approaches

The survey asked people how confident they are about how the approaches set out in the Strategy will help. It is worth noting that the 'confidence' question responses appear to relate not to the specifics of this climate change strategy, but to the subject of climate change as a whole. This is evidenced by reading the free text comments associated with the 'tick box' responses.

- Overall half (50%) of the responses to the survey are from people who say they are very confident, confident or somewhat confident **the approach will help slow down a changing climate in North Yorkshire.**
- Slightly more than half (52%) of the responses are from people who say they are very confident, confident or somewhat confident **the approach will prepare for a changing climate in North Yorkshire.**



- Some 60% of the responses are very confident, confident or somewhat confident **the approach will help nature help us in North Yorkshire.**

People who are confident that one of the approaches will help are also generally confident that the other approaches will help. For example, nearly three quarters (73%) of those who are very confident the approach will help to prepare for a changing climate are also very confident the approach will help to slow down a changing climate and also help nature to help us in North Yorkshire.

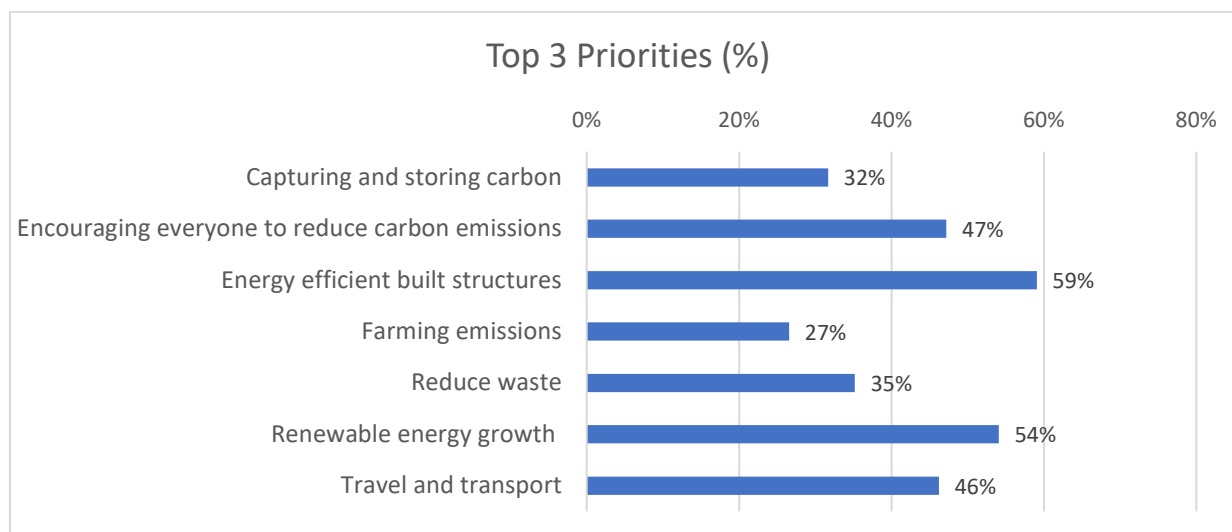
Responses from people who said they are a member of a group engaged in environmental activities show they are slightly more likely to be confident across the three themes.

### 3.8 Priorities for key actions

Survey responses show the highest priority key actions, with following actions most commonly ranked in the top three priorities:

1. Energy efficient built structures (ranked as a top three priority in 59% of responses)
2. Renewable energy growth (54%)
3. Encouraging everyone to reduce carbon emissions (47%)
4. Travel and transport (46%)
5. Reduce waste (35%).

The chart below shows the proportion of responses placing each action in the top three priorities for the council.



### 3.9 Survey response characteristics

What is your age group?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>% sample</b>	<b>% population</b>
16-29	44	4%	17%
30-39	48	4%	13%
40-49	116	10%	14%
50-64	412	37%	27%
65-74	329	30%	16%
75+	151	14%	14%
Prefer not to say	11	1%	
Total response	1111	100%	
No response	420		

Are you? (Gender)

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>% sample</b>
Female	468	47%
Male	499	50%
I describe myself in another way	12	1%
Prefer not to say	23	2%
Total response	1002	100%
No response	529	

ACC area (based on postcode) after enhancement

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>% sample</b>	<b>% population</b>
Harrogate & Knaresborough	218	21%	17%
Thirsk & Malton	201	19%	17%
Skipton & Ripon	192	18%	16%
Richmond	178	17%	18%
Scarborough & Whitby	122	11%	16%
Selby & Ainsty	102	10%	17%
Outside North Yorkshire	50	5%	
Total response	1063	100%	
No response	468		

District (based on postcode) after enhancement

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>% sample</b>	<b>% population</b>
Harrogate	335	32%	26%
Hambleton	173	16%	15%
Scarborough	128	12%	18%
Ryedale	116	11%	9%
Craven	97	9%	9%
Richmondshire	84	8%	8%
Selby	80	8%	15%
Outside North Yorkshire	50	5%	
Total response	1063	100%	
No response	468		

### 3.10 Free-text feedback on climate change mitigation, adaption, and nature recovery

In addition to utilising the Likert scale (a choice from 1-5 results outlined above) when asking residents how they felt regarding the Council's approach to climate change mitigation, adaption, and nature recovery, a free text box was also provided to allow residents to stipulate more detailed information regarding why they had chosen to give that response and highlight any feedback areas they viewed as important.

From the 1531 individual responses received on Commonplace, 1093 individual free text comments were received for slowing down climate change (mitigation), 822 for helping prepare for climate change (adaptation) and 773 individual comments for helping nature to help us in North Yorkshire (nature).

Keyword collocation was used to identify repeating keyphrase themes across the data set for the three climate change areas. Each individual feedback response was assessed for these common key phrases, which occurred across the entire dataset. The higher the value of (n), the tally term, the more times a keyphrase has been mentioned across all the feedback received.

All the feedback received contains vitally important information as a whole, with this approach used to highlight the most common themes initially. A minimum frequency of  $\geq 3$  occurrences were chosen for this initial evaluation. A further review of all the responses will be made as we move into the Action Planning phase. This will also identify geographically relevant comments as part of action plan development. We will commit to reading all the comments in full.

#### 3.11 Slowing down climate change (mitigation)

Table 1 below shows the five most frequent keyphrases for helping to slow down climate change, broken down by the number of times each keyphrase was mentioned per distinct survey contribution. Example common feedback has also been provided for each key phrase; however, it should be noted that the entire range of comments is not limited to these bullet points alone.

Slowing down climate change in NY (mitigation)	Consultation Response	
	Individual contributions (n)	Example common feedback
Public transport	107	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvements to public transport infrastructure and connectivity to rural locations.</li> <li>▪ Promote public transport use over private car usage.</li> <li>▪ More cost-effective and frequency public transport services.</li> <li>▪ Decarbonisation of public transport services.</li> </ul>
Rooftop solar pv	65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Solar PV on new developments.</li> <li>▪ Installing Solar PV and other technologies, such as battery storage, on available rooftops such as Council buildings.</li> <li>▪ Barriers to Solar PV such as upfront costs &amp; local constraints.</li> </ul>
Electric vehicles	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requirement for good supporting infrastructure such as charging points.</li> <li>▪ Promote public transport use over just transitioning to private electric vehicles.</li> <li>▪ Barriers such as high cost and rural areas. Environmental impacts.</li> </ul>
Renewable energy	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locality-based renewable energy generation where possible.</li> <li>▪ Implement a range of different renewable energy technologies which are best suited to the location/area.</li> <li>▪ New developments built to include renewable energy generation.</li> </ul>

New housing	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High energy efficiency new build properties that incorporate solar PV, air and ground source heat pump and other measures such as insulation/rain-water collection/double-glazing.</li> <li>▪ Link new developments to support infrastructure such as public transport.</li> </ul> <p>New Development supporting nature and biodiversity.</p>
Climate change	185	
North Yorkshire	97	

**Table 1.** The top 5 identified climate change mitigation keyphrases, tallied by the number of times each keyphrase was mentioned per distinct survey contribution. As Climate Change and North Yorkshire feature across a significant majority of answers, they have been separated from the other keyphrases.

### 3.12 Helping prepare for climate change in North Yorkshire (adaptation)

Table 2 below shows the five most frequent keyphrases for helping to prepare for climate change in North Yorkshire, broken down by the number of times each keyphrase was mentioned per distinct survey contribution. Example common feedback has also been provided for each keyphrase; however, it should be noted that the entire range of comments is not limited to these bullet points alone.

Helping prepare for climate change in NY (adaptation)	Consultation Response	
	Individual contributions (n)	Example common feedback
New housing	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for high energy-efficient build standards as standard.</li> <li>▪ Climate adaptation considerations being considered as standard for new developments, such as drainage.</li> <li>▪ The utilisation of green heating technologies such as ground and air-source heating systems.</li> </ul>
Public transport	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvements and electrification to North Yorkshire's public transport system.</li> <li>▪ Current barriers to accessing public transport such as frequency and rural locations.</li> </ul>
Council buildings	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Decarbonising council buildings.</li> <li>▪ The funding approach and overall cost for decarbonising public sector buildings.</li> </ul>
Rooftop solar pv	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage new developments to have solar PV type systems installed as standard.</li> <li>▪ Barriers to installing Solar PV systems such as cost.</li> <li>▪ Installing Solar PV on public buildings.</li> </ul>
Climate adaptation	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fast and effective implementation of a climate adaptation action plan as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
Climate change	78	
North Yorkshire	39	

**Table 2.** The top 5 identified climate change adaptation keyphrase themes, tallied by the number of times each keyphrase was mentioned per distinct survey contribution. As Climate Change and North Yorkshire feature across a significant majority of answers, they have been separated from the other keyphrases.

### 3.13 Helping nature to help us in North Yorkshire (nature)

Table 3 below shows the five most frequent keyphrase themes for helping nature to help us in North Yorkshire, broken down by the number of times each keyphrase was mentioned per distinct survey contribution. Example common feedback has also been provided for each keyphrase; however, it should be noted that the entire range of comments is not limited to these bullet points alone.

Helping nature to help us in NY (nature)	Consultation Response	
	Individual contributions (n)	Example common feedback
Tree planting	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase tree planting and hedgerow conservation.</li> <li>▪ Need for diversity in the tree species planted.</li> <li>▪ Finding the right balance between land used for tree planting and other applications such as agriculture.</li> </ul>
Green space	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prioritise the environment and green spaces.</li> <li>▪ The planning system, new housing developments and green spaces.</li> <li>▪ Allocation of non-green land for new developments.</li> </ul>
New housing	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New housing takes climate change adaptation effects into account.</li> <li>▪ The planning system and development allocations in relation to green spaces.</li> <li>▪ New developments with nature at its focus.</li> </ul>
Help nature	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rewilding of grass verges and other areas to support pollinators.</li> <li>▪ Improvements in agriculture and education to support nature.</li> <li>▪ Nature-based solutions to adapt to flooding and other climate change effects.</li> </ul>
Economic growth	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Effect of economic growth on the environment.</li> <li>▪ More detail on how sustainable economic growth would operate and benefit the natural environment.</li> </ul>
North Yorkshire	45	
Climate change	36	

**Table 3.** The top 5 identified nature restoration keyphrase themes, tallied by the number of individual occurrences and individual contributions received. As Climate Change and North Yorkshire feature across most answers, they have been separated from the other keyphrases.

#### 4 Written comments.

39 written responses were received from a range of organisations and individuals. The analysis below summarises the comments which are not in any order of magnitude. They may have been made by an individual or an organisation representing many views. The summary of comments is collated to reflect the structure of the document.

##### 4.1 General Feedback

- Welcome the opportunity to comment. (Universal comment, generally pleased that NYC have commissioned the strategy.)
- Support for
  - the three key pillars of mitigation, adaptation and supporting nature.
  - Support for the breadth and content. Some very positive comments.
  - Like Climate Responsible Actions concept.
- Concern raised
  - Lacks ambition to match the scale and urgency of the challenge – frequent references to the IPCC report.
  - NYC should take a national lead on climate change. Need greater commitment.
  - Contains few specific actions and targets.
  - Don't delay implementation.



- Skills not sufficiently reflected in the plan – skilled labour required for housing retrofit for eg.
  - Lack of clarity around the ‘External’ and ‘Internal’ objectives of the strategy. Clarity sought on the ‘Routemap’, Local Area Energy Plan and the NYC activity.
  - How do the various strategies of the new Council knit together to support climate change?
  - Improve the definitions; Clarify scope 1/2/3 emissions, net zero, eco-design.
- Three specific ‘new’ issues were raised not included elsewhere in the document:
    - Fracking (in energy section)
    - Role of NYC in improving the electrical grid capacity (in energy section)
    - Divestment of fossil fuels (in finance section)
  - Some respondents do not believe climate change is caused by human activity and / or that it is a global issue that NY cannot do anything to resolve.
  - The changes that are needed will not be achieved without changing the way things are done. This will need a combination of incentives, support and encouragement along with guidance, regulation and restriction

### 4.2 Risks

- Risk of losing existing stored carbon such as peat and existing mature tree cover should be included.
- Risks are higher from more potent gases such as Sulphurous Dioxides, than Carbon Dioxide.

### 4.3 Impacts

- There were a very few responses that there would be no impact from climate change.
- Many referenced the IPCC reports citing the impacts from temperature rise.

### 4.4 Targets

- Several respondents wanted to see more ‘target setting’. This included setting a target date for North Yorkshire to become net zero.
- Where targets or ambitions are indicated, several commented that these were not sufficiently ambitious.
- Lack of ‘milestones’ and baseline benchmarking, carbon budget setting to be able to assess progress.
- Some areas of activity are overstated, downplaying how much there is still to do.
- Define scope 3 emissions.

### 4.5 Principles & Co Benefits

- Community based projects have long term, sustainable change – for example community energy. Recognise that a long term approach is required. Change takes time.
- Good Value – need to ensure that potential future costs due to inaction are taken into account.
- Reference to Sustainable Development Goals should be made.
- Welcome and hope they can be realised.
- Environmental benefits also include improved water resources, air quality and biodiversity.
- Misses the benefits of regenerative agriculture for supporting nature.
- Make the cost of living more visible – this will help nudge behaviour.
- Need to ensure activities don’t cause a negative benefit elsewhere and how the co benefits are all joined up together.

### 4.6 Activities

- Must not just wait for Government progress and action.
- Use lobbying power to respond to Government.
- All the solutions in the document are already known – now we need implementation.
- Climate change responses should be presented as an opportunity for clean growth, not a barrier.

#### 4.7 Delivery / Governance

- Lack of clarity on who is leading this? Each sector should have an owner to drive the plan forward.
- Prefer to have a joint governance process with the Routemap (to ensure both strategies are aligned). Collaboration between NYC and CoY is vital.
- Working with and supporting community groups, town and parish councils is key – frequent comment. The NYC Libraries are a great example of where North Yorkshire's residents were asked to support.
- NYC should step in to fill a gap and responded accordingly.
- Some support for setting up an 'external reference group'. Also for North Yorkshire Citizen's assembly.
- Working in partnerships – including Colleges of Further Education. Also NPAs.
- Use of expert specialists.
- Single officer / Member should be responsible for delivery.
- Who owns and is responsible for the Routemap?
- Consider 'Doughnut economic' decision making model.
- Stakeholder map beneficial.
- Need for an action / implementation plan. What actions will the LA be taking to enable delivery of the strategy?
- Small scale, local actions are the more pragmatic approach to engage residents.

#### 4.8 Monitoring

- Performance monitoring at highest level required.

#### 4.9 Communications – see also behaviour change below.

- Need to fully engage the community in the area.

#### 4.10 Finance

- NYC should review pension fund and investments and divest from fossil fuels.
- Use of cost / benefit analysis and impact measures to make informed decisions.
- Include use of private sector finance and community bonds not just Government Grants.

#### 4.11 Mitigation

##### Built Environment / Planning

- Planning: Many references to the importance and role of Planning to impact climate change; far more proactive, 2028 revision is not ambitious or urgent enough, use of design codes and SPDs. Prioritise brownfield land. Support renewable energy applications. Applicants must commit to replace and maintain in perpetuity lost trees. Planning must support retrofit including quick decisions on Air Source Heat Pumps.
- New Buildings: Need to collaborate to influence Government policy on new building regulations and building control to enforce. Biobased and low carbon building materials should be used – including market development for local timber. Ensure new buildings are energy efficient.
- Existing buildings: Include reference to community buildings, schools infrastructure towards meeting the targets. Support fabric first and energy efficiency across NY. Rainwater harvesting promotion. Targets for EPC C are unambitious. Strong support for better advice for retrofit of listed / conservation area buildings. Provide better access to energy efficiency information. Improve reference to housing and commercial property retrofit plans, not just council owned property. Others welcomed the emphasis on these issues in the document.
- Include reference to light pollution

##### Travel

- Local Travel Planning and Local Plan must be fully integrated to reduce travel emissions.
- Create self sustaining neighbourhoods. Local Plan / Developers must build in low carbon travel into all new employment and housing developments.
- Needs of rural areas – use car clubs,
- Last mile delivery consolidation hubs
- More ambitious targets required. (As in Routemap)
- Active Travel: Planning must promote active travel (improve the targets) , including safe pathways and cycleways. Cycling safety on roads frequently mentioned. Maintenance of routes including ice clearance from pavements and cycle paths not just motorised traffic routes. Inner town cycling should be promoted like in European cities. Reduce speed limits (ref to 20s Plenty) also has impact on braking / acceleration emissions
- Public transport: Improve availability – learn from national best practice. Use EV buses Create Public Transport Forum (like York Bus Forum). Free. Lobby Government for improved concessionary fares. Commit to Bus Back Better national bus strategy. Employers should contribute financially to low carbon travel for employees.
- Ref air pollution
- New road funding should be diverted to carbon reduction projects.
- Inadequate EV Charging infrastructure. Link to grid capacity issue.
- Recognise benefits and investigate use of green hydrogen.

### **Waste**

- Wasted energy, such as leaving lights on (including traffic lights and streetlights) , should be included.
- Concern over carbon emissions from incineration of waste. Waste incineration contracts should be included with national carbon reduction contracts.
- Emphasis food waste and support for household food waste collections.

### **Circular Economy**

- Support the mention of circular economy in business sectors, but would like also in reference to community actions to promote and scale up.
- Create a Circular Business Champions network

### **Renewable Energy / Energy infrastructure**

- Missing the role of NYC should play regarding grid capacity as a barrier to renewable energy projects – frequent mention
- Ensure EV and heating decarbonisation (heat pumps) plans are joined up in terms of grid capacity.
- Encourage more battery storage solutions to even out demand / supply
- Welcome emphasis on community energy support – frequent mention – and locally owned and distributed to maximise grid capacity.
- Support for wind turbines and solar farms to respond to the climate emergency – frequent comment. Comments regarding appropriate locations for large scale including NOT on quality agricultural land. Support for reuse of closed landfill sites.
- Missing a reference to NYC position on fracking.
- Support for green hydrogen. Conversely, some comments indicated not a priority (but comment linked to heating rather than transport)
- Reduce use of wood burning stoves – poor air quality.

### **Agricultural**

- Increased reference to sustainable agriculture and use of low carbon farm practices – frequent mention.

- Support increased production to reduce emissions
- NYC has a critical role through the planning system and working with partners and land owners on ELMS, to reduce emissions and improve biodiversity.
- Food related comments; seasonal, secure food production, reduced food waste. awareness of increasing temperature / water shortage impact on food production. Conversely, atmospheric carbon and higher temperatures could increase plant growth.

#### **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**

- Only use CCS where emissions cannot be avoided – frequent mention.
- Scepticism regarding the role of Drax biomass burning and CCS
- Concern over loss of existing carbon stores such as peat reserves, agricultural soils and mature trees and the improved use of felled timber (which will 'lock up' carbon).
- New treeplanting not sufficient or timely response.

#### **Behaviour Change**

- Emphasis should be on what NYC can do, not individual's actions. Conversely, NYC should lead and galvanise residents to take action. (see also Governance and delivery section.)
- Require public campaigns to increase awareness and knowledge about climate change.

#### **4.12 Adaptation**

- Welcome this section/ Plan by 2025 not very ambitious.
- Clarity on the balance between mitigation and adaptation – focus on mitigation so less adaptation is necessary.

#### **Communities**

- Support required for resilience and adaptation
- Encourage use of water saving and grey water.

#### **Extreme events**

- Take a long term time horizon to plan for.
- Increase water storage capacity
- Response cannot be provincial
- Must prepare built environment for extreme storms.
- Agricultural production will be impacted by drought / temperatures

#### **Built**

- All new buildings should be future proof design

#### **4.13 Nature**

- Support for including of this section related to climate change – frequent comment.

#### **Supporting Nature**

- Nature should be linked to agriculture
- Water quality should be highlighted - issue linked to storm sewage discharges and intensive agriculture
- Protection of nature outside protected sites is important. Linking up sites

#### **Prioritise nature based solutions**

- This approach welcomed – frequent comment.
- Improve baseline data
- Conflict between greenhouse gas emissions reduction and biodiversity.
- Support for nature based adaptation: Make space for rewilding. Trees for cooling (choose adaptable species.)

#### **LNRS / BNG / Local Plan / NCIP**

- Plans must be supported with enforcement to ensure implementation.
- Reference the 30 by 30 plan
- Measures must be improved and increased.
- Village / parish plans should also be supported
- Appreciate nature for its own beauty, not for economic gain. Cost benefit analysis doesn't reflect the multiple unquantifiable benefits of nature.
- Natural capital and carbon pricing should be introduced.

**Skills – see also general feedback**

- Skills shortages in land management techniques and timber engineers.

**Sustainable Tourism**

- Support tourism to promote natural resources, not to exploit it.

**Land use / green spaces**

- Must involve land owners / managers and other stakeholders to implement.
- Use all our greenspaces such as parks, play areas, county farms and verges to support nature, including peat free compost. More open spaces in housing developments.
- Moorland grouse land management prevents natural reforestation

**Treplanting**

- After planting care and use of timber is critical to ensure carbon is stored permanently. Eg timber construction.
- Mixed planting schemes to encourage biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Street trees very important
- New trees do not replace mature trees that have been felled. It takes many years to develop the carbon store.
- Link with England Tree Action Plan
- Respond to Larch Sudden Death as well as Ash Die Back.
- Woodland creation is very important but there are many barriers, including long term management.

**Marine**

- Pollution responsible for crustacean deaths along NY coast.

**4.14 North Yorkshire Council**

**Measure**

- Seek expert advice which is evidence based / use nationally agreed methodologies.
- Should set carbon budgets for each department.

**Departmental Action Plans**

- Support for this approach to ensure delivery. Concerned about timelines.
- Action plans from each of the previous District Authorities should be referenced.
- Reduce emissions prior to CCS
- Climate literacy training mandatory for Members and staff. Culture change
- Apply interventions with most carbon savings.
- Lead by example

**Fleet**

- Investigate options to replace fossil fuels for fleet.

**Property**



- Support NYC leading by example and set ambitious targets.
- Use greenspaces to improve biodiversity
- Put renewable PV on all property.

### **Procurement**

- Ensure procurement strategy reflects environmental sustainability and circular economy. VfM must include carbon emissions reduction. Use LGA sustainable procurement toolkit.
- Support SME suppliers to decarbonise.

## 5 Let's Talk Climate paper survey

*\*Your answers will be uploaded anonymously to <https://letstalkny.commonplace.is/> In July 2022 a Climate Emergency was announced for North Yorkshire. With existing plans in place to reach Net Zero by 2030, the climate team created a draft Climate Change Strategy to enable North Yorkshire to reach that goal and be the first Carbon Negative region by 2040. This ties in with the UK Government's aim for the UK to be Net Zero by 2050.*

During the first round of Let's Talk surveys, residents told us Climate Change should be in the top three priorities for North Yorkshire Council over the next 3 years.

Let's Talk Climate is all about gathering your views and feedback on the draft Climate Change Strategy. By answering the following questions, the information you give us will then feed back into the strategy to create a final Climate Change Strategy for the new authority – North Yorkshire Council.

If you require any of our surveys in another format or language, then please call our survey line on 01609 536400.

### **How aware are you of Climate Change?**

Please circle one of the following choices...

- **Not at all**
- **Not very much**
- **A bit**
- **A fair amount**
- **A lot**

### **How worried are you about Climate Change?**












Please circle one of the following choices...

- **Not at all**
- **Not very much**
- **A bit**
- **A fair amount**

- A lot

**What actions have you taken to tackle Climate Change?**

Please circle one or more of the following choices

		
Home energy improvements	More use of public transport	Electric Vehicle
		
Reduced energy consumption	Recycling	Reducing waste
		
Changed diet	Installing renewable energy	Community activity
		
More walking or cycling	No action	

Our Climate Change Plan sets out how North Yorkshire Council will respond to the climate emergency. We will work with partners to achieve the ambition to be a carbon negative region by 2040 and encourage residents, businesses, and visitors to take climate responsible actions. The plan has three approaches:

**How we plan to slow it down**

**How we are preparing for a changing climate**

**Helping nature to help us**

**How we plan to slow it down**

This means reducing our impact on the climate by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. This is done by:

- Decreasing production of the greenhouse gases by reducing energy demand and waste.
- Generating and using low carbon energy such as solar power as an alternative to fossil fuels.
- Capturing greenhouse gas emissions and storing them in organic sinks such as trees, hedgerows, grasslands, peat, and seaweed (kelp), and capturing carbon from industrial processes.

**How confident do you feel that this approach will help slow down a changing climate in North Yorkshire?**

Please circle the option that best applies to you...



Very confident



Confident



Somewhat  
confident



Not very confident



Not confident

Very confident

Not confident

**Why do you feel this way?**

**How we are preparing for a changing climate**

This means preparing for the changes we will see in our climate. To adapt to climate change at the Council, we need to:

- Ensure the retrofit of Council buildings makes our assets less vulnerable to climate change by including adaptation in building improvement plans
- Deliver climate adaptation work within and at the same time as decarbonisation measures
- Embed climate risk into the Council's service delivery and risk management procedures
- Assess climate risk in each of the Council's services
- Keep up-to-date data on climate impacts and responses faced by each service
- Develop a North Yorkshire Council Climate Adaptation Plan by 2025

## How confident do you feel that this approach will help prepare for a changing climate in North Yorkshire?

Please circle the option that best applies to you...



Very confident



Confident



Somewhat  
confident



Not very confident



Not confident

Very confident

Not confident

### Why do you feel this way?

### Helping nature to help us

This means helping the natural world, on which we depend, to thrive. To support nature, we need to:

- Work in partnership: To ensure a joint approach between the many organisations working to support nature.
- Prioritise nature-based solutions in climate change activity – understanding how the interventions that we will take in response to climate change can also support nature through increased protection, restoration, or management.
- Statutory requirements – we can ensure that legislative requirements are used to support nature.
- Supporting nature through economic growth – There are opportunities presented to grow the economy in a sustainable way. Much of North Yorkshire's economy is based on our landscape and the natural ecosystems.
- Sustainable land use and green spaces: We must ensure that we manage our land holdings to support nature. This includes public open spaces such as parks and play areas, highway verges, coastal areas, and the county farm estate.
- Extensive Tree Planting.
- Explore new opportunities in the marine environment.

### How confident do you feel that this approach will help nature to help us in North Yorkshire?

Please circle the option that best applies to you...





Very confident



Confident

Somewhat  
confident

Not very confident



Not confident

Very confident

Not confident

## Why do you feel this way?

### Key actions in our plan:

**Energy efficient built structures** – where people live, work and relax in places like houses, offices shops and industrial sites, town centres, sports centres and community buildings. 19% of North Yorkshire Carbon Emissions.

**Travel and Transport** – how we travel around in our daily lives; to work, to visit, to shop and to enjoy ourselves. 28% of North Yorkshire Carbon Emissions.

**Reduce waste by reusing and recycling**– Reduce waste and reduce the need to create new resources. By sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible, the life cycle of a product is extended. Watch this short video to learn more about the 'circular economy'.

**Renewable energy growth** – increasing the amount of energy we generate and store from renewable sources such as sun and light power, water and wind power, and heat and emerging technology and markets for green hydrogen.

**Farming emissions** – supporting North Yorkshire's farming system to decarbonise. North Yorkshire has a strong farming system. With both food security, many businesses are dependent upon land-based industries both directly and indirectly, such as food manufacturing. However, emissions from agriculture are 33% of the North Yorkshire total.

**Capturing and storing carbon** – where we cannot decrease emissions, we need to capture and store them to become carbon neutral. Carbon dioxide that is released from fossil fuels can be removed from the atmosphere by natural processes such as growing new trees and protecting carbon stores like peat bogs. It can also be done through industrial technology processes termed 'carbon capture and storage' (CCS). The carbon must be locked away permanently to ensure this process is effective.

**Encouraging everyone to reduce carbon emissions** – we need everyone to think about their daily choices and to take climate responsible actions. People may make travel or housing choices for a range of reasons and for co benefits such as saving money or improving their health.

**Renewable energy growth** – increasing the amount of energy we generate and store from renewable sources such as sun and light power, water and wind power, and heat and emerging technology and markets for green hydrogen.

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**Encouraging everyone to reduce carbon** emissions – we need everyone to think about their daily choices and to take climate responsible actions. People may make travel or housing choices for a range of reasons and for co benefits such as saving money or improving their health.

**How would you prioritise our key actions?**

Please rank from ‘1’ (highest priority) to ‘7’ (lowest priority), indicating the number next to the text

- Capturing and storing carbon
- Encouraging everyone to reduce carbon emissions
- Energy efficient built structures
- Farming emissions
- Renewable energy growth
- Travel and transport
- Reduce waste by reusing and recycling

**How do you think we can best work with our partners and the community to tackle Climate Change?**

**What we mean by being involved in environmentally friendly groups and activities**

It means any number of people that hold a set of opinions that link to an interest in the protection of our environment and identify with a named group or take action as a community.

This could be a national organisation like the WWF, National Trust or Green Peace, but could also be a local tidy or circular economy group.

**Are you a member of a group involved in any environmentally friendly activities?**

Select one option

Yes

No

Unsure

Additional information:

What other suggestions do you have to help us manage a changing climate?

**Personal Information – a range of demographic information was collected.**