

Consult North Somerset



Climate Emergency
Strategy consultation



Jan 2020

Background



In early 2019 North Somerset Council declared a Climate Emergency. Since then a draft Climate Emergency Strategy and a live Action Plan have been prepared. These documents have been endorsed by full council and now form the basis for the council's response to the climate emergency.



As well as seven key principles that outline how we will address the causes and consequences of climate change, the strategy includes an aim for North Somerset to become a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030.



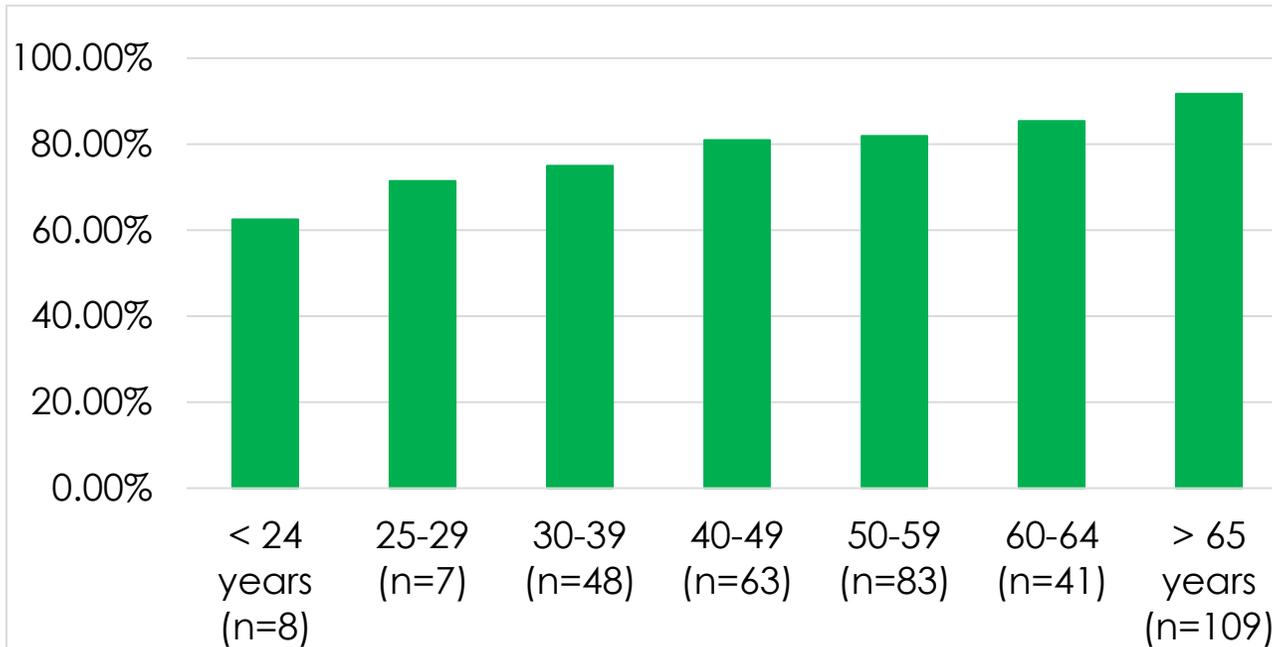
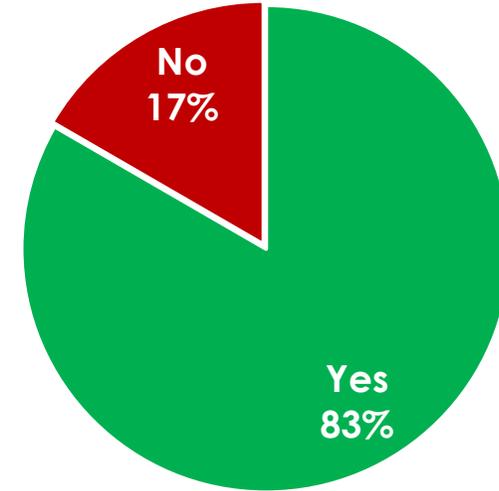
The strategy went out to consultation from December 2019 to Jan 2020 on the council's online consultation portal (eConsult). Residents, partners and local organisations were invited to take part through several channels including social media and press releases.



We received 485 responses to the consultation of which 15 were from organisations. These slides give the analysis of those responses.

Are you aware that the council has declared a climate emergency?

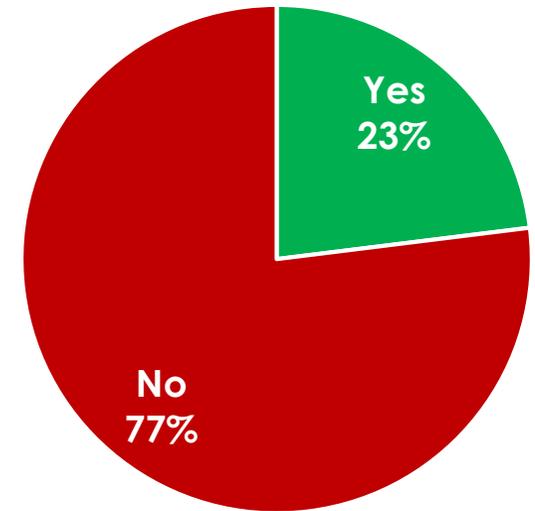
- 83% of respondents were aware the council has declared a climate emergency.
- Respondents were more likely to be aware the older they are *(please note the low cohort for those <29 years)*.



- 14 of the 15 organisations that responded were aware a climate emergency had been declared (93%).
- 301 of 362 individuals were aware (83%).

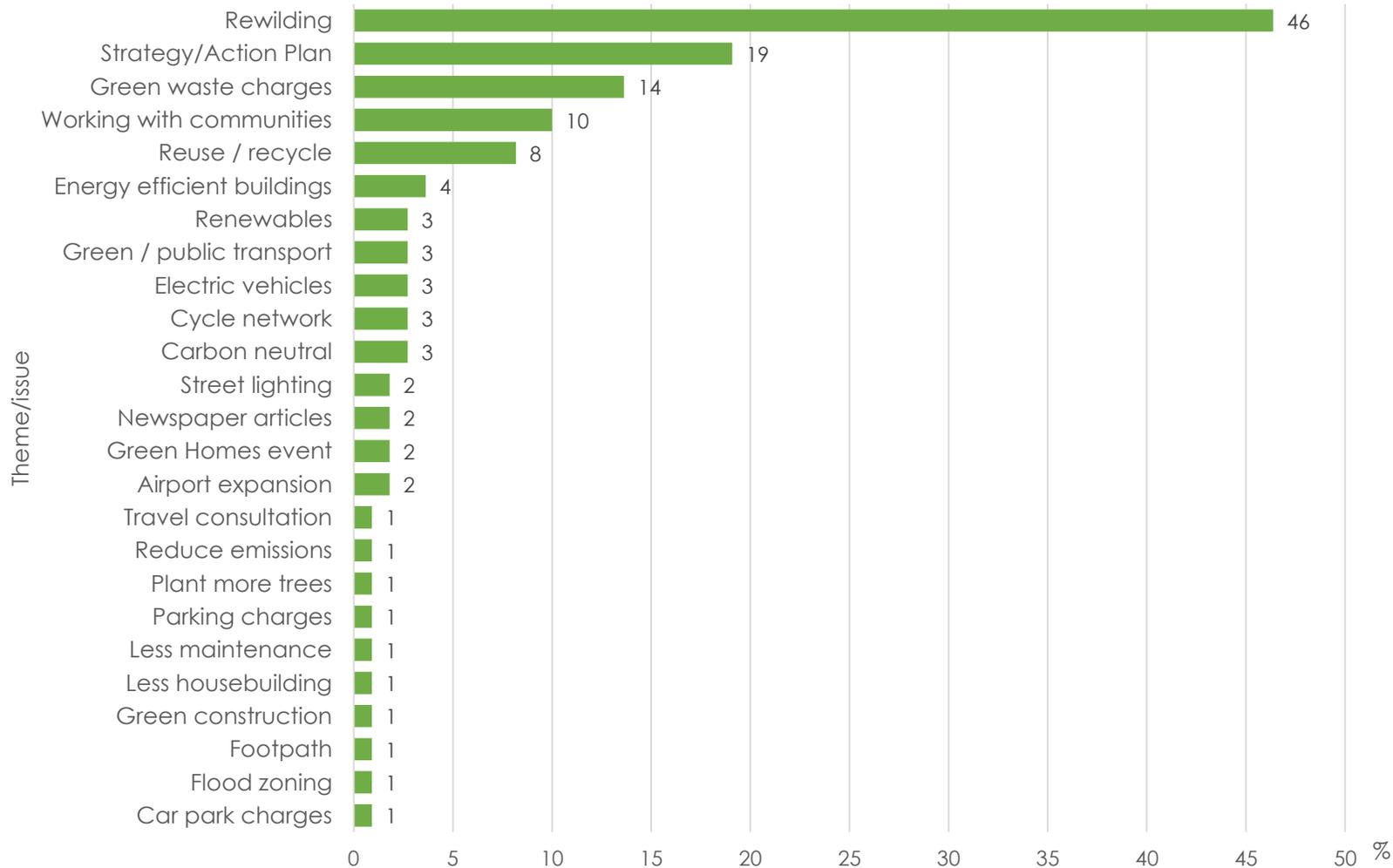
Are you aware of any other action the council has taken in response to the climate emergency?

- 23% of respondents were aware the council has taken other action in response to the climate emergency (110 of 481 respondents).
- Of these respondents 19% referenced the strategy and/or action plan, 46% mentioned rewilding proposals, 14% mentioned green waste charges, and others mentioned initiatives such as electric vehicle use/promotion and cycle networks.
- Respondents were more likely to be aware of other actions the older they are but this may be influenced by the size of the cohort.
- 5 of the 15 organisations that responded were aware the council has taken other action in response to the climate emergency.



Are you aware of any other action the council has taken in response to the climate emergency?

Percentage of respondents who mentioned each issue

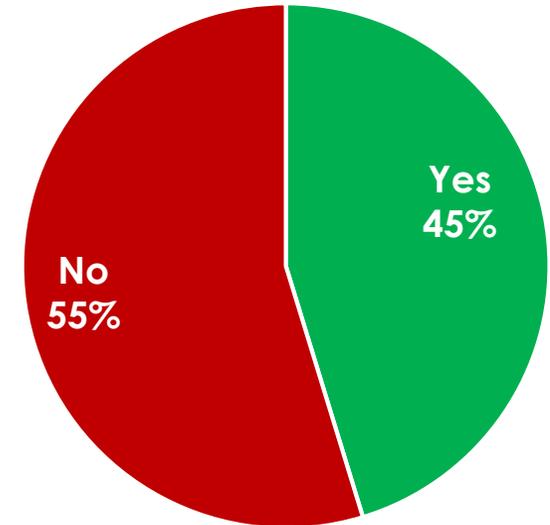


To note,

- Rewilding was under consultation at the same time as the Climate Emergency Strategy and both consultations were linked to encourage responses
- Towards the end of the consultation a paper went to the Executive to propose the introduction of green waste charges

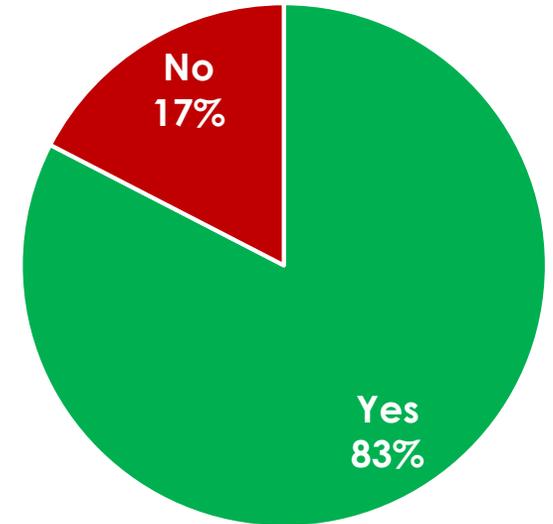
Were you aware that the council has a Climate Emergency Strategy before responding to this consultation?

- 45% of respondents were aware of the Climate Emergency Strategy before responding to this consultation (186 of 412 respondents).
- When asked how they have heard of the strategy respondents mentioned internal communications, councillor updates, social media, local media, radio and local groups.
- Broadly, respondents were more likely to be aware of the strategy the older they are.
- 10 of the 15 organisations that responded were aware of the Climate Emergency Strategy before responding to this consultation.



Do you agree with the strategy aim for the council to become carbon neutral by 2030?

- 83% of respondents agreed with the strategy aim for the council to become carbon neutral by 2030 (336 of 407 respondents). Though 49 respondents wanted it to be quicker if possible.
- All organisations agreed.
- Responses varied across age groups but those aged under 24 and those aged over 60 were more likely to agree with the strategy aim.
- For those who did not agree reasons varied but 18 respondents wanted the council to become carbon neutral sooner, 20 fundamentally disagreed with the premise and others were concerned about possible impact.



What do you think will be the main challenges for the council as an organisation to become carbon neutral by 2030?

350 respondents made suggestions that ranged across themes with over half suggesting cost and engagement were the biggest challenges.

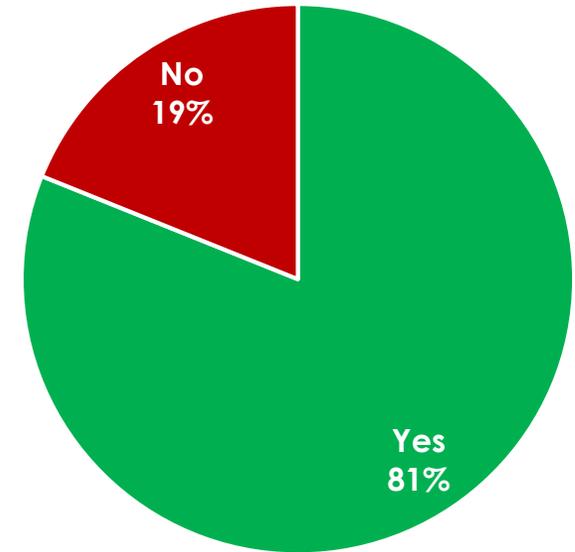
4 of the organisations mentioned cost and 1 mentioned engagement.

Most of the rest of the responses were specific sector suggestions, usually about transport/traffic or new housing. Transport-related topics were often about public transport, airport expansion and commuting / car use. Other topics included energy, farming, council offices (travel to Clevedon), political will and how we will measure progress.

Some responses focused on taking action, when it will happen, how quickly etc. This was true across individuals and the organisations.

Do you agree with the strategy aim for the area to become carbon neutral by 2030?

- 81% of respondents agreed with the strategy aim for the area to become carbon neutral by 2030 (322 of 396 respondents).
- All organisations agreed.
- Responses varied across age groups but those aged under 24 and those aged over 60 were more likely to agree with the strategy aim.
- For those who did not agree reasons varied but 15 respondents wanted the area to become carbon neutral sooner.



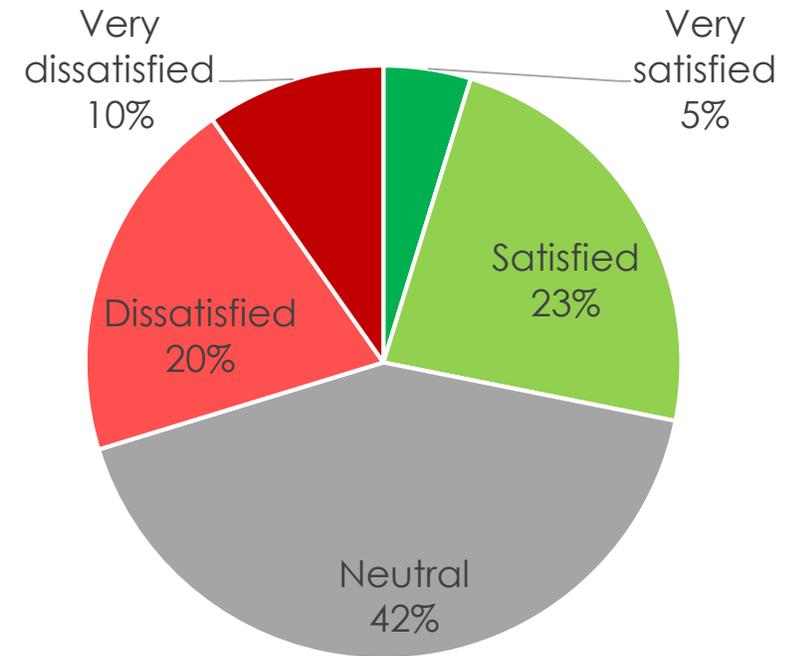
What do you think will be the main challenges for the area to become carbon neutral by 2030?

342 respondents made suggestions that ranged across themes. These were slightly different than the challenges suggested for the council to become carbon neutral (though there were some themes across both):

- 99 respondents were concerned about transport i.e. reducing cars, making public transport affordable etc. as well as concerns about the M5/demand on the road network
- 89 thought engagement would be a challenge
- 41 mentioned the proposed expansion of the airport
- 30 mentioned cost
- Other challenges included the need for action (when, how etc.), the council's role, energy use, and housing plans/planning.

How satisfied are you with the council's response to the climate emergency so far?

- 28% of respondents were satisfied with the council's response to the climate emergency so far (106 of 379 respondents).
- 4 out of 15 organisations were satisfied, 9 were neutral and 2 were dissatisfied.
- Responses varied across age groups but those aged under 24 were more likely to be satisfied.
- Over 40% were 'neutral' and this seems to be due to a perceived lack of urgency in addressing the issue. This was also the case for a high number of respondents who were dissatisfied.

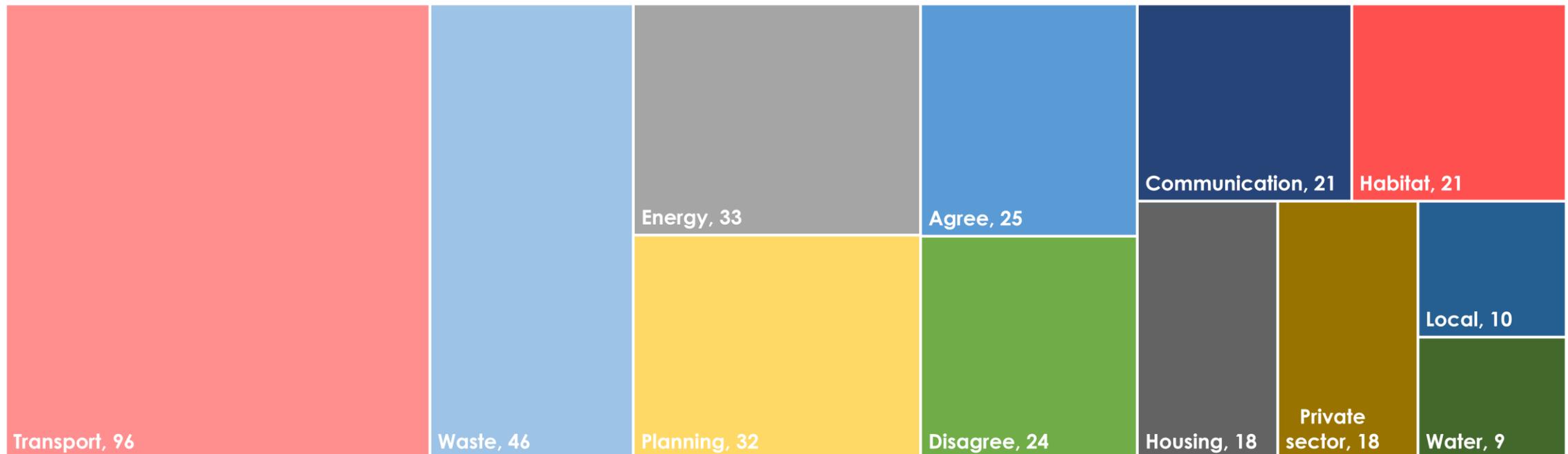


Where there is dissatisfaction with the council's response to the climate emergency so far...

- Themes centred around a lack of progress / action, it was not ambitious, the issue was not important or the council shouldn't prioritise it
- There was some pessimism e.g. that the aims were not achievable, or actual actions counterproductive or contrary
- Other respondents were unclear ("how will you make this strategy operational") or made specific suggestions for ways forward. Communication or working with others were both suggested
- Some simply recorded their agreement, that this was a good start.

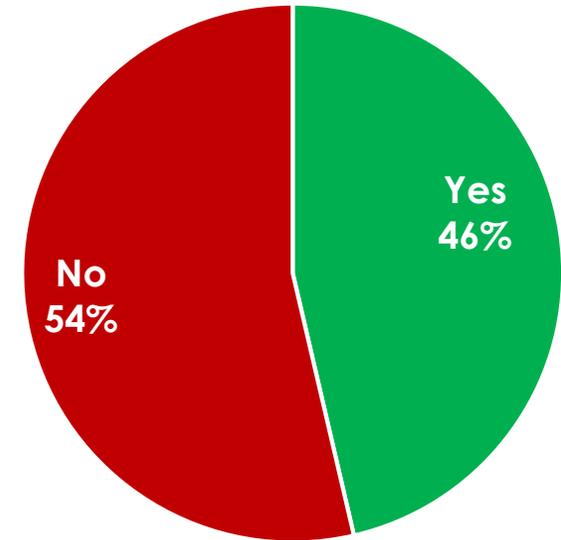
Do you have any suggestions around the key principles?

- There were 353 suggestions around the key principles with themes across a number of areas.
- 96 suggestions were made about transport including concerns about airport expansion and the need to invest in public transport.
- 46 suggestions were made about waste including the need to reduce, reuse and recycle more and concerns about changes to green waste collections.



Would you like to be involved in a workshop to help develop the action plan?

- 172 respondents volunteered to take part in a workshop to help develop this work area
- 9 organisations volunteered.
- There was a good spread from across age ranges.



Demographics

- 14 respondents were from outside North Somerset, mainly Bristol.
- For those within North Somerset there was a good spread of responses from the towns and rural areas.
- Fairly even split between males and females.
- 6% of respondents disabled.

- Just 2.5% of responses under the age of 24 years and 4.2% under 30 years. 30% over the age of 65 years – ***the responses to this survey are not representative of the population of North Somerset and so caution must be applied when interpreting the results.***