

## Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy: Summary of consultation responses

### Section One – Equalities Data (Online consultation portal)

This initial breakdown is focused on the demographic indicators that are felt to most significant when considering the future impact of climate change, referenced within the Equality Impact Assessment, which is also available on the climate emergency section on Brent's website. The tables below are from the online consultation portal only.

Numbers of disabled respondents

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	6	8%
No	61	80%
Prefer not to say	8	11%
Not Answered	1	1%

Sex of respondents

Option	Total	Percent
Male	28	37%
Female	42	55%
Prefer not to say	5	7%
Not Answered	1	1%

Ethnicity breakdown of respondents

Option	Total	Percent
White: British /English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish	29	38%
White: Other	12	16%
Prefer not to say	12	16%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	9	12%
Black or Black British: African	2	3%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	2	3%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: Any Other Mixed Background	2	3%
Not answered	2	3%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	1	1%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	1	1%
Asian/Asian British/Other Asian Background	1	1%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black African	1	1%
Other Ethnic Groups / Any other groups	1	1%
White: Irish	1	1%

Average age of respondents

Option	Total	Percent
0-15	0	0%
16-24	1	1%
25-34	5	7%
35-44	11	15%
45-54	19	25%
55-64	13	17%
65+	19	25%
Prefer not to say	6	8%

Option	Total	Percent
Not Answered	2	3%

## **Section Two – Breakdown of responses to questions (online consultation portal)**

Q1: Do you agree with the aim to make Brent a carbon neutral borough by 2030?

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	61	80%
<b>No</b>	11	14%
<b>I don't know</b>	3	4%
<b>I don't fully understand the term carbon neutral</b>	1	1%
<b>Not answered</b>	0	0%

Q2: Do you think the five themes of: Consumption, Resources and Waste; Transport; Homes and Buildings; Nature and Green Space; and Supporting Communities are the right ones?

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	49	64%
<b>No</b>	23	30%
<b>I don't know</b>	3	4%
<b>Not answered</b>	1	2%

Q3: Are the objectives for each theme of the draft Climate Emergency Strategy clearly presented and easy to read?

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes, clear and easy to read (understand)</b>	54	71%
<b>They are easy to read but not clearly presented</b>	10	13%
<b>No, not clear or easy to read (understand)</b>	6	8%
<b>They are clearly presented but not easy to read</b>	0	0%
<b>I don't have an opinion</b>	6	8%
<b>Not answered</b>	0	0%

Q4: Do you agree with the stated objectives for each of the five key themes?

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	39	51%
<b>No</b>	31	41%
<b>I don't know</b>	5	7%
<b>Not answered</b>	1	1%

If the responders replied 'no' on the consultation portal to these questions, they were invited to provide what they thought the aim should be or suggestions for what was missing. Some of the comments were also reflected in the other engagement events we undertook and have been grouped together accordingly within section three of this appendix. The tables below are from the online consultation portal only.

### **Section 3 – Most common comments, grouped together**

On the consultation portal respondents were also provided with a free text box which enabled residents to make any comments about the strategy that were not directly related to the four specific questions above. 50 comments were received in this section in total from the consultation portal.

The comments made across the different engagement sources outlined in section four of the accompanying report have been analysed and grouped together by theme. The most common comments theme mentioned across the entire piece of engagement, in order, are listed below. All comments were considered, and changes made to the wording of the strategy where necessary, reflecting helpful individual comments alongside comments which could be grouped together to reflect a theme.

<b>Comment Theme</b>	<b>Number of grouped mentions across different formats (approximate)</b>
Divest from Fossil Fuels via Pension Fund	29
More detailed plans with baseline of measurements, clearly specific aims and more information on how progress will be monitored – possibly every six months	28
Nothing on specifics about increasing number of cycle lanes / wider plans for improved cycling infrastructure	17
Tree canopy being closer to the London average is not ambitious enough, should be doubled / lots more trees	16
Improving Energy Efficiency in homes and buildings – can't just focus on the council's own stock, need to look at PRS/owner occupied too	15
Too many building projects in Brent – these will damage green areas and add to pollution	13
Press the government on green jobs and speeding up action in this area	10
Educate people about recycling, production of methane and what happens when waste is collected	6
Need to tackle air pollution, particularly where there are schools close to main roads – car free-zones, drastic speed reduction on main roads, roadside emission testing, fines, extra charges etc	5
Nothing about 'Employment Creation and Social Solidarity' economy – suggest an additional theme on the Green Economy	5
Incentivise re-green front gardens / disincentivise people paving over	4
Need increased emphasis and detail on the need for active travel	4
LTNs increasing traffic and pollution	3

## **Section 4 – Response and Summary of key amendments**

Overall, the results of the consultation were positive and the majority of respondents within each question, although not representative of the borough as a whole, supported the council's strategic aims, themes and objectives.

### Introductory Section

- It is proposed to amend the full name of the strategy from Climate Emergency Strategy, to Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. The strategy ultimately encompasses both carbon reduction and staving off ecological collapse – and reflects the original Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration in July 2019. 'Declaring a Climate Emergency' is often the phrase most commonly associated with this agenda but this change also addresses some comments received from residents which questioned whether the strategy was to be read solely on the basis of carbon reduction, or if it had wider ecological environmental implications. This is accepted and this change clarifies that the strategy does cover both aspects, with theme four (Nature and Green Space) addressing much of this in more detail.
- Further information has also been provided within this section on the most recent consultation exercise, and the council's dedication to ensuring that specific underrepresented demographic groups are engaged with frequently, and ensuring that their voice is heard throughout the implementation of this plan.
- The most common piece of feedback received during the consultation was that the draft strategy made no specific mention on the council's policy or plans for divesting from fossil fuels via the Council's Pension Fund. Although this topic does not fit neatly into the objectives of the five themes, it is accepted that this does relate to the climate and ecological emergency agenda more widely. Therefore, further information has been provided on the council's policy about the pension fund and its investments in relation to Fossil Fuels on page 7 of this strategy.

### Theme 1 – Consumption, Resources and Waste

- Wording has been strengthened within this section to highlight that sustainability should be at the forefront of each of our lives. It also includes reference on the need to reduce plastic in response to some comments on the topic of plastic from the consultation response.
- There were also a number of comments about the need for more information about food waste and meat consumption, given how both elements can have a tremendous impact on the climate. This is accepted and further information and wording has been placed in this section to draw greater attention and understanding to this issue.
- Additional wording has also been provided to emphasise the importance of all stages of the waste hierarchy, to reflect the comments which mentioned an increased emphasis on recycling, but also the importance of reducing overall consumption and of supporting re-use initiatives wherever possible.
- Further wording has been provided on strengthening the green circular economy and the importance of investing in green jobs, reflecting various comments made in the consultation about this issue. This is an extremely important area and the wording has been strengthened accordingly, both within this theme and theme five of the strategy. The council will liaise with sub-regional and pan-London bodies in any collective lobbying efforts to government. It was not deemed necessary to create a new theme on the circular economy because of how this issue links so fundamentally across issues regarding consumption, resources and waste.

- An additional example within the *'This is a climate emergency! What can I do to help?'* box has been included on a reduction in air travel, as there were, rightly, comments made by residents about how aviation is a significant contributor to climate change.

## Theme 2 – Transport

- The most common comment on this theme was that there were no specifics provided within the strategy about increasing active travel infrastructure, particularly on the number of cycle lanes and wider plans for improved cycling infrastructure. This is understood and acknowledged, and wording has been provided to address this and outline that the council shares this desire, but that there is also a greater recognition of some of the challenges in doing so at the present time, particularly in relation to funding. The council has a number of integrated and supporting strategies which are provided as links within the strategy document. A review of the council's Long Term Transport Strategy is underway and will provide the strategic vision and further detail on the council's plans in this area.
- Additional contextual information on the electric vehicles market is provided, and the wording highlights the role of the council in supporting all of our residents with this transition and ensuring it is accessible for all. The air quality image provided within this section will also be made bigger and the resolution improved in response to a comment made that it was difficult to read and analyse.
- Further information has also been included in relation to the council's liaison with TfL about public transport, to reflect comments made by residents about new bus routes and improved accessibility for disabled residents at the borough's tube stations and bus stops.

## Theme 3 – Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment

- It is proposed to rename this theme 'Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment' rather than just Homes and Buildings. Whilst Homes and Buildings make up the majority of direct carbon emissions in Brent, there is also consideration of other areas of the built environment (comments were received on areas such as street lights, pavements, highways, de-paving of front gardens etc) which don't necessarily naturally fit under any of the other themes. This name of this theme has therefore been amended accordingly to allow for a potentially wider scope within future delivery plans.
- There were two frequent comments in relation to this theme which were reflected in the consultation responses: in relation to extending the focus of improving the energy efficiency into the private rented/owner occupied sector, not just the council's own stock; and that the amount of new build and construction in Brent impacting the environment. Although there was wording provided on both of these areas within the original draft document, this has been added to and strengthened. An additional full page on the sustainability considerations within the planning and construction process both now and into the future has been added for greater clarity on this topic.
- Additional wording has also been provided on supporting community energy schemes where possible and to liaise with strategic partners on renewable energy opportunities in West London.

## Theme 4 – Nature and Green Space

- The most common consultation comment in this thematic area related to trees, with a lot of comments calling for a doubling of tree planting in the UK between now and 2030. The strategy acknowledges that trees have a myriad of benefits, and Brent is continuing with its current target of doubling the number of trees planted between 2018 and 2022. The strategy has also been amended to make clear that unfortunately trees, whilst serving many important purposes, do not reduce carbon emissions on the scale required in Brent. The tree

canopy cover image used within this section will also be made bigger and the resolution improved in response to a comment made that it was difficult to read and analyse.

- Additional information has been provided as to huge potential scope of the Green Infrastructure Vision, given there were a number of separate comments on issues such as community gardens, re-wilding, food growing etc of which a more detailed vision will be set out as part of this action. This is also to help address a comment which stated that this section appeared to lack as much detail and attention as this others, which was certainly not the intention. Tackling the Climate Emergency and tackling ecological collapse go hand in hand, as is reflected earlier in this document.
- Further information has also been included in relation to Welsh Harp, as a key blue space in the borough. It has also been highlighted that the council’s intention to create a Climate Resilience Plan which will comprehensively look at issues of flooding, rain gardens, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) etc across parks, highways and in relation to wider built infrastructure of the borough.

#### Theme 5 – Supporting Communities

- Changes to this theme re-emphasise the need to be inclusive to all on this agenda, and also providing additional wording to highlight the importance of the role of both schools and businesses. There were comments in relation to education being underplayed in importance in this document, this was not intended – it is clear our schools have a huge part to play in embedding a ‘whole school’ approach to environmental sustainability which considers the curriculum, travel plans, energy efficiency, waste, connecting to nature, biodiversity – but also, primarily, ensuring that young people grow up caring about the environment and with the importance of sustainability embedded in their formative years

#### Delivery Plan

There were general comments which related to the delivery plan actions not being specific enough. The following actions have been amended to either provide greater clarity to the proposed action, or to provide an updated position based on further officer consideration since the draft strategy was published:

Action Ref	Previous Wording	New Wording	Rationale
CYP03	We will develop and implement a plan for greater recycling opportunities in all primary and secondary schools across our borough.	We will work with the schools network of climate champions (Ref: CYP01) to undertake a gap-analysis of recycling/waste facilities in all primary and secondary schools, and develop and implement a schools-led plan to improve recycling opportunities in schools across our borough.	Greater clarity provided as to the nature of the action.
R&E09	We will create the conditions for zero/low carbon technology and the circular economy by utilising the OPDC Local Plan to encourage intensification of industrial floor space including startup and move-on space, with the ability to cluster near to the Research and Development hub of Imperial at White City.	[Removed]	Following further discussion with OPDC as it was ultimately felt that this action required further development, and may extend into the medium to long-term, rather than being possible to complete with certainty in one year.
R&E01	We will continue to deliver active travel measures including our	We will continue to introduce new active travel measures and deliver the council’s Local Implementation Plan	Greater clarity provided as to the nature of the action and updated

Action Ref	Previous Wording	New Wording	Rationale
	Healthy Neighbourhoods (low traffic neighbourhoods) and school streets schemes, subject to available funding.	including Healthy (Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods and transitioning emergency school streets schemes to permanent schemes, as well as creating new schemes, all measures subject to available funding.	position on school streets schemes planning.
R&E02	We will continuing our Electric Vehicle charge point programme, and deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 165 new lamp column charge points</li> <li>• 100-in kerb charge points (trial)</li> <li>• 66 Source London charge points.</li> </ul>	We will continuing our Electric Vehicle charge point programme, and deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 new lamp column charge points</li> <li>• 100-in kerb charge points (trial)</li> <li>• 40 Source London charge points.</li> </ul>	Funding acquired for additions to the EV charge points programme.
R&E03	We will deliver 47 bike hangars (282 spaces), plus 60 more cycle stand parking points, positioned near transport hubs, cycle routes and schools.	We will deliver 50 bike hangars across the borough.	60 cycle stand parking points have been installed. Funding from s106 secured for additional bike hangars.
R&E04	We will purchase two cargo bikes for council use, and engage with businesses to promote the benefits to sustainability of use of cargo bikes in day-to-day operations.	We will purchase at least one cargo bike to be trialled by interested local businesses as part of a wider communications campaign to promote the air quality benefits of using of cargo bikes in day-to-day operations.	Greater clarity provided as to the nature of the action. Only one cargo bike felt necessary at present time, a second may be acquired via a separate funding bid.
CYP02	We will work with schools to develop sustainable travel plans for all primary and secondary schools across our borough.	We will build on our work with all schools to develop sustainable travel plans across our borough, focusing on improving the number of 'gold accredited' travel plans and engaging and supporting schools who do not yet have a sustainable travel plan	Greater clarity provided as to the focus of the action.
R&E13	We will develop a plan for the council to achieve net zero carbon emissions from the council's own estate and operations by 2030.	We will undertake detailed energy assessments across the buildings on the council's estate, and develop a comprehensive plan for the council to achieve net zero carbon emissions from our own estate and operations by 2030.	Greater clarity provided as to the scope of the action.
R&E14	We will develop a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Vision for Brent for 2030	We will develop a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Vision for Brent for 2030 (which will include specific plans for boosting biodiversity, re-wilding, community schemes etc).	Greater clarity provided as to the scope of the action

We have also secured additional funding for one new action as below:

ACE04	We will develop and launch a small grants programme for local community projects such as community food growing/ gardening, orchard planting, depaving front drives, reuse projects, water conservation etc, to complement the Brent Carbon Offset Fund focused on carbon reduction in homes and buildings.	The overall amount available for applications is expected to be around £50k.
-------	---	--



## Monitoring Progress

A substantive number of comments were made on the need for greater clarity on measuring and communicating progress made against the objectives and carbon neutrality target. This is accepted, and an additional page has been provided to outline further detail in this regard towards the end of the strategy document.