

Climate Change Strategy Consultation Outcomes Report



Overview of consultation methodology, dates /when it took place, and associated promotion using media channels etc

The climate change strategy consultation took place from the 11th February 2022 to the 25th April 2022. The public consultation took place upon the approval of a draft climate change strategy from Executive Cabinet. Both youth (13 to 18 years old) and adults (18+ years old) surveys were created to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the main issues, understanding and wants of the residents in Chorley including the youth population.

An accessible version and designed version of the strategy was made available on the Council's website with a survey written on Citizen Space for responses. The questions within the survey were a mix of multiple choice (quantitative) and open questions (qualitative). Questions covered all areas of the strategy including the main goal of the council, to be net zero by 2030, the objectives, the priorities, and the actions within the strategy. Both the adult and resident survey covered similar questions and themes with slight rewording to target the age group.

The strategy was promoted on social media, Facebook, LinkedIn and the Council website routinely throughout the consultation dates. A total of 2 date ranges sponsored posts were done on social media to promote the completion of the strategy.

A number of in-person events promotion of the climate change strategy also took place including a presentation at the Parish Liaison meeting and a number of schools. The consultation was also promoted at events including the Tree Giveaway and Chorley in Bloom.

Number of responses received and in what format

The adult survey had 174 responses, the youth survey had 81 responses and the Council also received 3 emailed written responses. Facebook comments were also saved for themes to be captured from comments made outside of the formal consultation.

Adult Survey

Key Findings – quantitative responses

Quantitative questions were ~70% of the questions within the consultation of which most were made compulsory. This has ensured that the overall opinions of the residents are captured.

The number of respondents agreeing that the strategy provides sufficient information relating to the challenge's residents will face with climate change was 50%. This is comparatively low and therefore an action will be to produce a topic paper relating to the science behind climate change and the specific challenges Chorley may face in the future.

The number of respondents who agreed with the Council's overall goal for the borough to be net zero by 2030 was 60%. Of the 30% who do not agree with the goal the thematic analysis of the responses are covered below in 'Key Findings – Qualitative'.

Overall, for the quantitative questions there was an overall agreement to the overall net zero by 2030 goal of the Council, and the objective and priorities of the strategy. The strongest agreement was noted for the objectives and priorities related to public engagement, recycling and biodiversity improvements and tree planting. **The level of agreement of the strategies objectives and priorities were ~80-90% agreement.**

The lowest level of agreement of responses were those regarding changes within the Council relating to the decarbonisation of Council owned assets and fleet and embedding climate change in all council decisions. Although these were comparatively lower regarding agreement compared to other objectives and priorities, the agreement was still proportionally high at approximately 70%.

To understand the position of the residents regarding climate change, a question relating to their understand, concern and any changes made was also in the consultation. Most residents said they fully understand the issues and have made personal changes, with the other most common response was that residents are keen to learn more on climate change and changes that can be made.

The overall agreement of the goal, objectives and priorities shows the future work stream and focuses of the Council relating to climate change is in line with those of the Chorley residents.

Key Findings – Qualitative /open ended responses

We asked a number of qualitative questions to capture the opinions of those who did not agree with the goal, objectives, or priorities. There were also a number of open-ended questions requesting comments relating to the actions, such as least and most important and any additional comments. Open ended questions were not made compulsory, the response rate of qualitative questions ranged from 37% to 71% with the highest response from asking what actions are most important to residents.

Qualitative questions have been thematically analysed to establish trends and repeating patterns to ensure that repeating patterns and continual patterns are captured.

A common theme amongst respondents were regarding the need for transport improvements both private and public such as cycle lanes, EV chargepoints and bus and train schemes and systems was continually noted throughout. The improvement and protect of green spaces and continuation of tree plants was also a recurring theme, commonly noted in conjunction with developments in the borough. Waste and recycling were continually noted with comments relating to changes and improvements to the current service. The waste and recycling strategy is currently in draft and responses from this consultation will be carried over to aid in the drafting of the waste and recycling strategy. Finally, increased engagement and varying forms of education was requested as part of this strategy. The Council's responses to these main themes have been covered below in 'Main Themes and Our Responses'.

The Council set the ambitious aim to work towards having the borough net zero by 2030. As noted earlier, 30% of respondents did not agree with this aim. Responses on alternatives aims were focused around priorities of other Council services, financial concerns, and concerns surrounding the time scale of the goal. The Council has appointed additional qualified staff to focus on the climate

change programme to ensure other services within the Council continue to have focused and dedicated officers. The climate change team are continually researching and sourcing external funding avenues to fund the climate change programme and strive to reach the net zero goal as early as possible.

Concerns relating to the financial cost of the work, the science behind the work and development within the borough were also recurring throughout the consultation and also throughout comments on social media. These themes are discussed further in 'Main Themes and Our Response'.

The main themes, summary and Council responses regarding those noted are discussed further in 'Main Themes and Our Response'.

Youth Survey

Key Findings – quantitative responses

Quantitative questions were ~70% of the questions within the consultation of which most were made compulsory, this is a similar split to that of the adult survey. This has ensured that the overall opinions of the residents are captured.

80% of youth residents who responded agreed with the overall goal for the borough to be net zero by 2030. Of those that did not agree with the goal, 12% did not understand what the goal means, this follows the key themes noted in the adult survey regarding the want for further education and engagement.

Overall, there was a strong support to the objectives set within the strategy. **The majority of responses stated that all objectives are 'very important'**, the highest level of agreement was noted for the increase in tree coverage and nature recovery and reducing the carbon emissions as council. This response differs from the adult survey with reducing carbon emissions as a council being lower in agreement in the adult survey. The varied agreement between level of importance between the adult and youth survey displays that all areas for both areas have been captured.

The importance of the priorities within the strategy were broken down into multiple selection question with respondents selecting all priorities of importance. Of the 12 priorities listed, 8 of the priorities had over 60% agreement of importance with protecting wildlife, planting more trees, and increasing recycling rates having the highest agreement proportion of 76, 80 and 79% respectively. Those with the lowest agreement included sustainable travel within the council and information sharing within the borough.

To understand the position of the youth people regarding climate change, a question relating to their understanding, concern and any resulting changes in their life was also in the consultation. **Over 80% of respondents stated that they understand climate change and are taking steps in their daily life to change, whilst 13% said they do not know how to help.**

The overall agreement to the goal, objectives and priorities shows the future work stream and focuses of the Council relating to climate change is in line with those of the Chorley youth residents. The key themes, agreement and level of knowledge was similar to that of the adult youth survey. The Council's responses to these main themes have been covered below in 'Main Themes and Our Responses'.

Key Findings – Qualitative /open ended responses

A number of qualitative questions were asked throughout the survey to capture the opinions of those who did not agree with the goal, objectives, or priorities and to get any additional questions not captured. Open ended questions were not made compulsory, the response rate of qualitative questions ranged from 5% to 60% with the highest response from asking what actions are most important to residents.

Qualitative questions have been thematically analysed to establish trends and repeating patterns to ensure that repeating patterns and continual patterns are captured.

The key themes that emerged regarding important aims and priorities included the increased education, enhancement of recycling streams, sustainable transport options including EV charging points and active travel, and improvement of natural biodiversity including tree planting.

The themes of goal and priorities also followed into the same themes noted when asked of important actions, with high responses of requests for actions requesting increased tree planting and maintenance of green spaces, education for all generations (with translations), and increases in renewables within the borough.

The main themes, summary, and Council responses regarding those noted are discussed further in 'Main Themes and Our Response'

Main themes and Our Response

The following themes were identified throughout the consultation of both the adult and youth survey, written responses, and social media comments.

The themes in the table below are common areas of action and actions of greatest concerns to respondents. These themes have a summary of the feedback given and the Council's response and any additional actions taken within the final draft of the strategy.

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Council Response Including Change to the Climate Change Strategy
Education and Engagement	More information of the challenges we face	Existing Action - Publish topic paper on climate change and the scientific evidence behind climate change on the Council website
	Advise on how to help mitigate climate change including with translations	Existing action - Develop an online 'Climate Change Handbook'. A collection of information for sustainability, detailing organisations and local businesses who can support climate change initiatives, recycling, and decarbonisation initiatives
	Community events and increased support	New action - Draft and publish Climate Change Engagement Strategy with specific actions relating to community events, support and advice

		Existing Action - Coordinate and enable community-based and online events, campaigns, and training opportunities on a number of topics relating to climate change.
		Existing Action - Work with partners such as Inspire Youth Zone and the Schools to develop a programme of learning for young people on climate change
		New Action – Collaborate with local universities for increased research and education within the borough.
Transport	Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points within the borough	Existing Action - Produce a feasibility study of the installation of EV charging points
		New Action - Develop and publish an EV Infrastructure Strategy to include specific actions relating to EV charging and relevant policies
	Increase accessibility of public transport including buses and trains	Existing Action - Deliver the recommendations of the Sustainable Public Transport Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.
	Increase the provision of walking and cycling within the borough	Existing Action - Produce an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which includes new schemes for cycling, walking and improved public transport
		New Action - Evaluate existing provision of cycle storage within the town centre and Astley park and develop a programme to increase capacity
		New action- undertake a survey about Cycling in Chorley to inform future investment
		Existing Action - Working with the Canal and Rivers Trust develop a programme of potential investment in the network in Chorley
	Additional actions relating to transport include	Existing Action - Develop a plan to progress the Councils conversion to electric vehicles
Existing Action - Investigate the feasibility and business case for the Council to establish a service to offer HVO fuel for residents to use in own private vehicles, include safety, financial, legal and demand		
Recycling and Waste	Improvement of waste and recycling for residential properties and in public spaces	Existing action – draft and publish a Waste and Recycling Strategy
	Keep cup and podback scheme	New Action - investigate feasibility and

		potential uptake of reuse schemes including keep cup and podback
The Natural Environment, Green Spaces and Tree Planting	Ensure the protection of wildlife and green belt	Existing Action - Develop & adopt Local Plan policies for climate change including flood risk & sustainable drainage, biodiversity net gain, green and blue infrastructure, open space, clean energy, and sustainable transport.
	Plant more trees	Existing action – plant 116,875 trees, one for every resident by 2025.
		New Action - Tree giveaways twice a year for residents to plant their own trees until 2025
		Existing Action - Deliver a comprehensive system to record the baseline of canopy tree cover and spatial distribution of the ongoing planting
Additional avenues of work stemming from consultation responses	Renewable energy sources	New Action – Investigate the feasibility of large scale renewable energy installation programs to home owners for potential discounts and support to homeowners
	Carbon emissions within the borough and by the Council	Existing action - Undertake an annual carbon footprint audit of the Council and report progress
	Continue engagement with youth residents	Existing Action - Work with partners such as Inspire Youth Zone and the Schools to develop a programme of learning for young people on climate change

The table below illustrates common themes raised throughout both the adult and youth survey, written responses, and social media comments. These themes have a summary of the feedback given and the Council’s response and any additional actions taken within the final draft of the strategy.

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Council Response Including Change to the Climate Change Strategy
Financial Cost	Concerns regarding the cost surrounding the completion of the programme	The Council is committed to addressing climate change and has already committed £750,000 and dedicated staffing for the programme. Further collaboration will be made as and when required.
The science behind climate change	Comments regarding the differences of opinions as the presence and effects of climate change	Climate Change is a complex and technical issue. The Council will deliver a Climate Change Engagement Strategy which will use a variety of methods to make information about changes to the

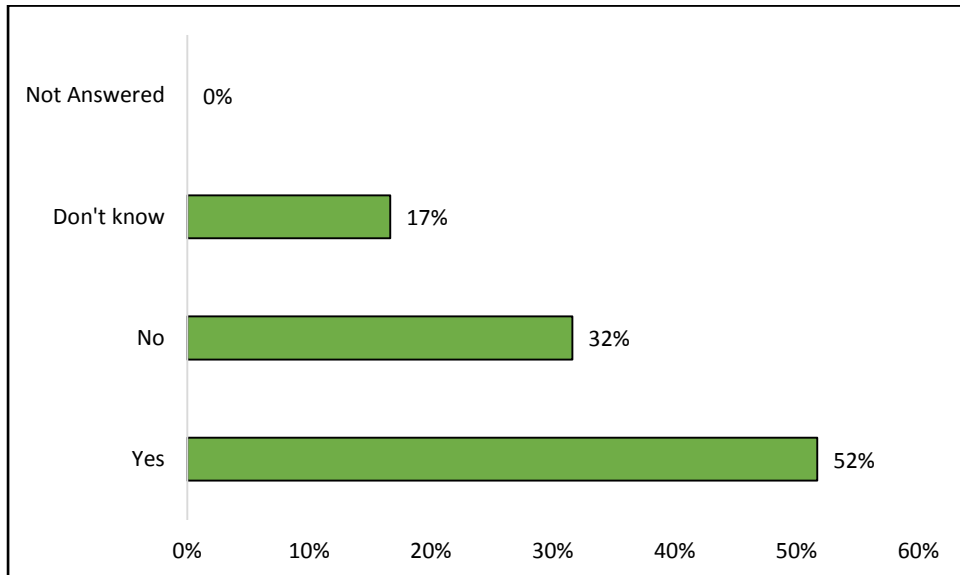
		planet, our environment and in biodiversity (and what this means for us) available to everyone in a format which is easy to understand. It is important that simple messages about the facts of climate change are shared to raise awareness and 'myth bust' common misconceptions.
Development in the borough	Concerns regarding the development and building of residential properties within the borough	The Council recognises local concerns about the level of development in the borough. A new local plan is being prepared and future development will be planned, taking full account of impact on the environment and climate change.

Detailed Response Data

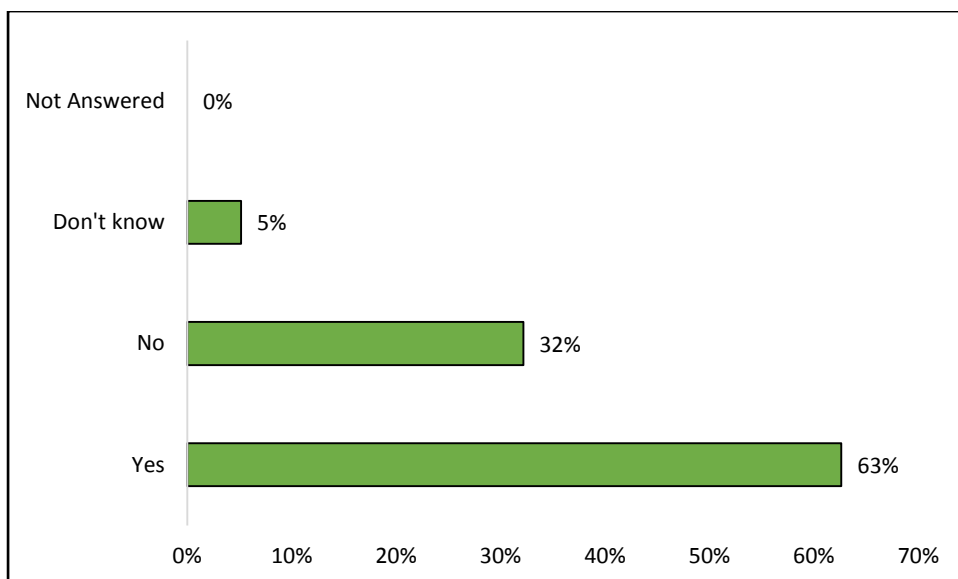
The data below includes all the responses to all questions expressed as a % of total responses received (where applicable).

Adult Consultation Responses

Q1. Does our draft Climate Change Strategy provide enough information about the challenges we face?



Q2. Do you agree with the overall goal for the borough to be net zero by 2030?

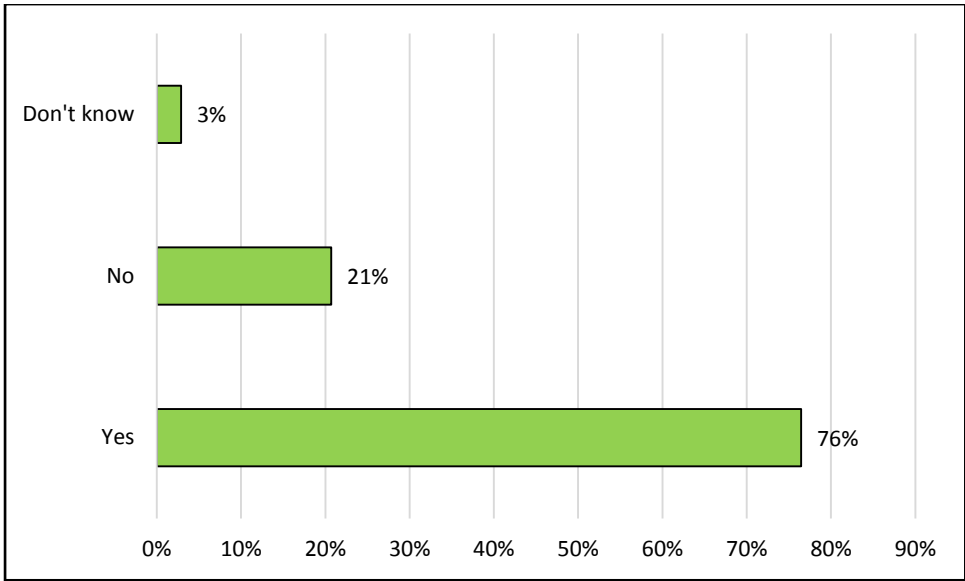


Q3. If your answer above was no, what do you think our vision for Chorley should be?

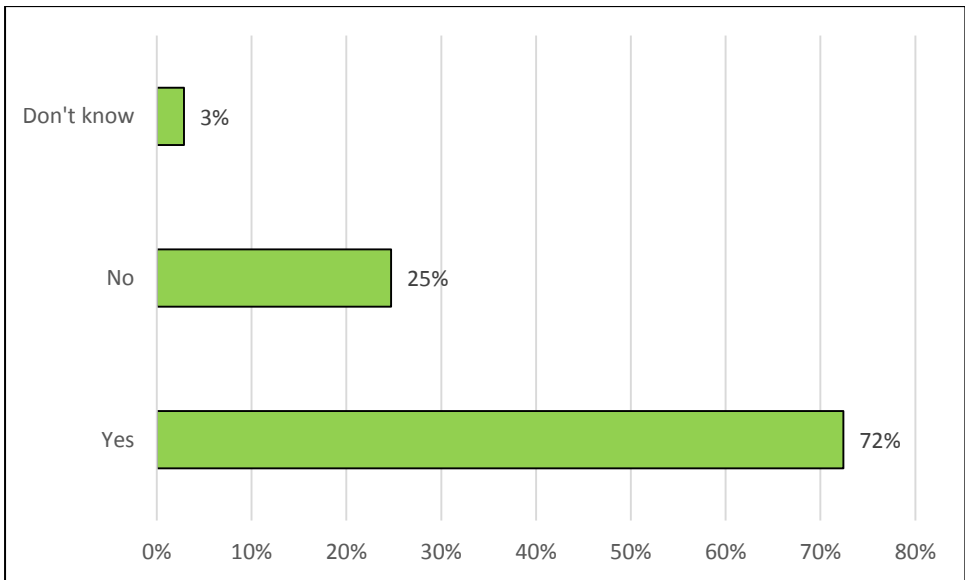
Theme	Total
Goals needs to be realistic	15
Jargon heavy	3
Too much debating	2
Needs to be more radical	6
Cynicism of the Science	14
Financial concerns	11
Limit development	8
Date should be brought forward	4
Transport Infrastructure improvements including sustainable transport	9
EV infrastructure	5
Biodiversity and tree planting	4
Annual review of strategy	3
UK minor emitter compared to other countries, Chorley wont make a difference	3
Recycling Strategy	2
Focus on sustainable heating	1
Focus on other Council services	5

Q4. Do you agree with our five objective for climate change?

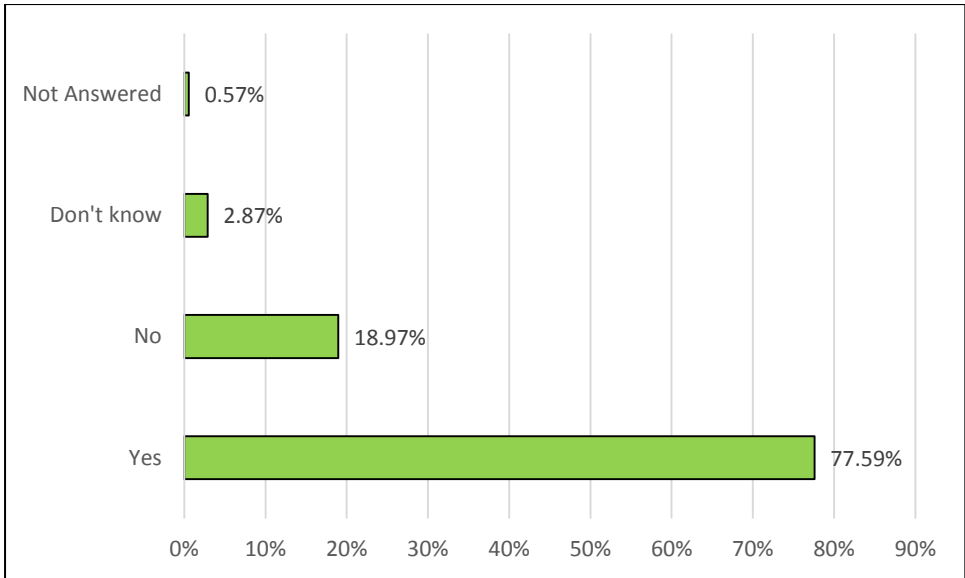
Q4a. To understand the carbon footprint of both the Council's activities and the borough as a whole now and in the future, so we can develop robust plans and track our progress



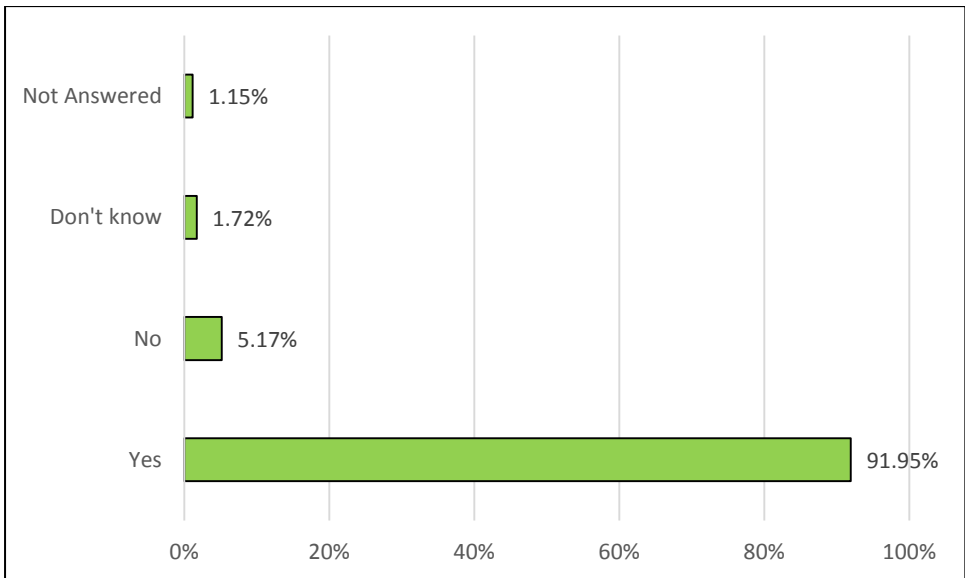
Q4b. To dramatically reduce our carbon emissions as a Council and be an ambassador for change



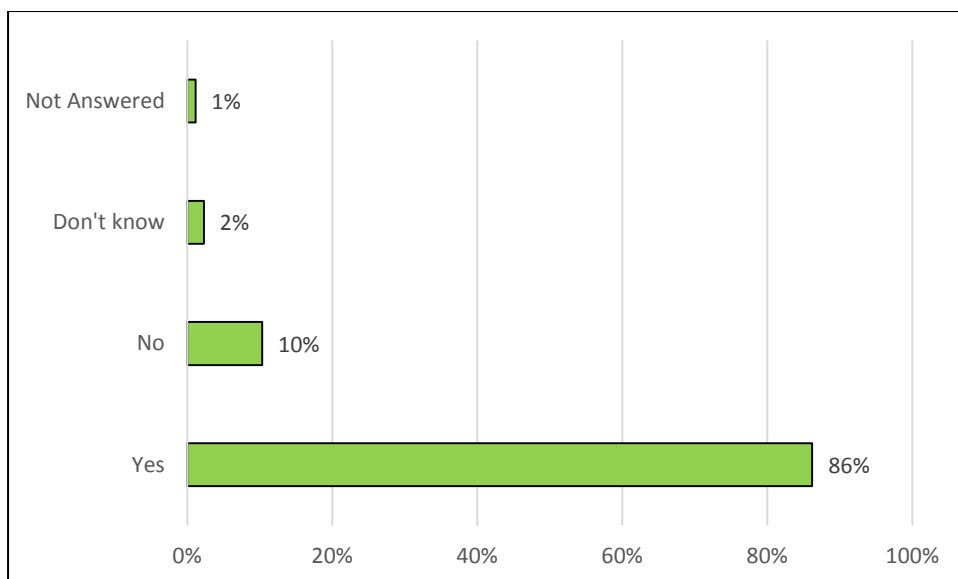
Q4c. Work with our residents, partners, and local businesses to influence behaviour and deliver local projects to drive down the carbon footprint of our Borough



Q4d. To significantly increase the tree coverage across the borough and promote nature recovery



Q4e. Enable Chorley to be climate resilient and better equipped to cope with changes in the natural environment including extreme weather events

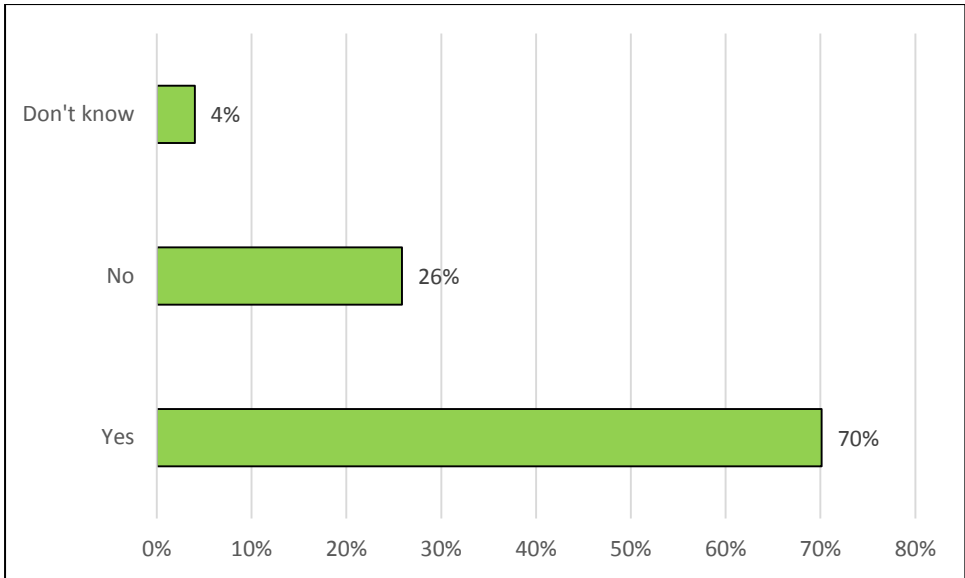


Q5. If you could add any objectives to the strategy what would they be?

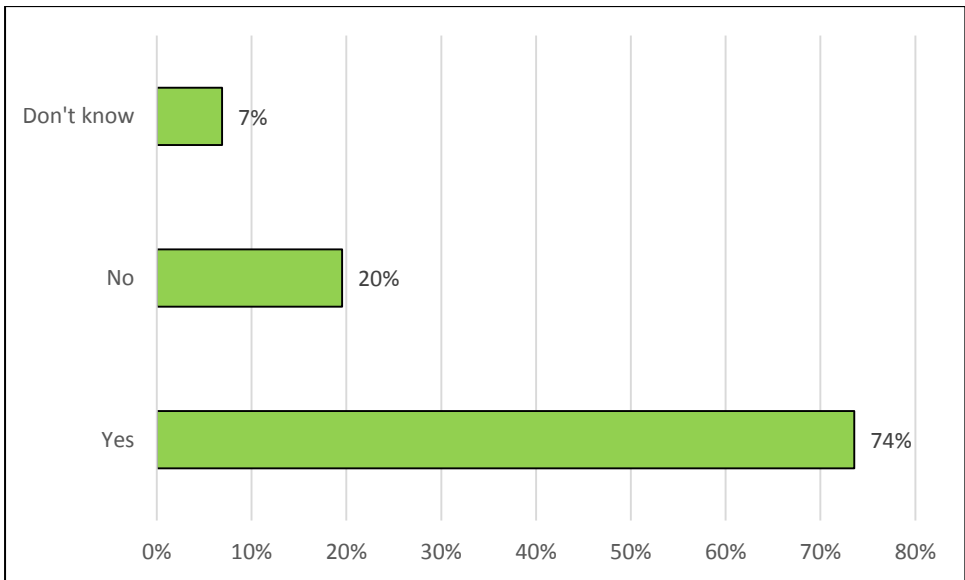
Theme	Total
Transport Improvements	29
Green Space protection/enhancement	25
Household improvement support	5
Limit development	10
Improve recycling and waste management	11
Education/engagement	14
Displaying the council's own actions	1
Expanding the scope of Climate Change strategy – including air quality and recycling	5
Energy sourcing	15
Non believers	8
Circular economy	9
Encourage diet change	2
SMART targets	3
Development Regulations	10
Financial Concerns	7
Central Government responsibility	1

Q6. Do you agree with the priorities within the strategy?

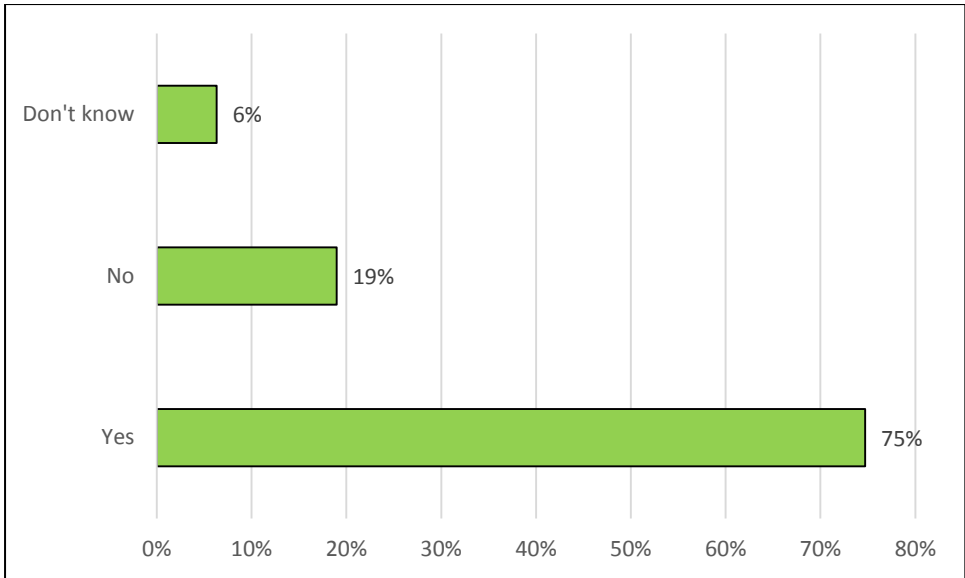
Q6a. Embed climate change in everything the Council does from policy to decision making



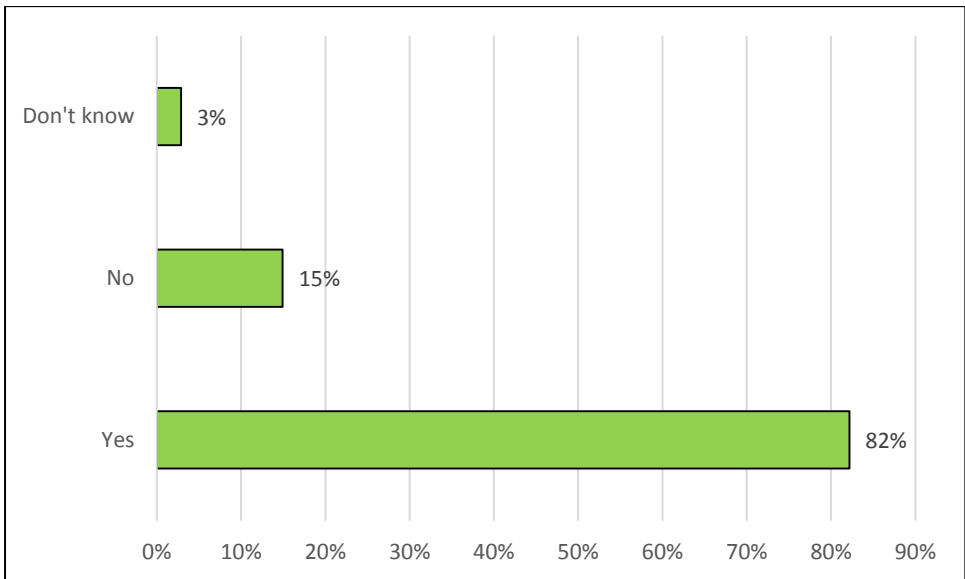
Q6b. Deliver the decarbonisation of Council owned assets and improve the sustainability of the Council's fleet



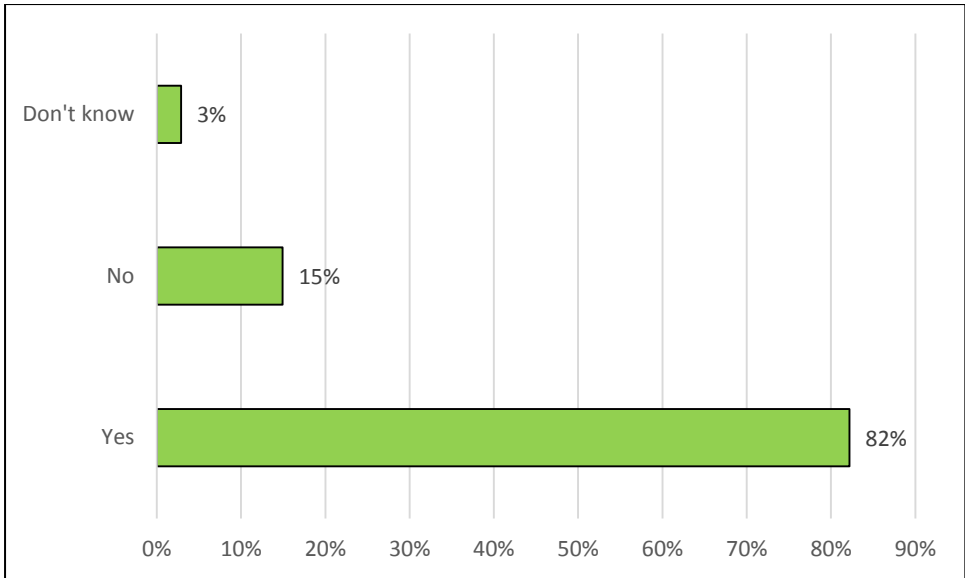
Q6c. Develop robust planning policies to deliver adaptation and mitigation



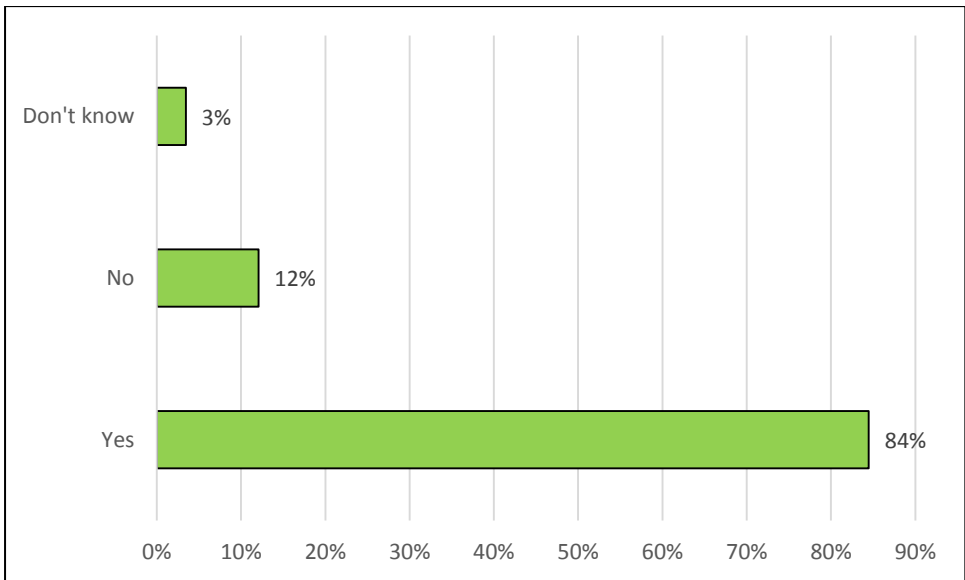
Q6d. Provide safe spaces for walking and cycling, promote sustainable transport and greener private and commercial vehicles



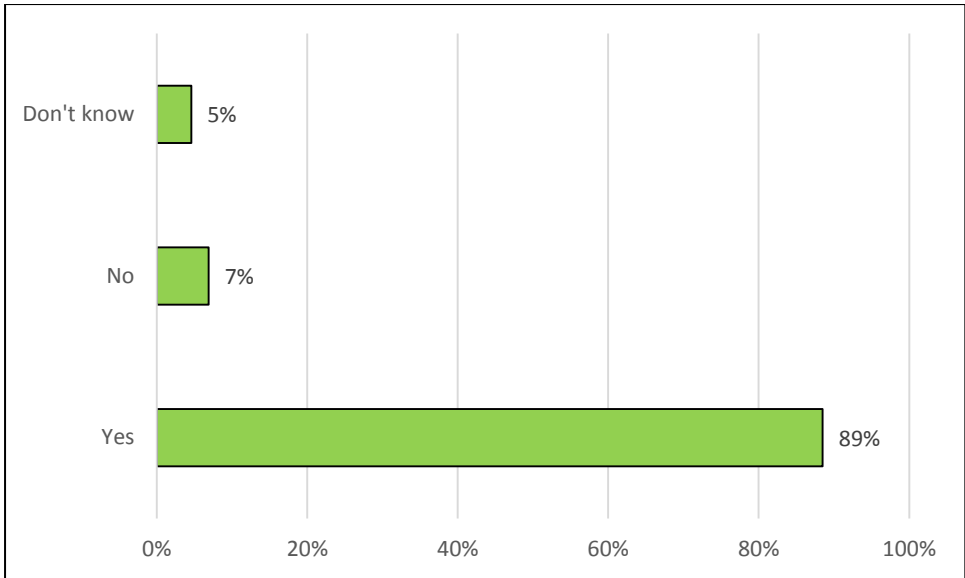
Q6e. Work with housing providers, landlords, developers, and businesses to promote and encourage energy efficiency and decarbonisation of buildings



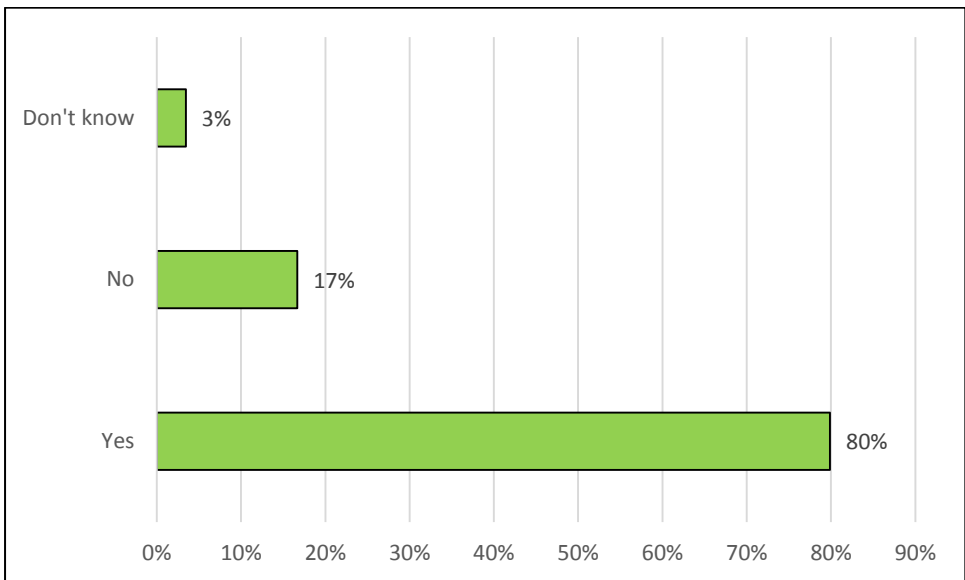
Q6f. Promote low carbon incentives and enable access to government funding within the borough for low carbon technology



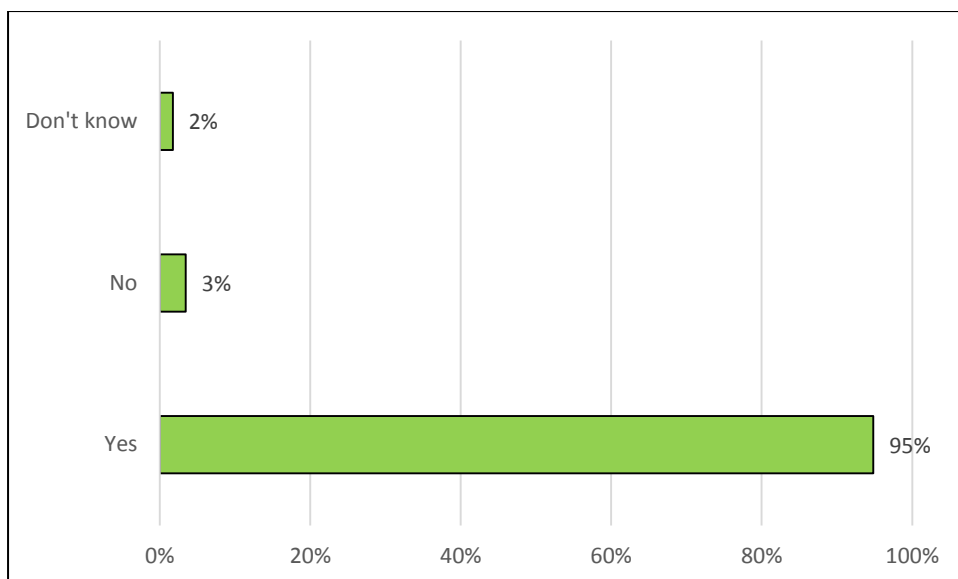
Q6g. Improve the borough's recycling rates and work with partners, residents, businesses, schools, community groups and internally to reduce the volume of landfill waste produced in the borough



Q6h. Influence behaviour change by sharing knowledge, best practice and promoting debate around climate change across all groups and ages



Q6i. Deliver investment and improvements in the natural environment including waterways, areas of open space, natural habitats to deliver an increase in the biodiversity of Chorley



Q7. If you could add any priorities to the Climate Change Strategy what would they be?

Theme	Total
Transport Improvements, sustainable public transport	25
Technology Involvement	2
Waste Management and Recycling	19
Whole Community Involvement	8
Enhance Natural Environment	16
Education and engagement	8
Slow development	4
Rethink car parking strategy	3
Local Sourcing and supply	3
Encourage Diet Change	3
Address Other Issues Instead	1
Reduce Spending	6
Cynicism of Climate Science	5
Development Regulations	4
Reward Systems	2
Processes of Trial and Error	1
Sustainable energy both Council and Community Owned	8
Review Timescale	2
Climate equality	2

Q8. What actions do you feel are MOST important within the action plan?

Theme	Total
Mitigate Climate Change where Feasible	1
Continuous consideration in decision making	7

Enhancing natural environments/open space	39
Recycling	11
Energy Efficiency	20
Air quality	3
Flood risk and sustainable drainage	4
Green/blue infrastructure	2
Sustainable Transport/Infrastructure	23
Planning Policy	7
None of them	10
All of them	11
Connecting with locals	15
Setting an example	4
Encouraging debate	5
Evaluation of action and progress	5

Q9. What actions do you feel are the LEAST important within the action plan?

Theme	Total
Lobby National Government	1
Feasibility of Projects	1
Changing Behavior/education	5
Majority of actions are unimportant	5
Electric Vehicles	3
Households	2
All important	29
Council action	2
Incentives	2
Hydrogen trials	9
Recycling	6
Debating	1
Changes to transport	6
Green bus stops	3
Decarbonization of council assets	2
Housing	1
Forcing climate change	1
Costs to locals	3
Any trial schemes	2
Hidden Agenda	2
Nature improvements	2
Unrealistic timeframe	1

Q10. Do you have any additional comments about the strategy and the approach to climate change in Chorley?

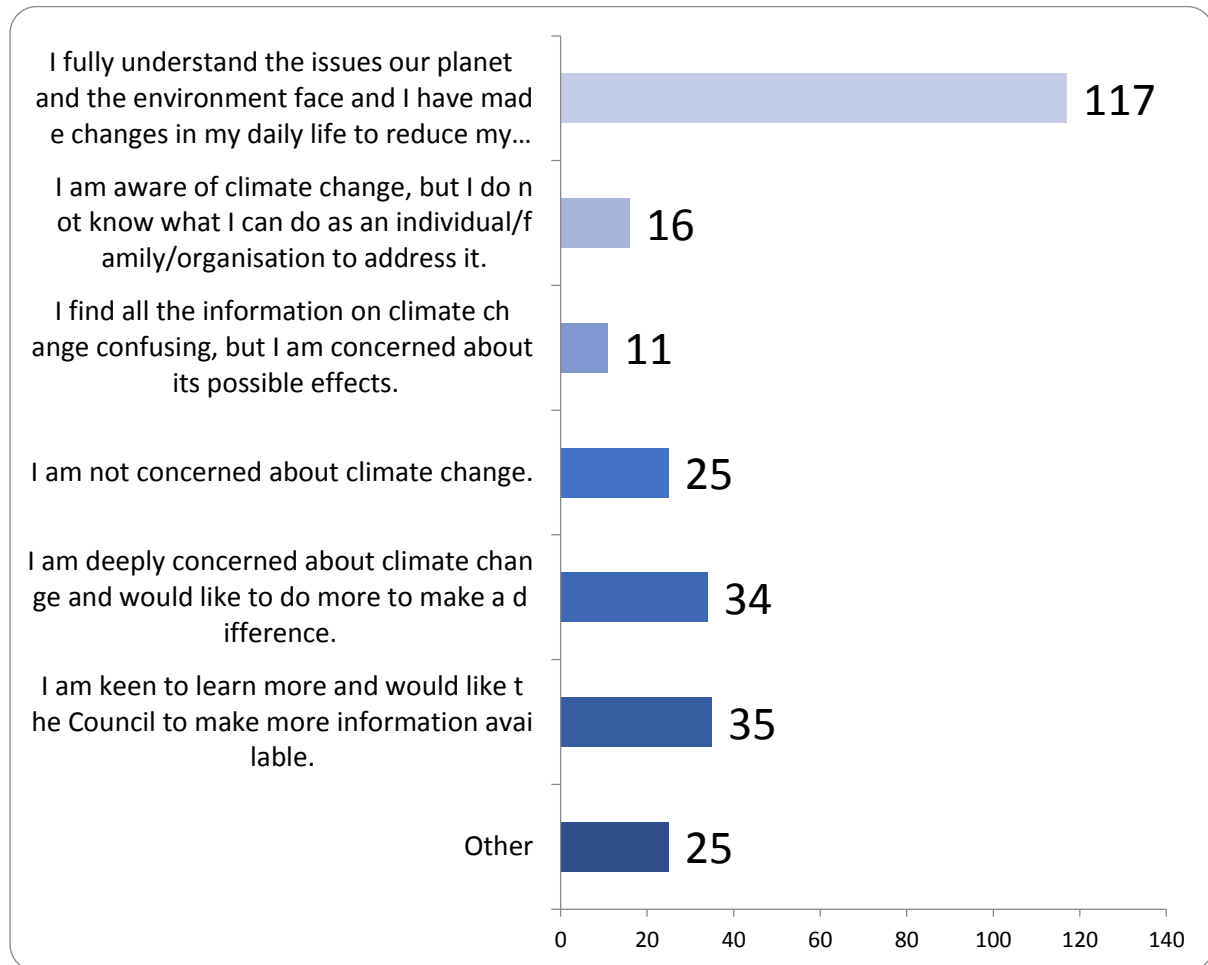
Themes	Total
Does not go far enough	5
Too politically biased	2
Encourage those with a garden to plant more vegetation, allotments	2

Free parking for rail users	1
Improve bus networks/costs	1
Incentives for green businesses	4
Push for Sustainable Drainage Systems	2
More electric charging points	3
Secure bike facilities	2
Action required immediately	3
Further support needed for the suburbs	1
Review best practice studies	1
Electric buses	1
Policy preventing development on greenbelt	3
Greater flexibility required	1
Action should have happened sooner	2
Needs to deliver real action	1
Pledge for greenest council	1
Continue consultations	1
Stop building and increase improvements	5
Give greater attention to youths	1
Address animal agriculture	1
Restrict new builds	4
More local supply encouragement	2
End gas boilers	1
Make all information available on council website, including all updates	1
Chorley could lead the way on hydrogen developments	1
Reinstate A&E to reduce travel	1
Use all resources to implement this, along with volunteers	4
Investigate banks usage of fossil fuels	1
Make cycle paths clean and safe	2
Reduce length of report	1
Reduce car culture	4
Other more pressing issues	2
Thankful and excitement of new developments, regard negative comments	1
Climate change action should be voted on	1
Similar Policy to other Council's	1
Cut down amount of traffic lights	1
Financial Concerns	8
Council and Community Owned Renewable Energy	4
Cynicism of Climate Science	8
Insulation of private homes and rented homes	3
More recycling options – public and residential	8
Unbiased advise to homeowners	2
Air Quality concerns	4
Protection of green space, ancient woodland and blue spaces	7
Annual carbon auditing	1

Climate inequality

1

Q11. Which of the following statements most closely describes your position on climate change



Q12. If you answered other to the question above, please state in the box below

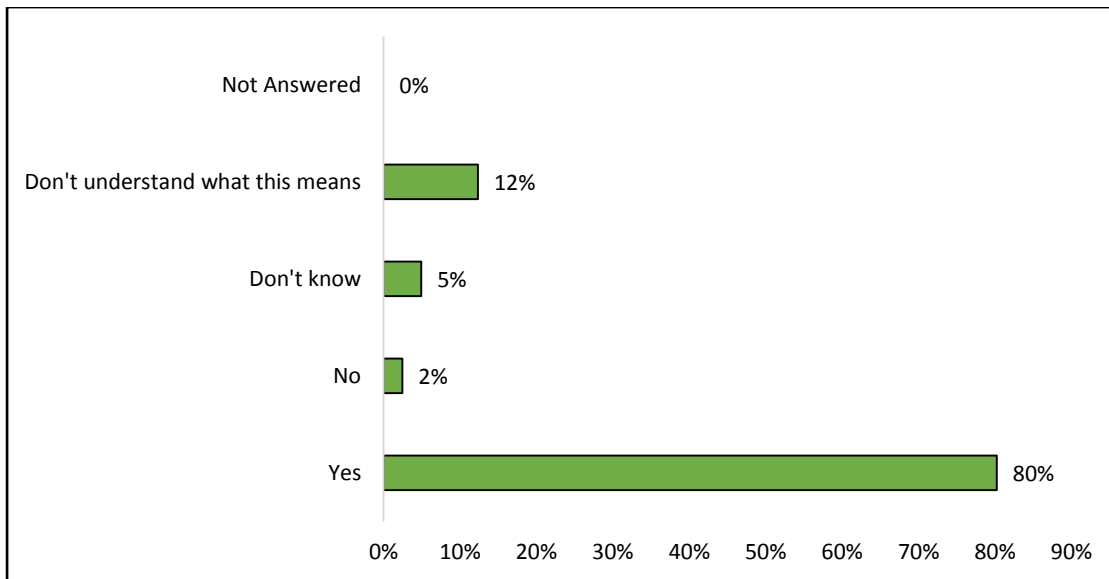
Themes	Total
UK minor emitter compared to other countries, Chorley wont make a difference	6
Cynicism of Climate Science	9
Too politically biased	2
Concerns regarding action	1
Energy saved most important	1
Large companies need to reduce emissions	1
Financial concerns	1
Climate inequality	2
Focus on local supply and amenities	1
Support households	2

Q13. Please use this space if you would like to make any other comments about climate change strategy

Theme	Total
Flooding as a major issue	1
Financial Concerns	6
Sustainable public transport – including rail and buses	7
Climate equality	2
Increased engagement	8
Cynicism of Climate Science	6
Council to join UN Race to Zero	1
Increased recycling	3
Concerns of action timescales	1
Review sustainability of Council Events	1
Focus on sustainable energy	1
Borough Audit	1
Council to set standard on new builds	2
Limit development	4
Doesn't address global issue	1
Doesn't address traffic	1
Impact of covid on emissions	2
Support for private and rented homes – insulation	1
Air Quality Concerns	2
Promote local supply	1
Holistic approach	1
Podback scheme	1
Capability of team delivering	3
Green spaces and improving biodiversity	2
UK minor emitter compared to other countries, Chorley wont make a difference	1
Needs greater urgency	7
Concerns over HVO fuel emissions	1
Regular updates on planting and green spaces	1

Youth Consultation Responses

Q1. Do you agree that our goal for Chorley should be for us to be net zero by 2030?

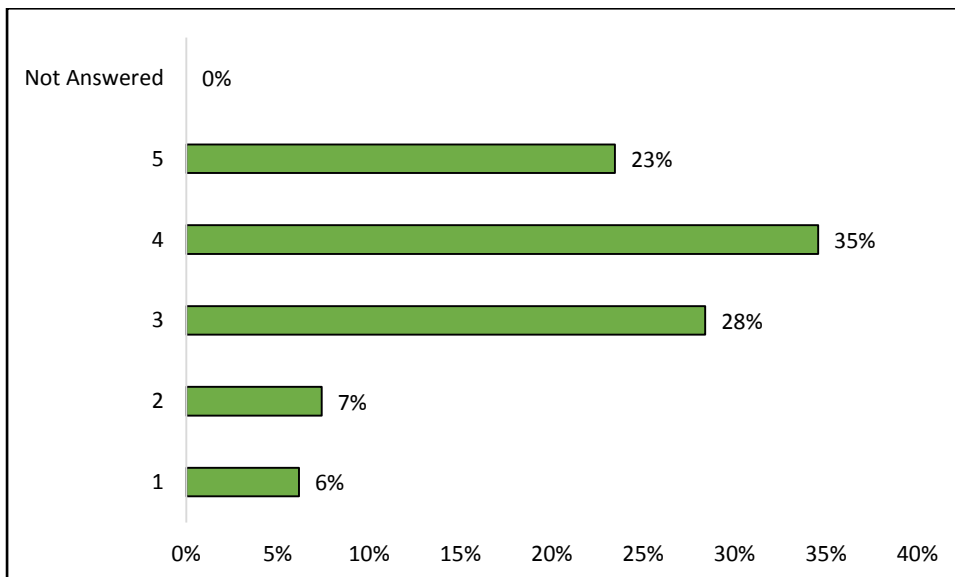


Q2. If your answer above was no, what do you think our vision for Chorley should be?

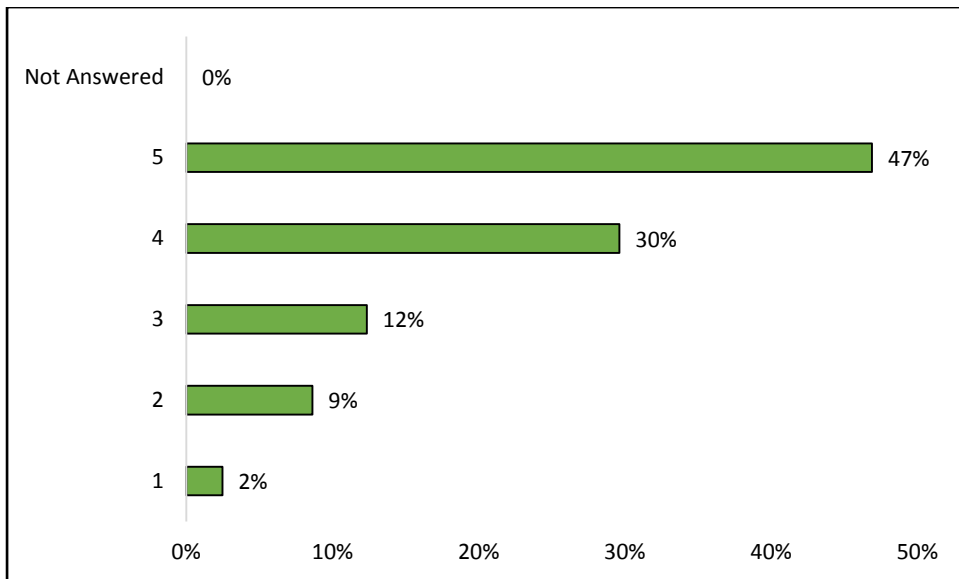
Theme	Total
Could be sooner	1
Residents should be put first	1

Q3. We want to know what you think about our aims for climate change – these are what we want to see happen in Chorley. Please rate from 1-5, with 5 being most important to you

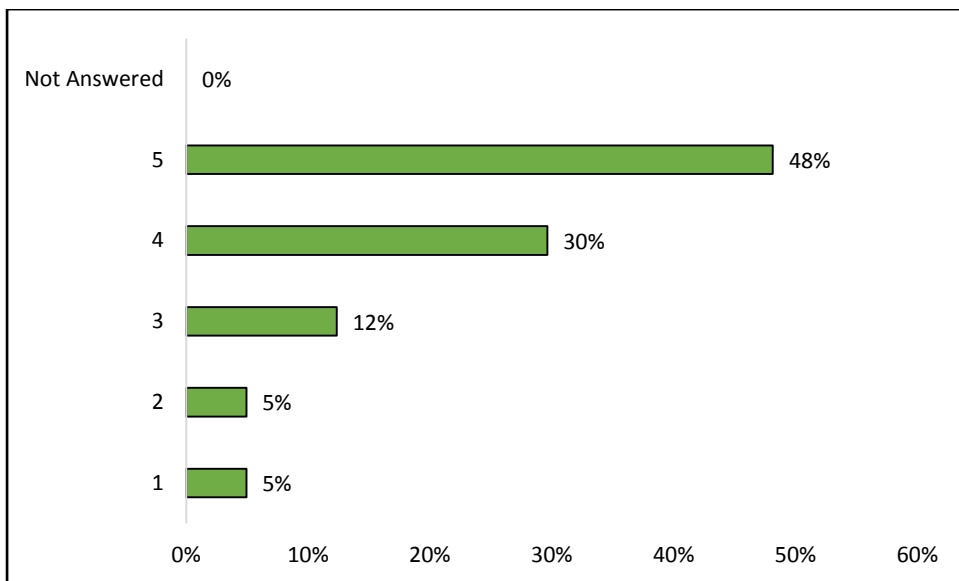
Q3a. To understand the carbon footprint of both the Council’s activities and the Borough as a whole now and in the future, so we can develop robust plans and track our progress



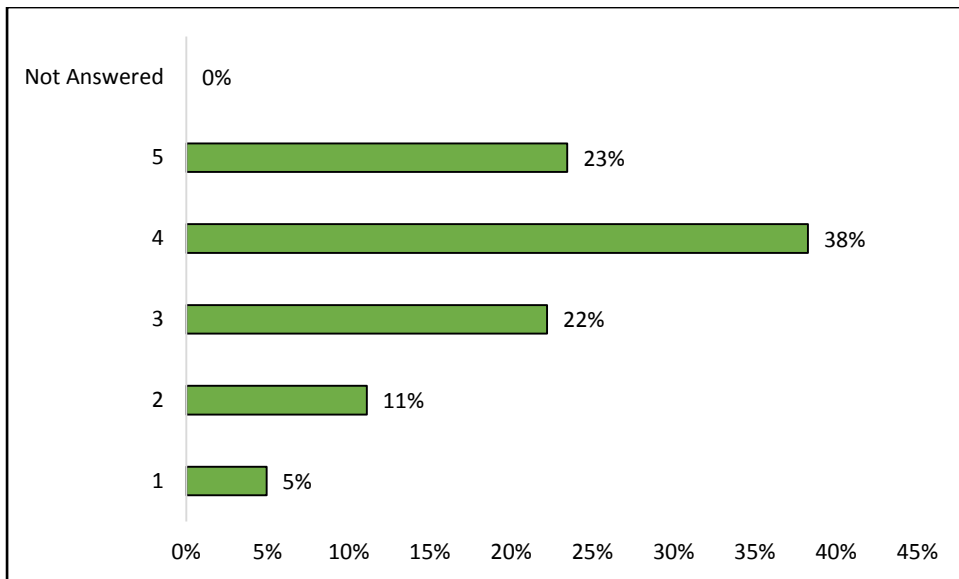
Q3b. To significantly increase tree coverage across the borough and promote nature recovery



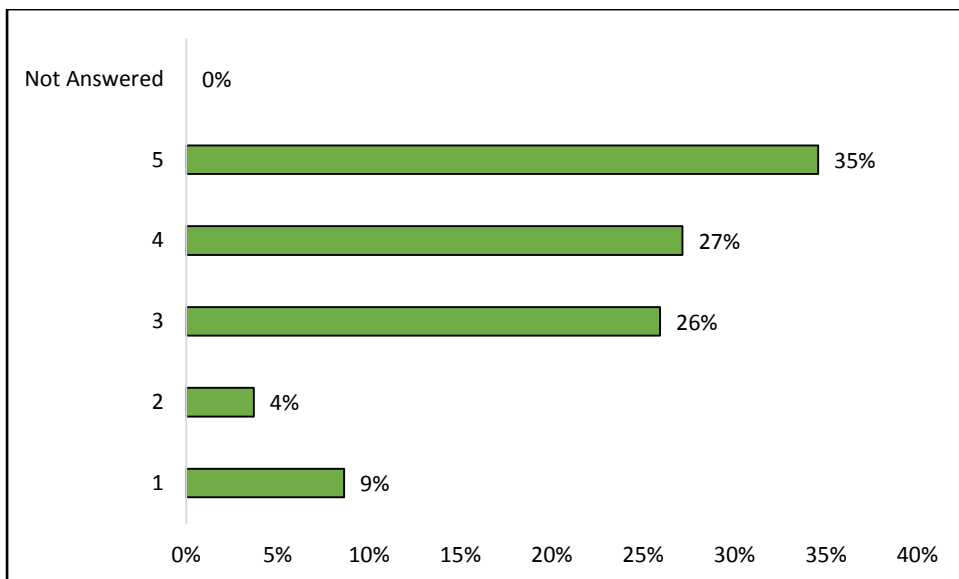
Q3c. To dramatically reduce our carbon emissions as a council and be an ambassador for change



Q3d. Work with our residents, partners, and local businesses to influence behaviour and deliver local projects to drive down the carbon footprint of our Borough.



Q3e. Enable Chorley to be climate resilient and better equipped to cope with changes in the natural environment including extreme weather events

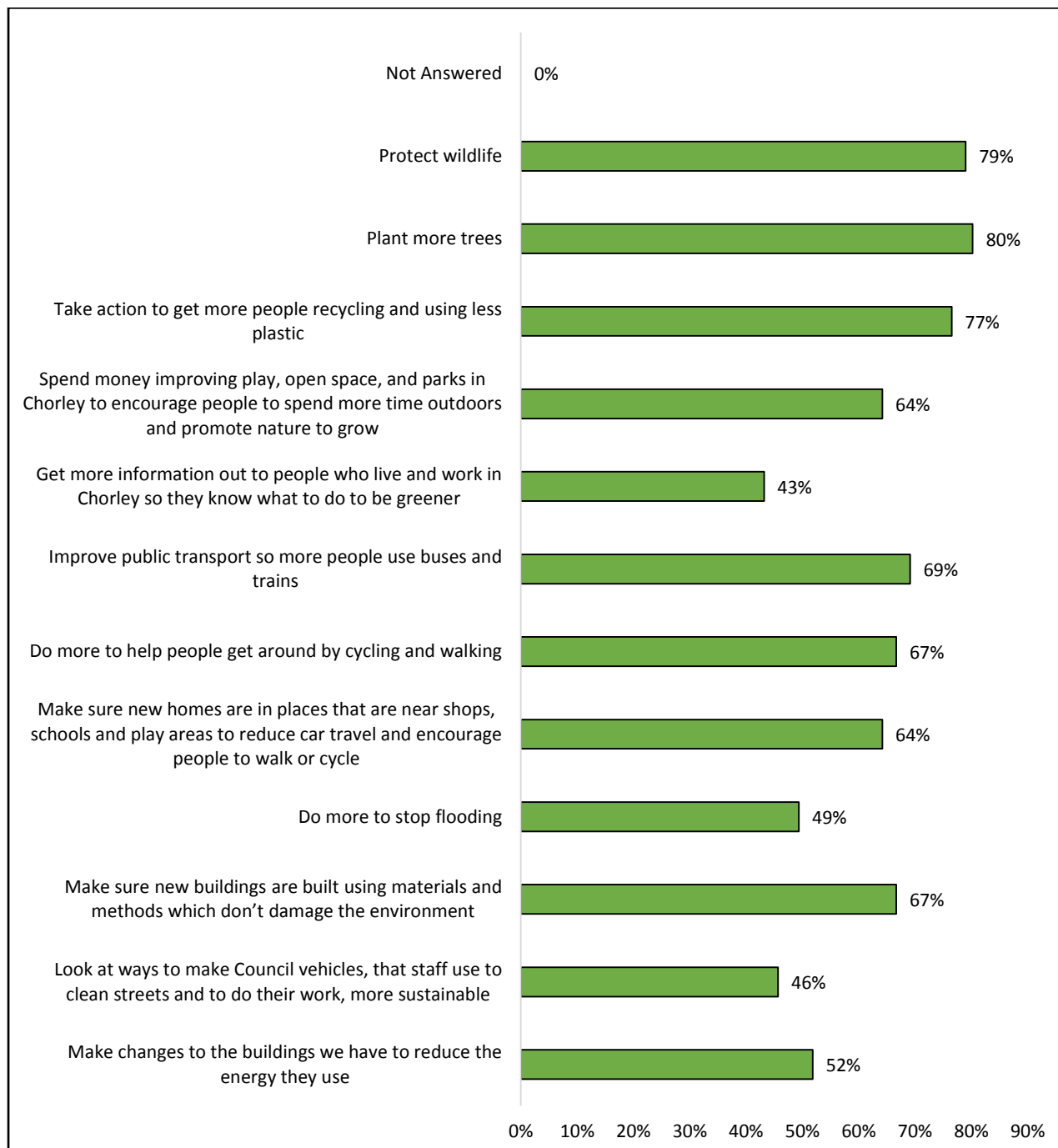


Q4. If could add any aims what would they be?

Theme	Total
Education	6
Support for low-income families	1
Use council tax as funding	1
Enhance recycling/waste schemes	6
Support other towns	1
Biodiversity protection	3
Encourage public transport	4
Renewables	1
Electric cars/charging stations	5

Clean environment	1
Slow development for flooding	1

Q5. We have come up with a list of priorities of things that we think we should be doing but want to know what your priorities as young people are.



Q6. If you could add any priorities to the Climate Change Strategy what would they be?

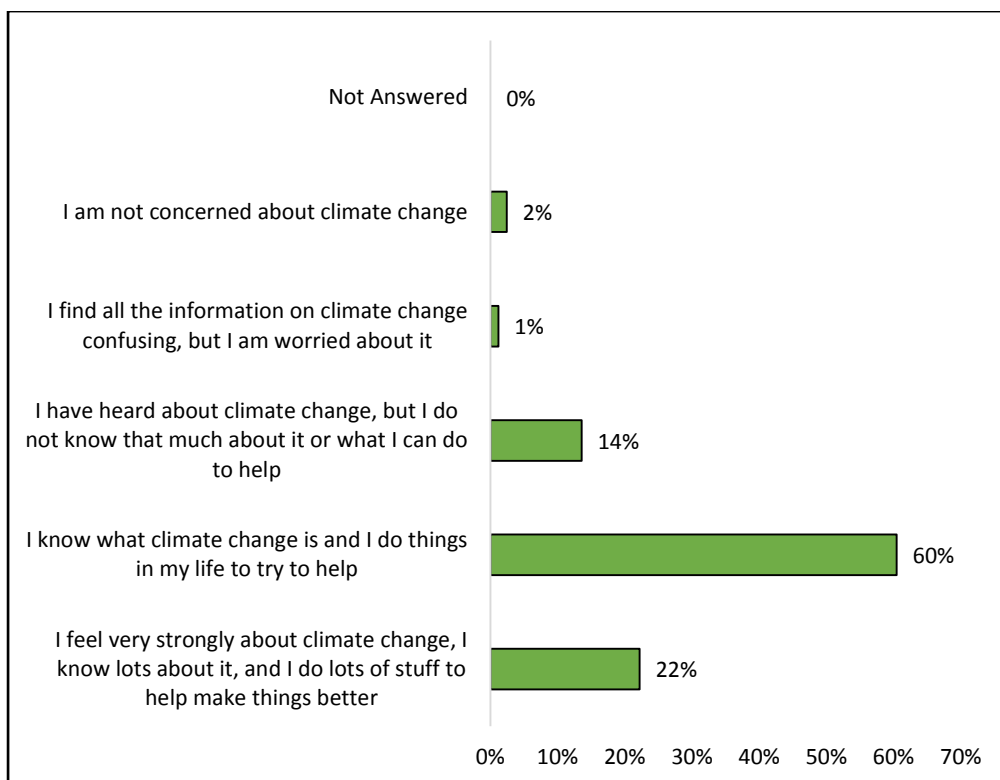
Theme	Total
Biodegradable packaging	1

Patrol environments/law enforcements for outdoor safety	2
Plant more trees	3
Reduce meat consumption	1
Reduce litter/litter picking	3
Designated smoking areas	1
Information accessibility	1
Promote walk to school program	1
More renewables	1
Encourage active transport	1
Recycling	2

Q7. We have come up with a list of actions. What do you think we should be doing?

Theme	Total
Plant more trees	10
Involve the whole community	3
Maintenance/enhance of green space	11
More bins/reduce litter/recycling	12
Pedestrian only zones	1
Environmental conscious planning/development	1
Wildlife park	1
Reduce plastic use	3
Information boards in public areas	1
Education for all generations (with translations)	8
Promoting active/public transport	7
Local garden	1
Control dogs	1
Wildflower planting	2
Renewables	4
Energy efficiency	3
Funding for recreational spaces	1
Rainwater used for public toilets	1
Measuring individual carbon footprints	1

Q8. We want to know how much you know about climate change. Tell us if it worries you or if you want to know more



Q9. If you would like to make any other comments about climate change or the strategy

Comments
I was one of the students who attended the Climate Change Debate at Chorley Town Hall in November and I am so very happy that Chorley Council have listened to us and made a structured plan to take action :)
As an idea, we could hold a huge competition for the best cake, biscuit or any desert and the theme would have to be climate change. We could all donate some money to the council so they can carry out all the ideas that they would like to accomplish as well as having some fun along the way.
The climate change strategy is a good start but we need to make sure it's not too little too late.
My only hope is that this is put into place sooner rather than later because this generation is suffering because of the effects of older generations and we need to be the ones to stop climate change and make a better life for ourselves.
i think it is very important to have solutions for when climate change takes effect in the uk, and how to protect the wildlife when this happens
EVERYTHING need to recycleable!!!

Facebook Comments of Social Media Posts

Theme	Total
Animal agriculture	1
Overdevelopment	12

Ethical Banking	1
Cycling lanes and infrastructure	5
Tree planting	5
Stop concrete production	1
Solar panels on public sector buildings	3
Pedestrianize town centre and around schools	2
Too much jargon	1
Reduce private transport	5
Sustainable public transport – more accessible and cheaper	2
Concerns over clean air	2
Cynicism of Climate Science	24
Larger countries of concern not the UK	2
Stop use of herbicide and pesticide	1
Companies polluting river systems	1
Public EV charging	2
Focus on insulation for private and public buildings	1
Shift away from oil and gas for homes	1
Council owned wind farms and solar meadows	1
Protect green spaces and existing trees	5
Flooding concerns	5
Community owned vegetable	1
Improved recycling schemes	2
Financial concerns	7
Other issues more concerning	4
Focus on energy reductions	1
2030 is too ambitious	1
No clean air zones like GM	6
Too many flights across Chorley	2
Public renewable energy information	1
Idle free zones outside schools and in carparks	3
Focus on reusing rather than recycling	1
Street cleanliness is an issue – rubbish and weeds	1
No additional taxation for work	4
Cant afford to help – food, solar panels, insulation	3