

## **Appendix 1: Climate Change Strategy Consultation Feedback Report**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The Climate Change Strategy was open for consultation from the 3 June 2021 to the 12 August 2021.

The One Community Bury platform was used during the consultation period and this generated:

- 1.5k total visits to the consultation home page
- 1.1k made aware of the consultation (clicked onto the consultation)
- 719 informed about the consultation (interacted with a document or link on the page)
- 426 total completions of the questionnaire, including:
  - 264 completions of the detailed questionnaire
  - 162 completions of the shortened questionnaire (including the 9x paper responses)

As well as these digital responses, we also received specific group responses from Age UK, Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society and Climate Action Bury. These have been incorporated throughout this document and key thoughts and ideas have been highlighted.

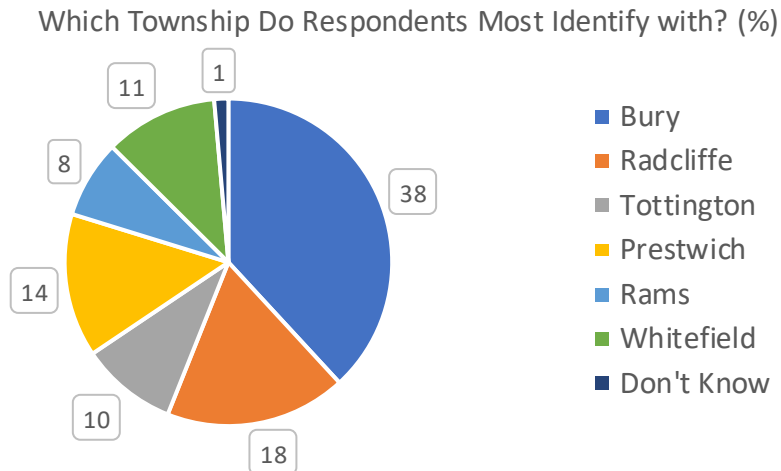
A total of 9 x paper responses were received via post or in-person engagement and these were uploaded to the digital platform and are therefore captured within the data below.

A public webinar was held and promoted online, this gave us a chance to present the Strategy and Action Plan and answer questions around a range of topics. The recording of this webinar was then made available via the Council website.

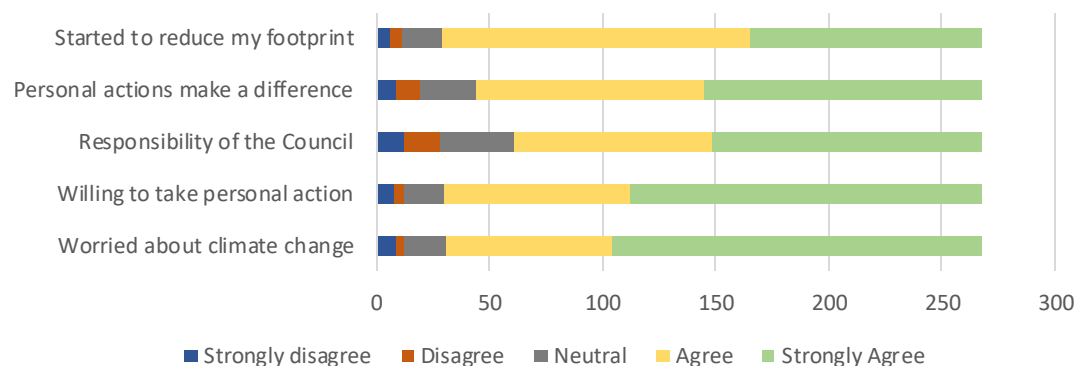
Three focus groups were held with Climate Action Bury, Prestwich Environmental Forum and Keep Bury Clean and the comments from these sessions have been amalgamated and are included below.

## 2.0 Preliminary Questions

The online questionnaires demonstrated a reasonable geographic spread of respondents:

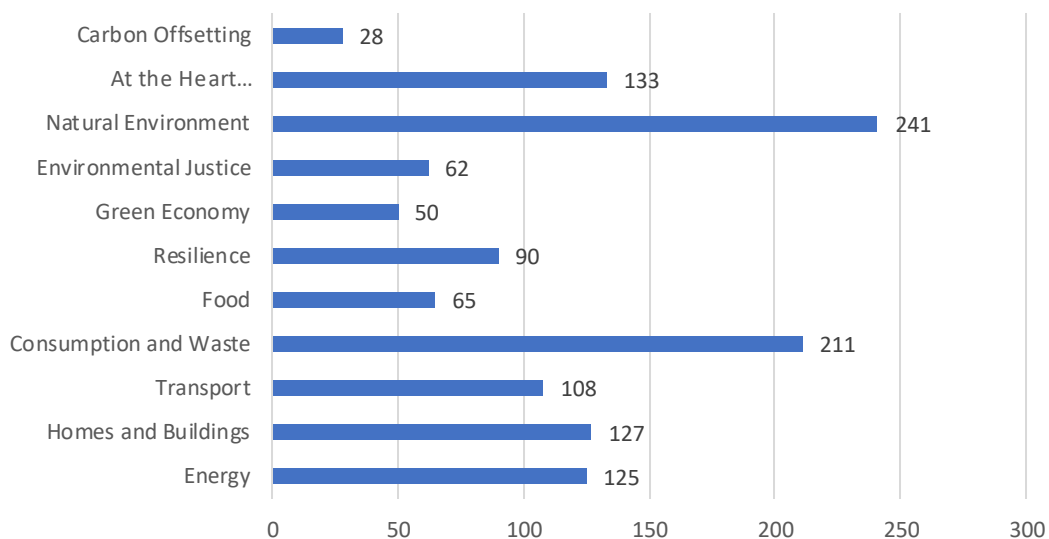


In terms of concern around climate change, the vast majority agreed that climate change was an issue and should be tackled, however there is likely to be a bias present in the data given that people engaged with and concerned about climate change in some ways are more likely to respond to a consultation on climate action.



### 3.0 Priority Action Areas

As shown below “Natural Environment” (241) was most often selected as one of the most important areas followed by “Consumption and Waste” (211) and “At the Heart...” which represents “Climate Change at the Heart of the Council” (133). This data includes both detailed and shortened questionnaire.



Within the detailed questionnaire, all actions from the Climate Action Plan were listed and respondents were asked to select three actions for that Area that they considered most important. Below shows which they considered to be most important:

Energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase renewable energy production relating to our land, buildings and water assets (68.2%)</li> <li>2. Introduce policies around new developments, carbon neutrality and renewable heating systems (42.4%)</li> <li>3. Increase the use of heat pumps and other sustainable renewable heating options in existing buildings (35.3%)</li> </ol>
Homes and Buildings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote grant funding opportunities to retrofit domestic households (30.5%)</li> <li>2. Incentivise carbon-neutral developments and retrofits (28%)</li> <li>3. Develop pilot projects around deep retrofitting and renewable heating systems (26.8%)</li> </ol>
Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and improve walking and cycling infrastructure (54.1%)</li> <li>2. Improve the connections between different modes of sustainable travel (31.8%)</li> <li>3. Develop and promote active travel and the 15-minute neighbourhood concept (28.2%)</li> </ol>

Consumption and Waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase recycling rates with a wider range of materials collected for recycling (58.1%)</li> <li>2. Increase awareness of zero-waste choices available to consumers (32.4%)</li> <li>3. Work within the Council and with our communities to avoid single use plastic (32.4%)</li> </ol>
Food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the buying and selling of food which has minimal packaging (56%)</li> <li>2. Promote a plant rich diet and reduce overall meat consumption particularly (50%)</li> <li>3. Work with communities and businesses to reduce waste food (42%)</li> </ol>
Resilience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educate and prepare our residents, our businesses and public sector partners to encourage change in behaviours, operations and services (43.2%)</li> <li>2. Identify the most vulnerable people in the areas most at risk of flooding and high heat levels and target adaptation (37.8%)</li> <li>3. Conduct an assessment around the impacts of extreme weather in the borough (35.1%)</li> </ol>
Green Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with our local schools and colleges to ensure that we work together to fill the skills gaps (43.2%)</li> <li>2. Promote businesses that address the climate emergency to create and expand "green collar" jobs (43.2%)</li> <li>3. Stimulate demand for renewable energy and other green solutions within the business sector (40.5%)</li> </ol>
Environmental Justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Target energy efficiency schemes at reducing fuel bills in the homes of the fuel poor and other vulnerable households (54.8%)</li> <li>2. Work with the NHS to address health inequalities and work towards reducing the potential impacts of climate change on those already suffering (51.6%)</li> <li>3. Utilise our township and neighbourhood structures to help identify fuel poverty issues and to design effective solutions for local environmental issues (45.2%)</li> </ol>
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect existing public open space, sport and recreational facilities and enhance natural capital (52.6%)</li> <li>2. Manage council owned land and road verges to increase biodiversity and drawdown carbon pollution, including through reduced pesticide use and increased planting of wildflowers (39.8%)</li> <li>3. At least double tree cover on council owned land and protect existing trees (37.6%)</li> </ol>
Climate Change at the Heart of the Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy projects (48.5%)</li> <li>2. Set measurable indicators to monitor progress towards our 2038 carbon neutrality target (37.6%)</li> <li>3. Align all our council plans policies and guidance with our carbon targets (36.6%)</li> </ol>

Carbon Offsetting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep up to date with carbon offsetting opportunities and consider the practicality and reliability of using these means to meet our target (60%)</li> <li>2. Where necessary, acknowledge and incorporate carbon offsetting in a timely manner (40%)</li> </ol>
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#### 4.0 Breakdown by Township

Using the data available we were able to analyse which of the 11 Priority Action Areas were most important to each Township. As the table below shows Consumption & Waste, Natural Environment and Putting Climate Change at the heart of the Council were consistently shown to be the most important to our residents:

	<b>Bury</b>	<b>Ramsbottom</b>	<b>Prestwich</b>	<b>Radcliffe</b>	<b>Tottington</b>	<b>Whitefield</b>
1	Consumption & Waste	Natural Environment	Natural Environment	Natural Environment	Natural Environment	Consumption & Waste
2	Natural Environment	Consumption & Waste	Putting Climate Change at the Heart of Council Action	Consumption & Waste	Consumption & Waste	Energy Supply
3	Homes, Workplaces and Public Buildings	Putting Climate Change at the Heart of Council Action	Homes, Workplaces and Public Buildings	Putting Climate Change at the Heart of Council Action	Putting Climate Change at the Heart of Council Action	Natural Environment

The six tables below also show the top three actions from the original Climate Action Plan broken down into Township:

<b>Bury</b>	
1	Increase recycling rates with a wider range of materials collected for recycling
2	Protect existing public open space, sport and recreational facilities and enhance natural capital
3	Increase renewable energy production relating to our land, buildings and water assets

<b>Ramsbottom</b>	
1	Increase recycling rates with a wider range of materials collected for recycling
2	Increase awareness of zero-waste choices available to consumers
3	Divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy projects

<b>Prestwich</b>	
1	Develop new quality green spaces in areas where they don't exist particularly in neighbourhoods where people are vulnerable
2	Protect existing public open space, sport and recreational facilities and enhance natural capital
3	Set measurable indicators to monitor progress towards our 2038 carbon neutrality target

<b>Radcliffe</b>	
1	Protect existing public open space, sport and recreational facilities and enhance natural capital
2	Produce a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to show how we will protect, enhance and develop our existing natural environment and greenspace
3	Increase recycling rates with a wider range of materials collected for recycling

<b>Tottington</b>	
1	Protect existing public open space, sport and recreational facilities and enhance natural capital
2	Increase recycling rates with a wider range of materials collected for recycling
3	Produce a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to show how we will protect, enhance and develop our existing natural environment and greenspace

<b>Whitefield</b>	
1	Work within the Council and with our communities to avoid single use plastic

2	Increase the use of heat pumps and other sustainable renewable heating options in existing buildings
3	Develop and improve walking and cycling infrastructure

## 5.0 Specific Comments

A total of 562 unique comments were produced relating to the 11 Priority Action Areas. Below shows the most common comment/theme from each of the 11 Areas:

Priority Action Area	Comment/Theme
Energy	Provide grants to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• homeowners so people can improve the efficiency of their home</li> <li>• commercial landlords allowing them to upgrade building efficiency</li> <li>• a wider range of people as households with low income still cannot afford upgrades</li> <li>• people and make the process easier including details of reliable service providers</li> <li>• make renewable energy more viable</li> </ul>
Homes and Buildings	Provide clearer information on... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• energy efficiency</li> <li>• government schemes</li> <li>• grants available</li> <li>• council initiatives</li> <li>• difference between carbon-neutral and zero-carbon</li> </ul>
Transport	Cycle infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance infrastructure</li> <li>• Better segregated lanes</li> <li>• Improve local roads</li> <li>• Creation of bike hubs for shorter journey</li> <li>• Improve pedestrian crossings</li> <li>• More secure cycling</li> </ul>
Consumption and Waste	Recycle a wider range of plastics
Food	Provide more spaces to grow urban food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of allotments</li> </ul>
Resilience	Flood risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce flood risk to property owners</li> <li>• Include surface water run off standards at planning stages to ensure new developments do not increase run off risk and factor in climate change</li> <li>• Early flood warning system</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with farmers more to reduce the risk of severe flooding associated with the Radcliffe regenerations in the immediate vicinity of the canal route</li> </ul>
Green Economy	<p>More engagement with the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve residents to develop solutions and ideas</li> <li>• Promote awareness</li> <li>• Provide info and details on businesses that are zero-waste/eco/green</li> </ul>
Environmental Justice	<p>Fuel poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help and identify areas suffering</li> <li>• Frontline staff don't understand the health repercussions</li> <li>• Provide more support</li> <li>• Increase awareness</li> <li>• Review criteria of fuel poverty as households with an income still suffer</li> </ul>
Natural Environment	<p>Building on greenbelt land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop future developments</li> <li>• Prevent new housing developments</li> <li>• Cancel Places for Everyone</li> <li>• Prioritise brownfield over greenbelt</li> </ul>
At the Heart...	<p>Comms and public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to residents more</li> <li>• Use stronger, more assertive language</li> <li>• Simpler comms</li> <li>• People need to be constantly encouraged to take action</li> <li>• Place the narrative on peoples' future generations to have a big impact</li> <li>• More evidence of action</li> <li>• Explaining decision-making</li> <li>• How local residents can make a difference</li> <li>• Help people understand the issues more</li> <li>• Open up more projects for the public to co-produce with the Council</li> </ul>
Carbon Offsetting	<i>no key comment or theme emerged</i>

## 6.0 Community Action Ideas

The consultation questionnaire asked respondents to provide ideas of projects that they thought would be good use of the Community Climate Action Fund. Below includes the top 15 suggestions:

1. More tree planting
2. More green space protection
3. Improving recycling services



4. Better cycling infrastructure/parking
5. Local food growing projects
6. More work around renewable energy
7. Litter-picking/clean ups
8. Community events to improve education around climate change
9. Work with schools and educate around energy efficiency
10. Design more sustainable homes
11. Improve tram service/public transport
12. Develop green spaces to grow fresh fruit and vegetables
13. Creative and educational projects
14. Improved electric vehicle charging infrastructure
15. Better infrastructure around town centres

## **7.0 Focus Group Summary**

Participants felt that politicians were not doing enough and were failing to understand the scope of the issue. Conversation around the issues has increased recently but there is still nowhere near the level of discourse required to fully tackle the issue. However, COVID has demonstrated to the public that it is possible to make quick wide-reaching changes that can have an impact.

We need widescale changes that challenge our throw away culture and reduce the built-in redundancies, however, that must come from National Government. Housing and improvements to the planning system were also raised as a national issue that needs changing. Fossil fuel companies should also be held to account and not allowed a free ride as they have over these past few decades. Participants often stated that there needs to be a change at a systems level and leadership must take charge on the matter.

The British public are tired of climate change but more needs to be done to educate people to the issues to provoke action. Many people are aware and do want to do something, but they don't have the tools to produce action. Given that the impact on the Northern Hemisphere/Western World has not been catastrophic yet it is still difficult to engage with people. The participants spoke about how they, themselves, have acted as conduits and spread information demonstrating the possibility of using local champions who can produce action and awareness at a local level.

David Attenborough demonstrated the possible change with his work around plastics and similar documents should be replicated to help people understand. Improvements in communications need to convey the importance of individual change and highlight how smaller changes can be easily adopted. These changes need to be positive, and people need to be nudged towards the end goal; changes also need to be grounded in data that people can understand.

Bury Council has demonstrated that it can take difficult decisions for the greater good and therefore it should be able to make further decisions around climate action. There needs to be a positive comms plan to counteract these negative messages and highlight why Bury Council are doing what they're doing. There also needs to be emphasis placed on people thinking global but acting local.

People need to be enabled to change, overall, though, it is difficult to prioritise what should be done as everything is important. Improvements such as public transport and the cycling infrastructure are ways of getting people involved and onboard. And some things need to be reassessed given the negative publicity they produce such as buildings on greenbelt. While Bury does have some good green spaces they fail to connect up and are intersected by busy roads.

Respondents state that they want to see action asap from the Council and they do think the Council can do good, but it needs to demonstrate that rather than simply writing about it. When delivering these messages, it is suggested that it may be best to come through small networks and local community groups rather than the Council as they have more local sway and trust, especially at the start when encouraging people to take action.

The Council's housing stock is a large source of energy loss given their poor construction. These need to be retrofitted and demonstrate the benefits and while this would be best at national level, should be done locally if there is a lack of stewardship from higher up.

While Bury may not be able to influence larger stores, the Council should engage with smaller local stores/cooperatives/independent stores and highlight the good work they are doing and encourage them to go further. There are several different environmental green businesses in Bury and more needs to be done for them. Focussing on what can be done rather than what cannot be done will be an important step for the Council.

Waste, food waste and single-use plastic were all common topics with people calling for more opportunities to recycle and more centralised local places where items can be swapped and reused. Suggestions included setting up re-use shops in Bury, lending libraries for items, community swap shops for clothes and textiles, liaising with Tetracycle and running a recycling scheme with them, and restricting the dumping of e-waste and small appliances. Local recycle centres would also reduce the need for people to travel in order to recycle their waste.

Common theme was that schools and youth should be engaged with more and positive actions should be embedded into their processes and how they are operated.

The use of space in the borough needs to be reassessed including blue and green infrastructure (including greenbelt but also accessibility across the different neighbourhoods), how roads are prioritised, cycling infrastructure, parking and the Council needs to fully acknowledge where there are issues to tackle them.

There were several comments around accessibility and working with a wide range of society to include everyone and not leave anyone behind. The elderly and disabled want to be involved just as much as everyone else but places and spaces are often inaccessible hindering this. Simply getting around Bury can be difficult and tiresome given that cars are often given priority over pedestrians/wheelchairs

Participants were asked about their thoughts around the governance of the Strategy and Action Plan and questions were raised around how we would ensure targets don't slip? Can things change once the document is in place? Could targets be set so they cannot be rolled back? An Environmental Scrutiny Committee was highlighted as a potential option where the Council is answerable to groups, however the Council needs to place action at the heart of every decision.

It was highlighted that there needs to be clear targets and timelines outlined which each area can work towards and some Strategies such as the Physical Activity Strategy do include clear targets. Without strong targets to work towards the Strategy appears performative and cosmetic, without serious commitments there is a lack of buy-in from the public. The 2038 target was often stated to be too far and uninspiring.

When asked who they thought could inspire action, the Council was said to be pushing people in the right direction but did not inspire people. The Council has influence and can help change behaviours but the public look more to ethical celebrities or local communities to make decisions and adopt new ideas.

The participants highlighted that there are a lot of community groups in Bury and there's a lot of energy to get involved and create a better future and better local area. Engaging with these groups will be critical moving forward. When working with these groups the Council needs to be able to provide a space where people can talk openly and not be defensive around thorny issues. There is a shared objective, and the Council needs to learn to work with the local community to reach it.

## **8.0 Revision to the Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan Following the Consultation**

The following changes have been made to the Climate Strategy and Action Plan to incorporate feedback from the consultation.

Changes to the Climate Strategy:

1. The formatting and layout have been changed to make more accessible
2. "Putting Climate Change at the Heart of the Council" and "Carbon Offsetting" have been incorporated into other Priority Action Areas
  - a. "Climate change at the Heart of the Council" was stated as one of the most important so has been highlighted throughout each section more prominently
  - b. "Carbon offsetting" was the least popular and least understood and was incorporated elsewhere given that it's not a priority in the short-term
3. Changes to wording to make it more readable and easier to understand
4. Greater emphases in Chapter 5 "Priority Action Areas" on what Bury Council is doing
5. Stronger wording in Chapter 6 "Taking the Lead" which emphasises that we are taking the lead but require community engagement and buy-in
6. Data in Chapter 6 has been tabulated and graphed to make it more engaging

Changes made to the Action Plan:

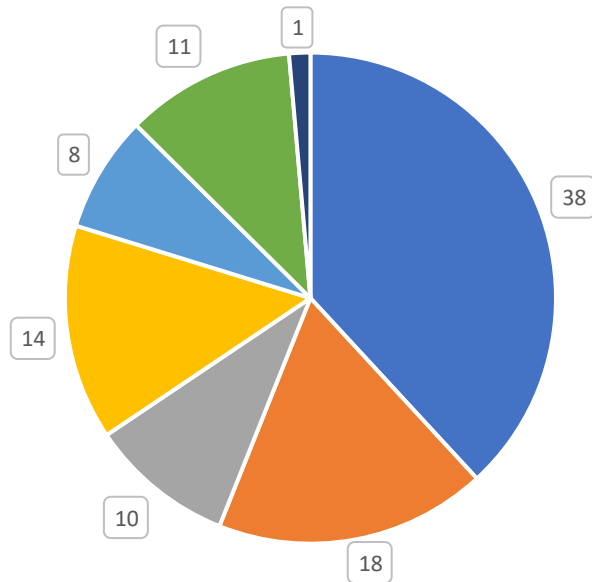
1. Greater emphasis on community engagement and clearer explanation of the Climate Action Forums, Community Climate Champions and Community Climate Fund
2. Clearer split of what the Council can achieve and what we need National Government and the GMCA to do
3. Included what individuals can do and provides links to information
4. Simplification of progress categories
5. "Putting Climate change at the Heart of the Council" and "Carbon Offsetting" have been incorporated into other Priority Action Areas most fitting those actions
6. Additional actions have been incorporated into the Action Plan
  - Developing the Go Neutral project to better understand our options around renewable energy generation
  - Investigating the feasibility of renewable energy systems (hydro, solar, wind) generation within Bury
  - Working with local communities to provide more information on options available relating to renewable heat and energy systems
  - Consider using a nationally recognised carbon-neutral standard such as the Passivhaus standard as a way of achieving carbon-neutral housing
  - Working with our business community to develop a robust network of service providers that can deliver energy-efficiency upgrades

- Providing more information to residents regarding energy efficiency, grants and schemes as they become available and planned Council initiatives
- Improving our blue infrastructure and encouraging residents to use them
- Working with schools to increase active travel and reduce travel-associated carbon emissions
- Working with our NHS and health partners to better communicate the health-related issues of climate change
- Encourage businesses to reduce business travel. e.g. by the use of video conferencing
- Work with businesses to discourage employee use of private vehicles
- Communicating with the public more about recycling and the options around waste reduction
- Promoting local businesses that are demonstrating good environmental practices
- Working with local schools to reduce waste
- Working with schools to increase awareness of food sources and sustainability
- Liaising with established food bank/pantry networks to ensure food waste is used appropriately
- Working with our local agricultural sector to help reduce impacts upon the planet
- Protect existing trees, hedgerows and peatlands throughout the borough
- Working with the Places for Everyone Strategy so that our new developments encourage progress towards carbon-neutrality
- Engaging with the public more around local decisions relating to green spaces
- Investigating the potential of rewilding and how best to incorporate
- Working with schools to better use green spaces to promote biodiversity
- Investigating how best to promote and improve our blue infrastructure
- Ensuring that all residents have access to well-maintained green spaces
- Providing residents with a place to voice their concerns and help them improve their local community
- Better educating our residents and local communities around the risks posed from flooding, overheating and other climate-related issues
- Working with rural land owners in Bury to reduce flood risk further down stream
- Working with local action groups to deliver community action and resilience

## 9.0 Questionnaire Response Demographics

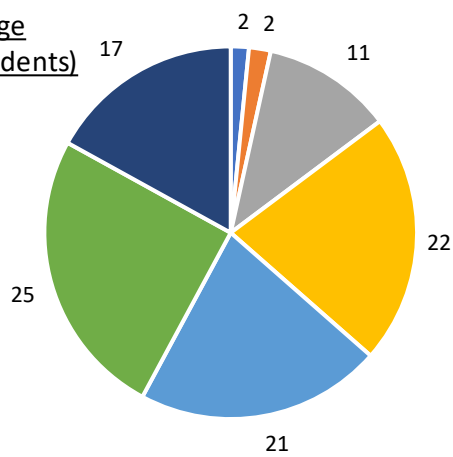
Township  
(% of respondents)

- Bury
- Radcliffe
- Tottington
- Prestwich
- Rams
- Whitefield
- Don't Know



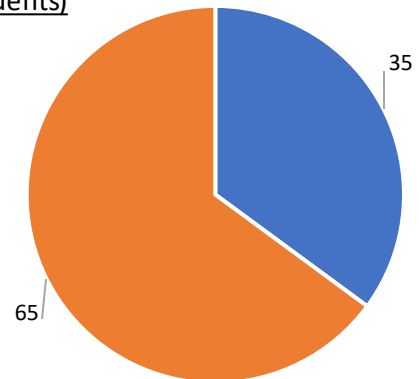
Age Range  
(% of respondents)

- <17
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- >65

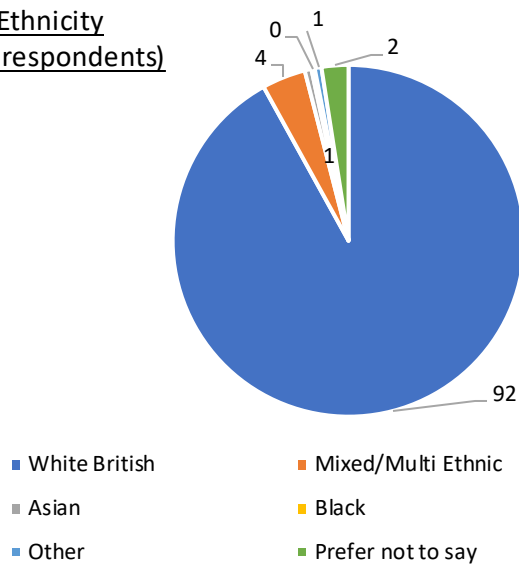


Gender  
(% of respondents)

- Male
- Female



Ethnicity  
(% of respondents)



Religion  
(% of respondents)

