

The Carbon Management Strategy & Action Plan consultation results 2022

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The Carbon Management Strategy consultation results 2022

Background and Methodology

In November 2019, Gedling Borough Council declared a climate emergency and made a pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. Our strategy details just how this will be done. The plan has six key areas where we believe we can do something to reduce emissions levels. Those key areas are in home building, transport, energy generation, behavioural change, waste reduction and recycling and improving infrastructure to offset carbon.

Gedling Borough Council have announced details of our ambitious plan to achieve carbon neutral emissions by 2030. Our Carbon Management Strategy has a number of actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the borough and help us tackle climate change.

The Council launched its Carbon Management Strategy consultation by an online survey from the 5th November to 4th January 2022, to adopt the final strategy and action plan.

Council officers publicised the consultation which included:

- An article in Contacts magazine delivered to every household in the borough
- Notification to Gedling Borough youth and seniors councils
- Emails to 6,000 subscribers of the health and wellbeing newsletter, and 4,000 subscribers to the community newsletter
- Notification to local schools and key known relevant stakeholder and communities groups including Gedling and Burton Joyce Climate Change Groups and Kids Against Plastic.

There were 38 responses to this consultation.

Main findings:

- 71% of respondents agree the council's Carbon Management Strategy will have a positive impact on the lives of people in Gedling. 16% neither agree or disagree that the strategy will have a positive impact, and 13% disagree the strategy will have a positive impact on the council.
- Positive feedback relates to the Strategy and Action Plan as the first important step addressing climate change in the Borough.

- Main areas for improvement relates to the action plan to have costs, interim targets and dates for each of the actions up to 2030.
- The other concern is that it is far reaching and ambitious and the Council do not have the staff or Councillors capable of delivering the strategy. The Climate Change Officer is responsible for everything where the ultimate responsibility lies with all Council Officers, it should be embedded throughout the Council.

Results analysis

In this report due to the amount of information, the responses to this consultation were categorised within the **S** (Strengths), **W** (Weakness), **O** (Opportunities) and **T** (Threats) matrix. By using the residents, organisation and community group's views within this matrix, the council can establish the following:

- Strengths and Weaknesses analysis that allow a clear distinction between the views on what aspects of the strategy and action plan are considered to be positive and what aspects would need further improvements.
- Opportunities and Threats analysis that allow the council to consider suggestions on how to continue and shape work in this area and also raises awareness of the risk associated with this work, which can be identified in advance and therefore avoided.

1. Strengths

60% of respondents agreed that the council's proposed strategy and action plan would have a positive impact on the lives of people living in Gedling Borough.

It was mentioned that the strategy is the first important step in addressing climate change in the Borough.

The consultation gave many suggestions on the strategy and actions that could potentially be included in the action plan.

2. Weaknesses

Strategy

- More tangible, specific targets, measurable actions, with realistic timescales
- Establish baseline data on existing position so we can monitor future emissions & progress
- Do not have the staff or Councillor's to deliver it
- Lacking sense of urgency & firm practical policies
- Not designed to make a real difference for the future of the residents of Gedling
- Number of actions is excessive & bureaucratic
- Language use should be stronger using words such as 'should', 'require' and 'need' rather than 'encourage', 'support' and 'promote'.

3. Opportunities

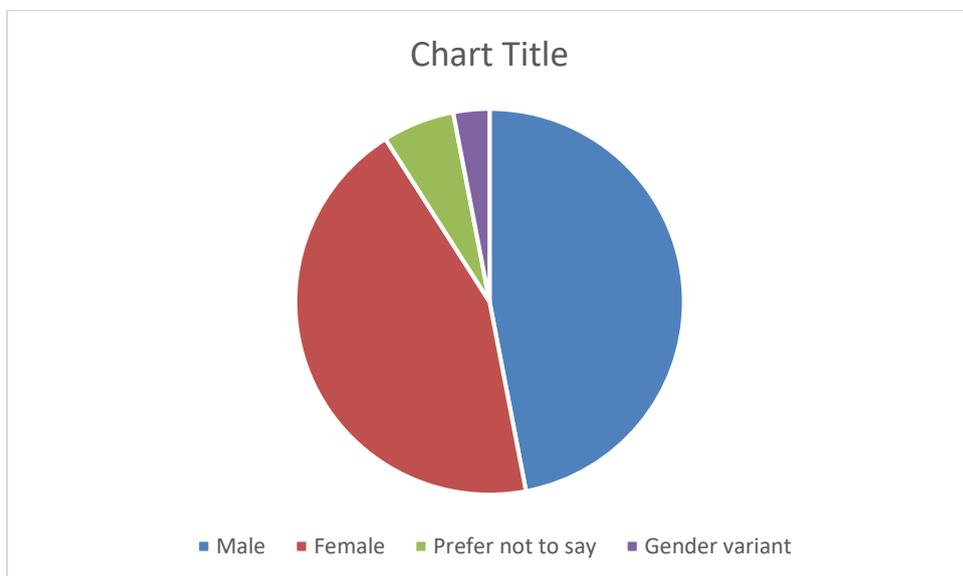
- Strengthen the planning regulations to insist on sustainable builds
- Services to own and drive this agenda and explain how that will happen
- Develop and trial low traffic zones
- Opportunity to make real change
- Community engagement with events
- Incorporate Passivhaus standards for new builds
- Increase visibility that GBC has announced a climate emergency
- Councillors and Council Officers to fully understand the issues of climate change

4. Threats

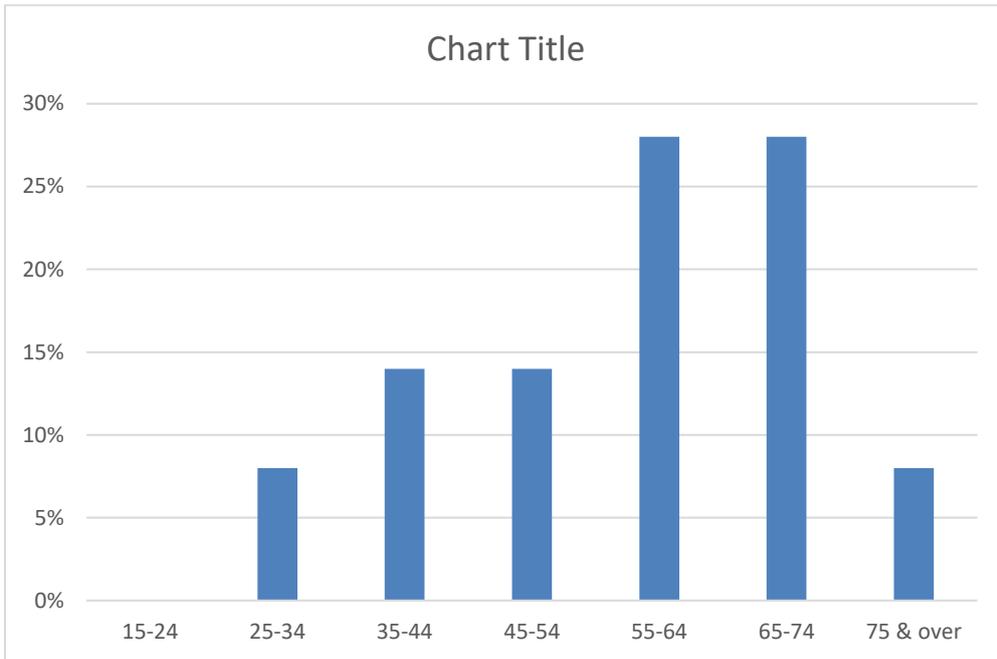
- Tokenism and not a strategy designed to make real sustainable difference
- It does not go far enough, quickly enough
- Far – reaching and ambitious
- Relies on people's goodwill and buy-in. So require a carrot and stick to make this happen with incentives and penalties to encourage change.
- Council pension scheme must divert from fossil fuels, practice what we preach
- Actions not just words are the key
- Look at yourselves - look at the senior leadership team, managers, directors etc.

Profile of the respondents

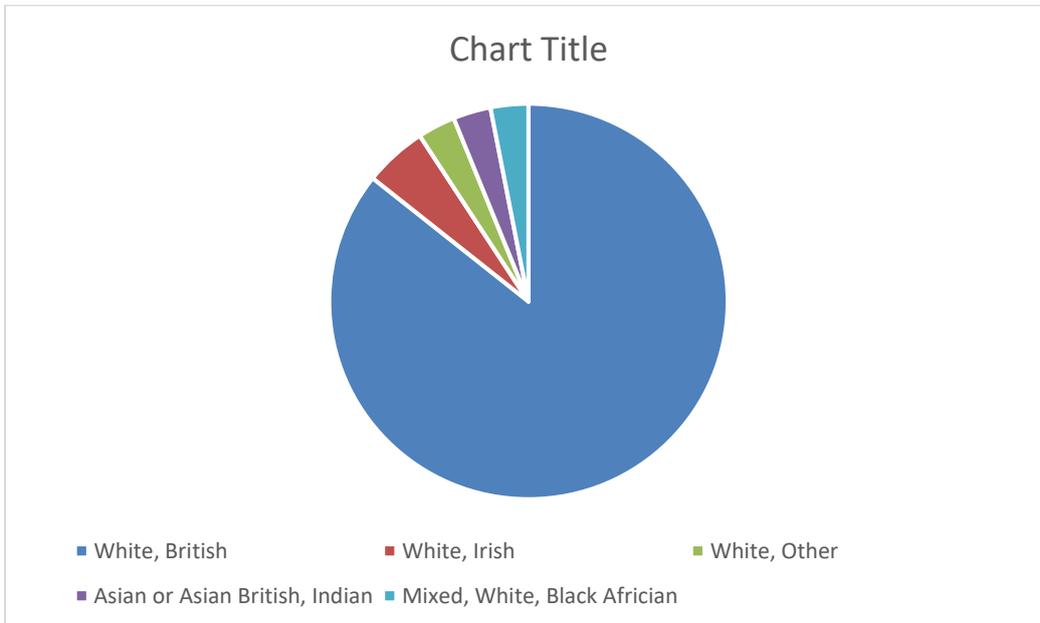
Gender identity



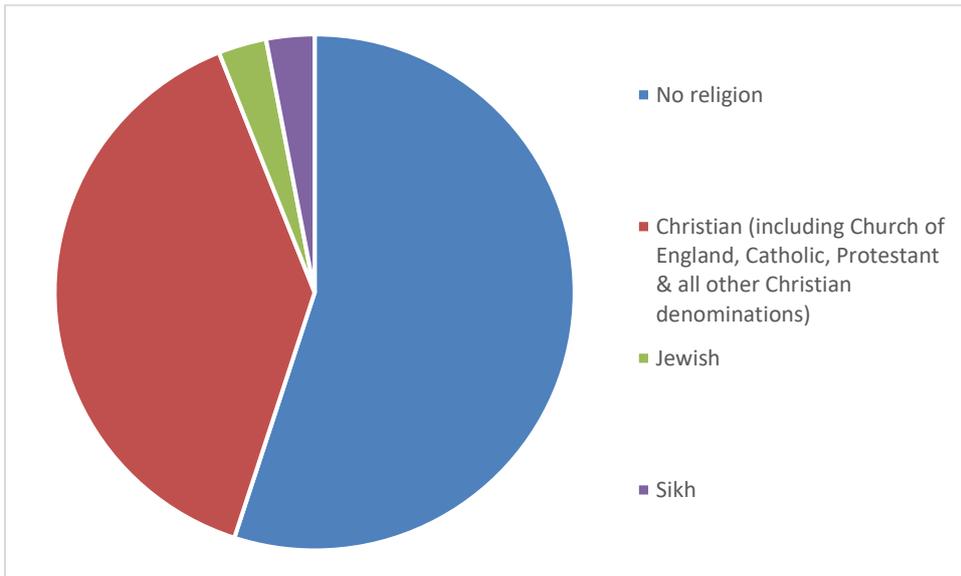
Age



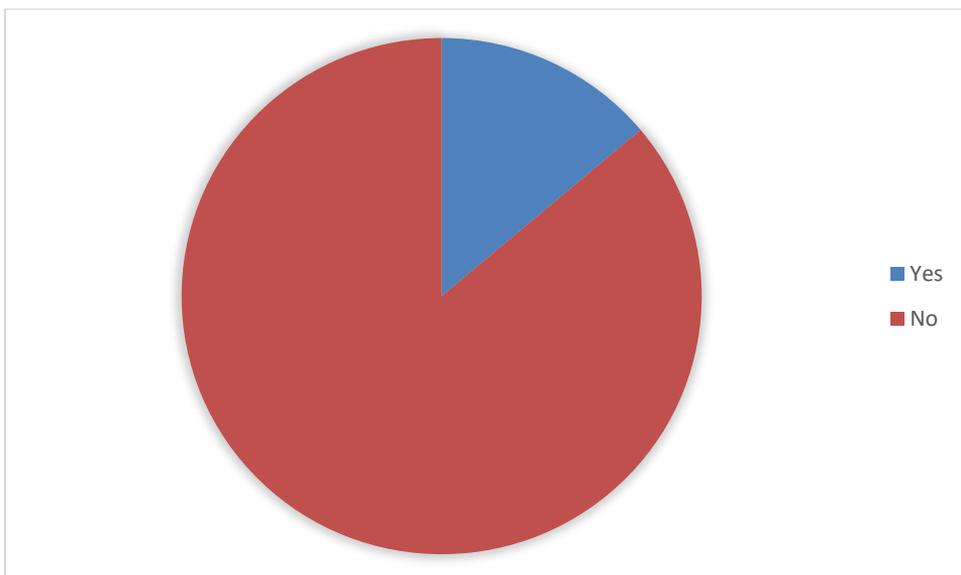
Ethnicity



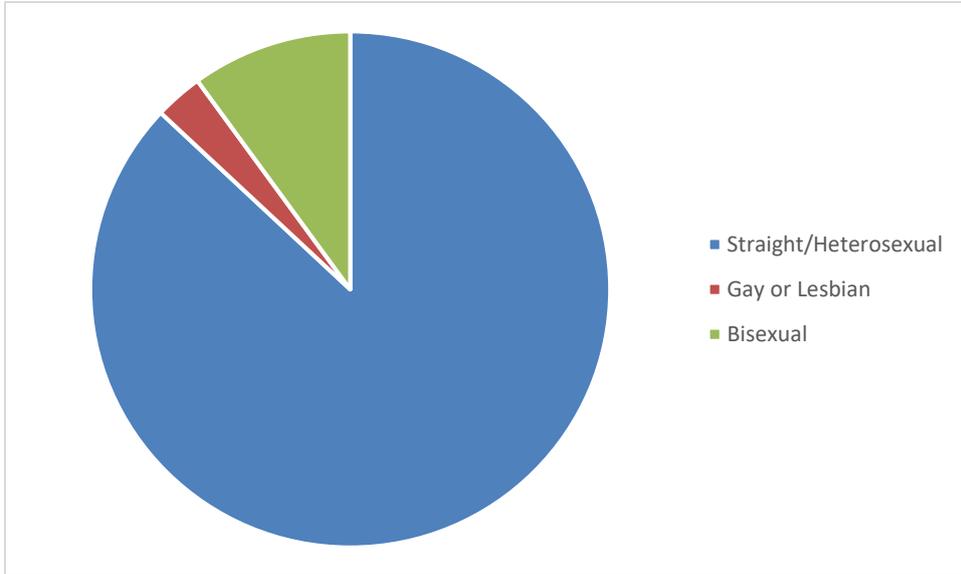
Religion



Respondents who have and don't have a disability



Sexual orientation



Conclusion.

Gedling Borough Council is grateful to the residents, partners, and communities for getting involved in the consultation to help shape the Carbon Strategy and Action Plan to get us on the path to net zero by 2030. This is a strategic document that sets out the Council's ambition. As it is delivered on an annual basis, actions, sub actions and outcomes will be prepared in detail with stretched targets set for delivery.

Net zero presents huge opportunities as well as threats across the Borough but we will work collaboratively with others to mitigate the threats. We will work with residents, communities and local partners to understand how they can benefit from the opportunities generated by the Carbon Strategy to ensure that communities across the borough can adapt to the impacts of climate change so that together we can build a sustainable future.