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**To: Scrutiny Coordination Committee**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

**Subject: One Coventry Climate Change Strategy – Consultation and Engagement Feedback**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Scrutiny Coordination Committee about the engagement process and consultation feedback to the Council's draft Climate Change Strategy, and next steps with regards to finalising the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The paper is intended to provide an opportunity for Committee members to make any recommendations or comments as part of the development process.

## **2 Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Coordination Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the consultation feedback for the draft Climate Change Strategy;
2. Support the recommended process for further developing the Climate Change Strategy;
3. Make any comments and recommendations as part of the development of the Strategy.

## **Background and Information**

### **3 Purpose of the Climate Change Strategy**

- 3.1 Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is one of the key priorities within the One Coventry Plan, alongside improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities and improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions. Taking positive action on climate change will not only create environmental benefits for the city, it can help address inequalities across our communities by protecting the most vulnerable with targeted measures such as domestic retrofit and also create significant economic opportunities through job creation and attracting investment, such as the Gigafactory. Therefore, it is important to get the Climate Change Strategy right to underpin the huge opportunities it can generate for the whole city and position Coventry as a leader of the green industrial revolution.

- 3.2 Coventry was one of the first cities in the UK to launch a Climate Change Strategy back in 2012 and has made considerable progress on reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 48% since 2000. However, whilst the Council and city have made some positive steps in tackling climate change, much of the reduction in emissions is down to changes on a national level which includes changes to our energy infrastructure and industry moving away from manufacturing to more service-led. There is still a long and challenging journey ahead to reach net zero.
- 3.3 The draft Climate Change Strategy was launched in February 2023, setting out the Council’s ambitious vision and foundations for creating a sustainable net zero city of the future. The draft Strategy was launched at a high-profile event at the Transport Museum, which was attended by 136 people.
- 3.4 The draft Climate Change Strategy has been developed based on the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives pathways:

### The FIVE development pathways to sustainability



Low emission – new economic opportunities



Nature-based – enhance the biodiversity and urban ecosystems



Circular economy – new models of production and consumption

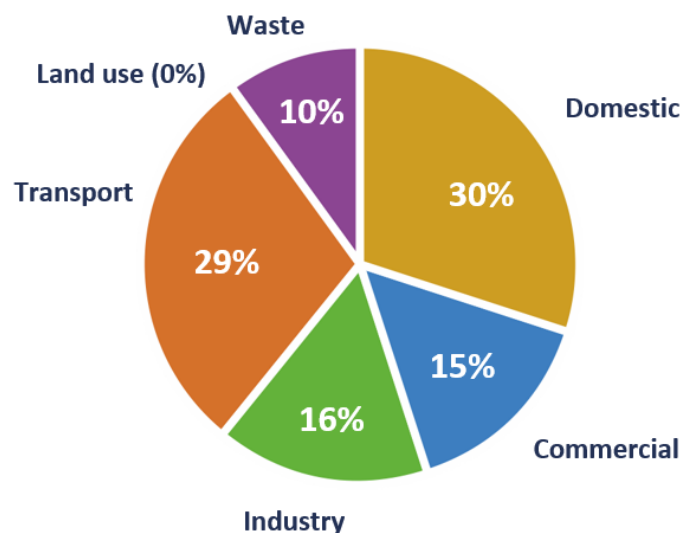


Resilient – anticipate, prevent, absorb and recover from shocks



Equitable and people centred – inclusive urban communities and addressing poverty

- 3.5 An independent Climate Change Advisory Board has been established in the city, which is represented by major public and private sector organisations, businesses and the third sector. There is an overarching Board and five pathway groups chaired by subject matter experts, based on the development pathways to sustainability as per 3.4. Margot James, CEO of Warwick Manufacturing Group chairs the Board, for which Cllr O’Boyle is Vice Chair. Margot presented the Strategy at the launch event in the context of the role of the Climate Change Board, which will be to make recommendations to shape the final version of the Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.6 Note that the Climate Change Board has recently supported a change in name of the Equitable and people centred-pathway to ‘Fair Green Future’ to simplify what this pathway stands for, and it will be therefore referred to as this throughout the report.
- 3.7 Alongside the draft Climate Change Strategy, the Council commissioned Professor Andy Gouldson, Leeds University and Government Advisor on climate economics to produce a ‘Net Zero Routemap’ for Coventry. Professor Gouldson presented his findings at the Climate Change Strategy launch event, outlining a detailed study of how Coventry could reach net zero.



**Figure 1: Coventry Carbon Footprint – Sectoral Breakdown (Direct emissions Scope 1 & 2), from Net Zero Routemap for Coventry by Professor Andy Gouldson**

- 3.8 Figure 1 shows a breakdown of the city’s carbon footprint by sector. It shows that the biggest emissions in the city are from homes and transport. The study looked at over 700 options of ways to get Coventry to net zero by 2050, based on current emissions and trends. The majority of the options recommended by the study are based on existing technologies, however to deliver these interventions would require significant investment (in the region of £654m investment annually for 15 years).
- 3.9 The bill for total energy consumption in Coventry was forecast to be £620million in 2022 and continues to rise steeply. Over 20% of the population are in fuel poverty, with the cost-of-living crisis pushing more households into fuel poverty. Investment in taking positive climate action, such as insulating homes and encouraging more active travel could save in the region of £185m in the city’s total energy costs, benefitting residents, businesses and organisations as well as creating over 1400 jobs.
- 3.10 The Net Zero Routemap makes a series of recommendations and priorities areas to focus investment and action. Whilst this is referenced at a high level in the draft Climate Change Strategy, it is not detailed as the Routemap was not published until after the draft Strategy was launched. It is critical that the final Strategy aligns with the Routemap and includes a Climate Action Plan with clear targets to demonstrate how the Strategy will deliver net zero in Coventry. This was reflected in some of the feedback received to the consultation.
- 3.11 The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will provide an opportunity to consolidate and promote all of the work that the Council is currently doing and planning via the Green Futures Board, alongside partnership work with stakeholders. The Council is taking some significant steps in terms of action to help tackle the causes and consequences, which includes:
- Establishment of an Independent Climate Change Advisory Board for Coventry;

- Appointment of a Strategic Energy Partner which could bring up to £2 billion investment in decarbonisation projects in the city over the next 15 years (more detail in 3.12);
- Review of the Local Plan to create a more robust policy framework to support sustainable development;
- Creation of a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy for the city;
- Pushing forward plans to create the UK's largest battery Gigafactory at Coventry Airport site;
- Development of proposals for a solar farm at Lentons Lane which will power up to 7,600 homes, which has been submitted for planning permission;
- Securing £30m for domestic retrofit funding over the last 18 months which will benefit over 2,500 homes across the city, alongside providing training and apprenticeship opportunities and creating jobs for local people;
- Considerable progress is being made to decarbonise the Council's estate, with a 21% reduction in Council building-related emissions between 21-22 and 22-23 as a result of external grant investment in measures including installation of Solar PV on 21 properties, a new air source heat pump installed at Central Library and insulation, pipework and lighting improvements undertaken at several other properties.
- Securing £50m investment to create the UK's first all-electric bus city, with the entire network to be electrified by 2025;
- Installing the biggest network of electric vehicle charging points anywhere in the country outside of London;
- Development of Coventry Very Light Rail, an alternative low carbon affordable mass transit system that has the potential to revolutionise public transport in cities such as Coventry;
- Development of segregated cycle lanes, including Coundon Road, Binley Road and around the University of Warwick, with further routes planned including London Road and Foleshill Road with a vision to create a citywide network;
- Coventry Connects Device Bank will help to reduce the digital divide in the city through supporting community organisations and charities to access digital devices to be distributed to communities. Many of the devices being used are recycled and refurbished laptops which support the circular economy. This is complemented by the provision of support for connectivity and digital skills.
- Commitment to plant 360,000 trees over the next 10 years as part of the city's Urban Forestry Strategy, with related work taking place to conduct an i-Tree study to support management of existing trees;
- Significant improvements to the River Sherbourne through partnering with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to deliver the Sherbourne Valley project which aims to create an urban living landscape;
- Continued investment in the city's parks, 5 which obtained the prestigious Green Flag Award earlier this year, a national scheme awarded to the best parks and green spaces in the country which requires high environmental standards to be achieved;

- Plans to create a network of community horticulture and food growing projects across the city;
- The Green Business Network Programme provided by the Council has supported over 400 SMEs since 2016, including administering £2.5m in ERDF grant to support businesses to deliver energy efficiency measures as well as providing energy saving advice, saving 14,000 tonnes of carbon emissions and creating 60 new jobs.

3.12 The above list is not exhaustive and demonstrates that already there is a lot of positive climate action already taking place, but this needs to be built upon to go much further to reach net zero. The Strategy and Action Plan will need to be measurable via a performance framework that aligns with the One Coventry Plan to ensure that outputs and outcomes are being delivered and investment prioritised accordingly.

3.13 Since the launch of the Strategy, the Council has been successful in appointing a Strategic Energy Partner for the city. This is an important step in the Council's journey to tackling climate change. By partnering with a private sector organisation the Council is able scale up resource, investment and take action at pace to tackle climate change in the city, as well creating jobs and supporting local businesses and communities. It is important the final version of the Climate Change Strategy reflects the role of the Strategic Energy Partner and there is mutual alignment with the Strategic Energy Partnership's Strategic Business Plan.

3.14 It is important to the Council that we understand the views of residents, businesses and organisations across the city regarding issues related to climate change and sustainability to help shape the Strategy. The Council has a role of leader and enabler when it comes to taking action on climate change and creating a more sustainable future for our city, but we can't do it alone and need to take communities with us on this journey.

## **4 Consultation Process**

4.1 The consultation ran from 15<sup>th</sup> February through to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The initial consultation period was planned to be 12 weeks but was extended to enable the team to engage with the public at major events in the city over the summer including Godiva, Motofest and Sportsfest to reach as wide an audience as possible.

4.2 The consultation sought to understand the views of the people of Coventry on the Strategy, pathways and key themes within them, to identify which issues are most important to people and find out if anything should be added or amended within the Strategy to influence the final version of the Strategy and accompanying Climate Change Action Plan.

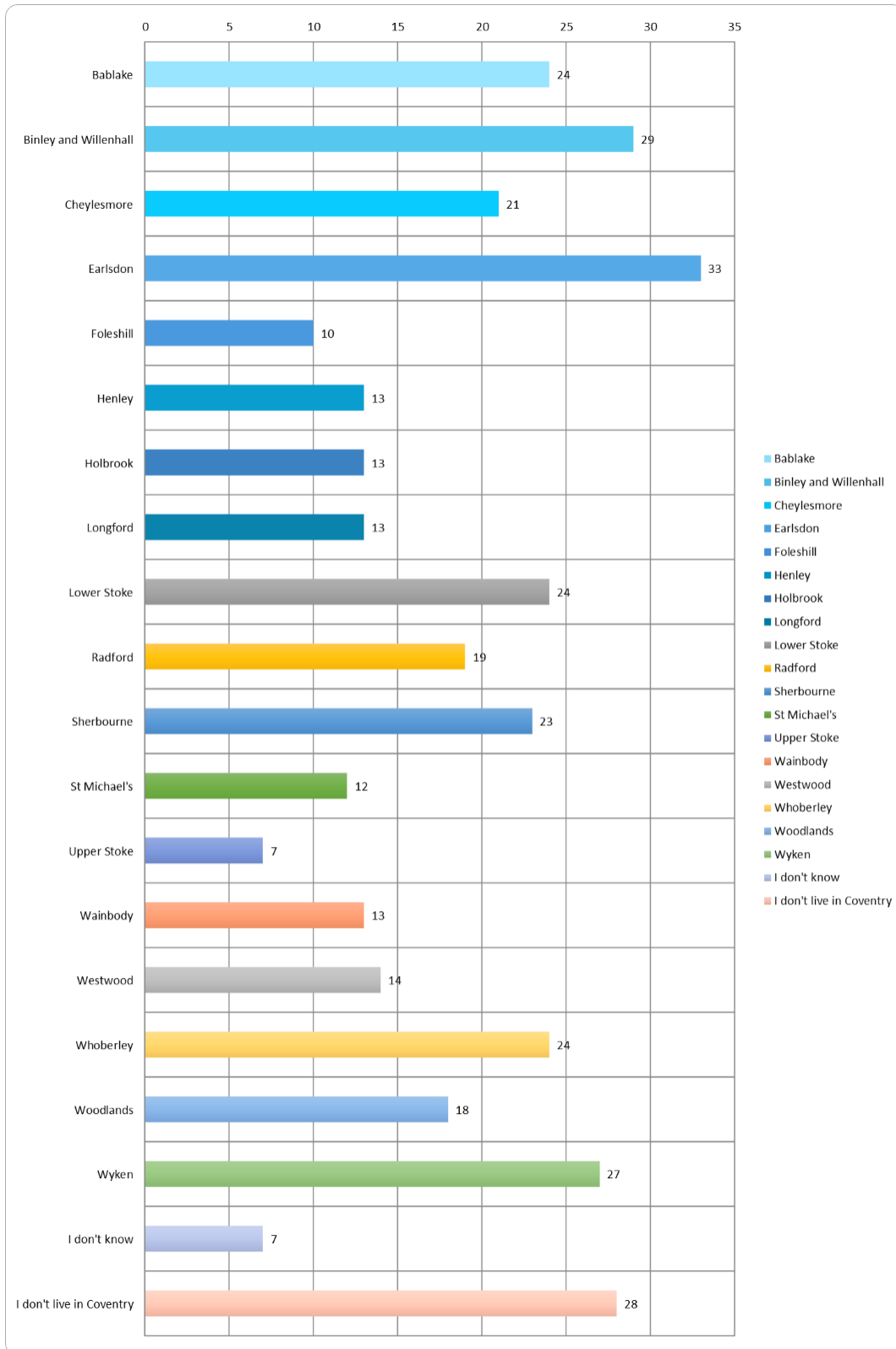
4.3 It was important to the Council to help make the consultation as accessible and wide reaching as possible across the city, therefore the engagement was conducted offering a range of different options for people to participate, with sessions held in person including drop ins and events, online or in meetings in their communities, alongside promotion on social media and in the press.

4.4 Data and feedback was captured via a survey on the Council's Lets Talk Platform, alongside more detailed surveys used during focused pathway group sessions, alongside email and letter correspondence. Comments were also captured from

public drop in sessions held at libraries and shopping centres, alongside events including Godiva and Motofest.

## **5 Profile of Respondents**

- 5.1 1421 people or organisations engaged in the consultation which took place face to face at various drop ins, events and focus groups, via online meetings, webinars and online surveys. Over 500 written responses were received, with over 1856 comments from individuals and representatives of organisations providing feedback on the Strategy. This is a relatively low response rate in a city of 345,000 but is quite typical response rate for a consultation on a strategy. However, given the importance of this issue and the fact that behaviour change is going to be one of the key actions required to help reach net zero, far more effective engagement is required going forwards to raise awareness and encourage positive action to be taken.
- 5.2 The majority of responses were received via the Council's Let's Talk online engagement platform (375). The profile of responses received to the online survey are as follows:
- 5.3 The majority of the respondents that took part in this survey are between 35-64 years (58.6%). This is considerably larger than the 2021 Census figure of 36% of the Coventry population aged between 35-64 years old. Only 4.5% of respondents were aged 24 and under, again this is considerably lower than the Census figure of 15% of the population aged between 16-24 years old.
- 5.4 71.5% of respondents that took part in the survey identify as 'White British', which is higher than Coventry's total 'White British' population of 66.6%. Responses from Asian groups which make up 16.3% of the city's total population only make up 4.3% of surveys received. This illustrates that the profile of respondents doesn't fully reflect the diversity of the city.
- 5.5 As can be seen from Figure 2, (overleaf) a good coverage of all Coventry areas has been captured within the online survey. The areas with the highest responses were Earlsdon (9%), Binley & Willenhall (8%) and Wyken (7%). The areas with the least responses were Upper Stoke (2%) and Foleshill (3%).



**Figure 2: Profile of respondents by ward**

- 5.6 Overall, the demographics of the responses received related to the main survey show there is more engagement work to do to reach key parts of the population, particularly in relation to low response rates from younger people and ethnic diverse communities, alongside those living in less affluent parts of the city.
- 5.7 In addition to the survey findings, a number of detailed responses to the strategy were received via email from both individuals and organisations. These include

from some of the city's Climate Change Board members including the University of Warwick, E.ON and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, alongside prominent community groups in the city including the Coventry Society and Green New Deal.

- 5.8 Green New Deal produced an alternative Shadow Climate Change Strategy for the city, citing that the Council's draft version isn't ambitious enough. This was developed through engagement with the community and contains the input of 46 academics and expert practitioners. The Strategy is very detailed and seeks to align Coventry's journey to net zero with Professor Andy Gouldson's Net Zero Routemap.

## **6 Consultation Findings**

- 6.1 This section provides a summary of the feedback received from the consultation.

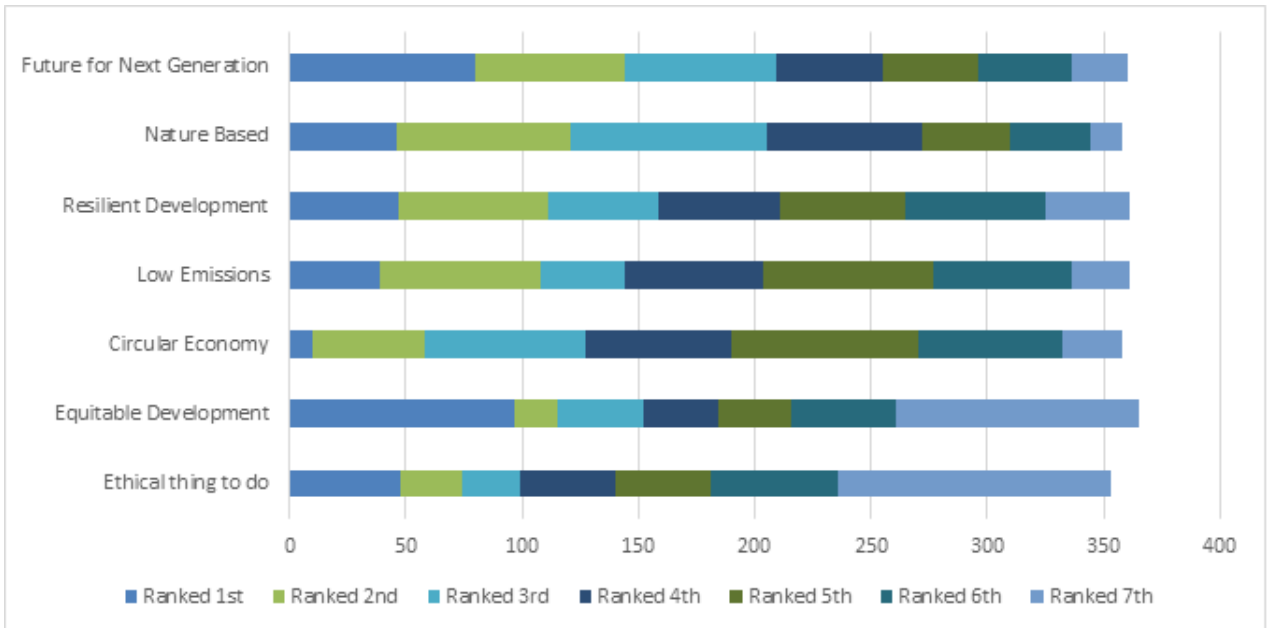
### ***How concerned is Coventry about the impacts of Climate Change?***

- 6.2 The majority of respondents at 81% consider it is 'very important' or 'fairly important' to think about sustainability and tackle the impacts of climate change. 19% of those that engaged feel that it's 'not very important' or 'not important at all'. This aligns with the national picture, with a survey undertaken in 2022 by Ipsos Political Monitor which identified 84% of the British public are 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/8-10-britons-concerned-about-climate-change-half-think-net-zero-target-should-be-brought-forward>

### ***What aspects of tackling Climate Change are the most important to people?***

- 6.3 The online survey asked people to rank in order what aspects related to tackling sustainability and climate change are most important to them.
- 6.4 The results in figure 2 (based on 375 responses) indicate that there is not consistent agreement over which aspects people feel are the most important when it comes to tackling climate change. Respondents ranked 'to ensure a positive future for the next generation' as the overall most important aspect in tackling climate change, however equitable development (fair green future) received the most 1<sup>st</sup> place and 7<sup>th</sup> place rankings. Nature based interventions also appear to be an important aspect for respondents, closely followed by resilient development (this refers to ensuring the urban environment is designed to cope with a changing climate).
- 6.5 The responses to this question demonstrate the complexity regarding what climate change and sustainability means to people and the issues they hold most important. There is no right answer to this question but demonstrates the wide range of different areas that the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan need to address in order to reflect what issues are important to the people of Coventry.

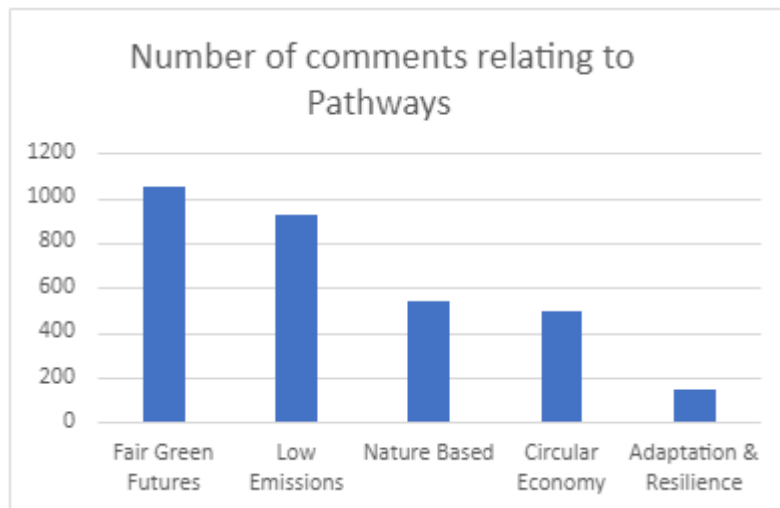




**Figure 3: What aspects related to tackling sustainability and climate change considered in order of importance**

**What are the main themes and issues that matter to the people of Coventry?**

6.6 This section explores the key themes and issues people told us in more detail. The detailed feedback has been organised into the Climate Change Strategy pathways and then explores key themes under each pathway. It has been structured in this way to align to the draft Strategy to clearly identify which areas feedback relates to and aids the next steps in terms of redrafting. A further category has been created in addition to the pathways, which relates to comments received related to specific actions, these will be considered for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan which will be developed alongside the updated Strategy.



**Figure 4: Number of comments received relating to themes within the Climate Change Strategy pathways**

6.7 As can be seen from Figure 4, the majority of feedback received related to the fair green futures pathway, closely followed by low emissions. Adaptation and resilience

were the area that received the least comments, alongside feedback of actions people would like to see taken. The detailed themes and issues are explored in more detail below.

## **7 Equitable Development/Fair Green Futures Pathway**

- 7.1 Fair Green Futures was the most commented on pathway group across the consultation period. Several themes were addressed within these responses, with the two most engaged themes being Communications and Engagement, and Corporate Responsibility.
- 7.2 Individuals felt that the Council should do more to engage with the residents of Coventry, whether this is through digital communications (e.g. e-newsletters, press releases) and media coverage, or via more direct engagement with communities such as citizen's assembly and education campaigns. Building on education campaigns, individuals also wanted to see greater emphasis of climate change within schools.
- 7.3 To be as equitable as possible, individuals have suggested these communications should allow access by anyone, including those that are digitally excluded. The theme of comms and marketing runs across all pathway groups. Engagement events should consider the ability for individuals to be able to visit, which is not always easy.
- 7.4 The second most popular theme within the fair green pathway comments was Corporate Responsibility / Policy. Individuals want the Council to 'lead by example'. Building on this, individuals highlighted the importance of the council growing existing partnerships and developing new partnerships (including large organisation operating in the city). It was further felt that the Council should work with government to ensure an equitable response to climate change.
- 7.5 Several other themes were mentioned through the consultation feedback. Individuals want to see sustainable products being available at an affordable price. Building on affordability, respondent have also highlighted the need for making homes more energy efficient and helping families to reduce their energy bills.
- 7.6 A need for improved community engagement was a common theme, individuals wanted Council engagement with community projects (e.g., tree planting, nature recovery, sustainable food). Individuals also wanted more community engagement across climate change projects. This includes ensuring equality and diversity, by making schemes and consultation accessible to anyone in the city (thinking about digital exclusion, language barriers etc.).
- 7.7 Respondents have also highlighted a need for equity across all pathways, with consideration for how residents that may be unable to easily use public transport or ride bicycles will also see benefits of the improvements being made in these areas.

## **8 Low Emissions Pathway**

- 8.1 Within the low carbon pathway, there were six themes that stood out for the number of comments received. Three of those themes can be related to transport; traffic/transport, public transport, and active travel. Whilst considerable other comments could be related to energy/home improvements, developments, and climate change strategy.

- 8.2 Within the transport theme, there was a clear ask from individuals for more cycle lanes that are safe for use and have supporting infrastructure (e.g., hire bikes, bike storage facilities and support with buying/maintaining bikes). There was also demand from individuals for more frequent and reliable public transport routes (especially around school times) and to have financial incentives for the use of public transport. Individuals also wanted to see reduced traffic across some roads, including arterial roads, but again highlighting traffic currently around schools.
- 8.3 Looking beyond transport, there was a common call for support with residential retrofit, maximising any opportunities available to support those in fuel poverty. There were also calls for the Council to support with behaviour change campaigns, ensuring commercial and residential owners alike can benefit from lower energy bills and more energy efficient properties. This includes residents being able to access advice on saving energy.
- 8.4 In addition, individuals wanted the Council to reduce the number of houses being built, and where required to not be built on green belt land. There were many comments that centred around this idea that too many houses are being built on green belt / countryside and should be targeted elsewhere. Individuals also wanted to ensure those houses being built should be as sustainable and energy efficient as possible.
- 8.5 Less common but still prominent themes also included providing additional support to help businesses with energy efficiency, developing skills for the green transition, reducing air pollution, promoting renewable energy schemes across the city, developing car sharing clubs, and ensuring effective public engagement across these themes.

## **9 Circular Economy Pathway**

- 9.1 Within the Circular Economy Pathway, there were several themes that stood out for the number of comments received. The two most frequent comments related to recycling and reuse and a considerable number of other comments were related to actions people would like to be seen taken.
- 9.2 Within the recycling and reuse theme, there was a clear messaging around encouraging more accessible reusing and recycling locations across the city, minimising waste and reduce the usage of plastic packaging. There were also calls for the council to have better recycling facilities.
- 9.3 Looking beyond recycling and reuse, the second highest comments related actions people want to see the Climate Change Strategy include, with calls for the council to encourage businesses to cut down on waste and activities to support innovation in the city.
- 9.4 In addition, individuals wanted the council to implement Climate Change Education for children and young people, this will help drive behavioural change throughout communities to support the circular economy.
- 9.5 There were many comments that centred around the idea that recycling is the answer to a net zero city, more messaging and education for the wider community is required to understand the process of circular development.
- 9.6 Less common but still prominent themes also included providing messaging around single-use plastics and shopping local and sustainable products, with concerns also

raised regarding the impacts of the Council's incinerator that currently provides district heating to a number of buildings across the city centre.

## **10 Nature Based Pathway**

- 10.1 Consultation on the Nature Based Pathway section of the strategy highlighted several reoccurring themes important to individuals and organisations. By far the most mentioned theme was green infrastructure; it's provision, benefits and monitoring. Other common themes mentioned were around food and education.
- 10.2 The theme of green infrastructure was regularly highlighted in consultation responses. Individuals were keen to see more parks, trees and open spaces, particularly in urban areas of the city. They also highlighted the importance of green infrastructure for increasing biodiversity, improving air quality and wellbeing. Trees in particular were a common theme, with a request from individuals for more trees and the maintenance and retention of older established trees. Related to green infrastructure, another key theme to emerge was encouraging residents to maintain and improve their gardens for the benefit of wildlife.
- 10.3 Around the theme of food, there was a call to encourage more organic, local food growing initiatives within residential gardens and community allotments. Individuals also highlighted the importance of low carbon diets. Education was also a common theme. Individuals asked for education and training to be provided in schools and for residents and community groups to enable them to take part in food growing and gardening as well as improve overall awareness of the environment.
- 10.4 It was clear from the consultation that there are already a number of people and organisations with a keen focus and interest in nature across Coventry. These ranged from individuals, local educational bodies and charitable organisations and showed the strength of support for tackling climate change in Coventry. Several highlighted their interest in further involvement in both shaping the climate change agenda and taking part in activities to alleviate climate change, particularly around residents committing to do more in their homes such as rewilding their gardens wanting to get involved in local food growing.

## **11 Adaptation & Resilience Pathway**

- 11.1 The adaptation and resilience pathway received considerably less comments than the other pathways groups. This was especially true for the Let's Talk Survey. This perhaps highlights a knowledge gap within this pathway, proving the importance of further engagement and communication to ensure the public better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by the adaptation and resilience pathway.
- 11.2 The most commented on theme within this pathway was water. Individuals first commented on the need to reduce water consumption, but then suggested an opportunity to reuse water across the city where possible (e.g. brown water use in offices, shops, residential buildings). There were further comments on the potential to better use natural water, through using canals for heating and cooling, whilst also opening rivers to create green corridors. Improvement to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) was also considered an action that may reduce surface flooding.
- 11.3 There were also multiple comments related to health, many individuals wanted to see more public water fountains across the city. There were also calls to ensure the

Council had suitable emergency planning for weather extremes. Public realm was also considered, with suggestions to increase the tree coverage in the city.

## **12 Corporate and Universal Issues**

- 12.1 Addressing feedback on the draft strategy as a whole, one clear theme emerged. Responses highlighted an ask for the document to be more ambitious, include clearer commitments, targets and actions. These should be robust, measurable, deliverable and prioritised. Relating to this, individuals also asked that these targets are regularly monitored and reported on, with outcomes communicated to residents. Respondents want to see the Strategy contain information about what practical measures and actions individuals, businesses and organisations should be taking to tackle climate change.
- 12.2 Other recurring themes were regarding the document needing more legal weight, with Supplementary Planning Guidance and inclusion in the Local Plan suggested. Respondents also felt more information was needed around investment and how the Strategy would be delivered. Further comments related to the need for the strategy's approach to be one that is both holistic and takes equality and diversity into consideration.
- 12.3 A number of responses stated the need for behaviour change and educational campaigns across all pathways. It was suggested that the Council should work with active local groups and stipulate ways in which the public can get involved to achieve the action plan. There was a feeling from some respondents that the Council wasn't going to listen to residents and it's lost touch with its community and their needs.
- 12.4 Corporate Responsibility was another popular theme. This related to commitment from Government, large corporations as well as the Council and local businesses. Some called for legislative change and stronger enforcement of policies at both a national and local level, with incentives for corporations with strong environmental credentials. There was a recognition that political buy in across the parties is important to support this. Suggestions included 'a dedicated climate change strategy committee' to oversee the implementation of the strategy across the city to ensure a holistic approach. This could potentially be the Council's Independent Climate Change Advisory Board who have a role to play in shaping the strategy which could feed into the delivery phase. Other comments suggested a requirement for 'training for Council staff so that every action involves considering reducing and mitigating climate change' and a call for 'corporations to lead by example' citing they have a greater level of responsibility than individuals and can help drive societal change. The public would like to see 'better leadership from the Council. Actions not words' and 'the Council increasing its co-operation and coordination with voluntary organisations and see all schools gain regular access to allotments'. Other comments included development of sustainable procurement policies.
- 12.5 Another popular theme was those that purport that man-made Climate Change isn't happening or is something that humans have no control over. This also includes individuals who felt it was a way of reducing people's freedoms, with particular concerns around the concept of 15-minute cities that could enforce lifestyle choices that people don't want to make. There was also feedback that the biggest polluting countries such as China and India should be targeted alongside big corporations rather than the individual who cannot make any meaningful difference. Some cited population growth to be the problem, rather than climate change. Finally, there were

some comments that people had bigger issues to worry about than climate change, including energy bills, and that it was too vast an issue to tackle.

- 12.6 The above comments provide a helpful insight into some of the more general themes related to the Strategy that are important to people that will need to be considered to shape the next iteration, alongside the Action Plan and Communications and Engagement Plan going forwards.
- 12.7 For those that feel apathy or disagree with climate science and the need for a Climate Change Strategy, the Council will need to look at ways to identify opportunities that will benefit people, regardless of if they consider climate change an issue or not and work in a transparent way to build trust and buy-in to projects. This could include domestic retrofit which as well as reducing carbon emissions will also save households money on their energy bills, alongside community growing projects so people can benefit from fresh locally grown produce. Consensus can also sought to be built around the fact a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy is required for city in order for us to cope with the more extreme weather events we are already experiencing.

### **13 Recommendations for further development of the Climate Change Strategy**

- 13.1 To consider how to widen the level of participation and engagement of under-represented groups in the city and to develop links and relationships to the Independent Climate Change Board and create opportunities for involvement in projects within the Action Plan. Options to better engage with under-represented groups include through a Citizen's Assembly, working with community and faith leaders to help share information and gain feedback across communities and more targeted work with schools and colleges to get representation from young people. The Council is producing an Engagement Framework to support the Communities Strategy and the team are talking to other service areas to further develop best practice tools.
- 13.2 To continue engagement and building relationships with key stakeholders and special interest groups, both to inform the Climate Change Strategy and to get involved with projects within the Action Plan.
- 13.3 To note the comments received and the need to amend the Strategy and use the information to help inform the identified actions to be incorporated in the Action Plan.
- 13.4 To note progress in the City Council's work with the Climate Change Board on the further development of the Strategy and Action Plan focusing on the key priorities as agreed with the Board in order to seek agreement from Cabinet for the approval of the final Strategy and Action Plan to take the Council forward to achieving the targets for 2030.
- 13.5 To consider the need to establish a clear and meaningful set of targets for 2030 and 2050, linked to a performance framework relating to the Action Plan. This could include reduction of carbon emissions that aligns with the Net Zero Routemap, percentage of accessible greenspace, Biodiversity Net Gain, recycling and waste minimisation and improvements to health by addressing the wider determinants of health.
- 13.6 To note progress in shaping the Local Plan Review, the Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and the development of a Just Transition Policy Framework to ensure

those living in priority neighbourhoods are not disadvantaged by actions to address sustainability and climate change.

## **14 Next Steps**

- 14.1 The Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Team will publish the full consultation reports and feedback on the Council's website. This will include a more detailed executive summary that builds upon the findings in this report.
- 14.2 Work will commence on updating the draft Strategy to reflect the feedback received during the consultation. This will include production of an Action Plan to accompany the Strategy, as whilst we recognise the importance of getting the Strategy right, ultimately its effectiveness will be measured on the actions taken and the outputs delivered.
- 14.3 The revised Strategy and Action Plan will also take into account the recent appointment of the Council's Strategic Energy Partner, who will have a key role working in partnership with the Council to develop and deliver a range of decarbonisation projects over a fifteen-year period. It will also take into account recent developments around government funding, particularly the West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deal which will have a key role to play in shaping the city's retrofit, energy and nature-based programme going forwards.
- 14.4 Finally, the Strategy will also include recommendations from the city's Independent Climate Change Board, which comprises major partner organisations across the city who all have a role to play in tackling climate change and bring resources, expertise and leadership to aid the Council's vision, strategy and action plan for the city. The Climate Change Board and its Pathway Groups are in the process of:
- supporting the development of practical exemplar projects on the ground;
  - commenting on the Local Plan Review;
  - developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan for the city
  - establishing approaches to ensuring a Just Transition when addressing sustainability and climate change issues;
  - establishing links with community organisations and addressing behavioural change issues for the population as a whole.
- 14.5 It is anticipated that the final Strategy and Action Plan will be published early in the new year. In the meantime, the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Team plan to continue to engage with communities and stakeholders around specific projects, alongside developing a wider Community Engagement Plan which builds on the knowledge gained in this consultation exercise and targets the gaps. We recognise that this exercise is just the start of a long programme of engagement with our communities to help change behaviours and take positive climate action to create a more sustainable and prosperous city for all.

## **15 Health Inequalities Impact**

- 15.1 The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will help to tackle health inequalities in Coventry on a number of fronts. Improving the resilience of the city and adapting to Climate Change will help to protect the most vulnerable from the impacts of extreme weather, including flooding and heatwaves which we are likely to see more

of. Improving the quantity and quality of the city's greenspace and increasing biodiversity will help to tackle air pollution and green deprivation, creating more access to green space that can help to improve both physical and mental health.

- 15.2 Some of the suggestions of practical ways to tackle climate change and increase sustainability that were included in the consultation feedback could be included within the Action Plan and will provide an opportunity to tackle social isolation and loneliness through the creation of more community groups and volunteering opportunities. Growing projects will increase the amount of fresh food grown in the city that can help to educate communities about healthy eating and provide support to food banks and deprived communities.
- 15.3 A transition from cars to more active travel modes will help to improve the city's air pollution and generate public health benefits from increased physical activity.
- 15.4 Retrofit of buildings will improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel bills, which will help support households and businesses across the city, tackle fuel poverty and improve public health.
- 15.5 An increase in green projects, including those delivered through the Strategic Energy Partnership will help to create more job opportunities and grow the local supply chain. There will also be training opportunities and apprenticeships made available to ensure that the city has a workforce equipped with the necessary skills to support positive climate action.
- 15.6 The Just Transition Framework and work by the Green Fair Futures Pathway Group will help to ensure that action taken will not disproportionately impact more deprived communities and help maximise benefits and opportunities to create a more prosperous future for all.

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