

Climate Strategy Consultation Report

Gateshead Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. As part of this, the Council made a commitment to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.

To set out how the Council will tackle climate change, officers prepared a Climate Strategy. The strategy sets out aspirations around seven key themes: transport, energy, economy and consumption, woodland and nature, food, building flood resistance, and adaptation to climate change, to enable the borough to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

Consultation on the Climate Strategy ran from December 2021 to February 2022.

203 respondents submitted comments on the consultation, which are summarised below.

In addition to the survey questionnaire, we asked responders to drop pins onto an interactive map of Gateshead. Pins were dropped to show where best practice already existed, or existed but needs improving and also where a new intervention could be implemented to help climate change. 180 pins were dropped on the map. The maps for each ward and a table of comments made can be found in Appendix 1.

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the climate strategy vision?

200 respondents answered this question.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	83	41.50%
Tend to agree	52	26%
Tend to disagree	31	15.50%
Strongly disagree	34	17%

179 respondents gave more information in response to the follow up question:

Please tell us why you have answered that way

These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
Broadly supportive of vision	102	Thank you for your comments.
Concerned that the Strategy is not deliverable	16	Thank you for your comments. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change and reach net zero as a borough by 2030. The Climate Strategy will be supported by Ward Level Action Plans for each ward around the Borough, which will set out

		more detailed actions that can be taken at the local level.
Consumption	8	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises that consumption is an issue and is committed to working with businesses to reduce packaging, and to reuse or repair items where possible.
Partnerships and the need to work with existing organisations and businesses	7	Thank you for your comments. The Council is committed to working with partner organisations including businesses, community groups, places of worship, and schools, to support and link decarbonisation efforts around the borough. Relevant partner organisations for each ward will be set out in Ward Level Action Plans, which are being developed alongside the Strategy and will support the delivery of its objectives.
Timescale too short	9	Thank you for your comments. The Council's target to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030 is ambitious: however, this reflects the urgency of the situation and gives clear priority to actions which will reduce Gateshead's carbon emissions in decision making, both within the Council and in the borough as a whole.
Timescale too long	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the need to take action to tackle climate change urgently, however targets and actions need to be realistic and achievable to have the greatest impact. The net zero carbon by 2030 target seeks to reflect the need for urgent action to be taken whilst allowing the borough time to adjust to and plan for the coming changes.
Need more detail	5	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy is intended as a high-level document, and will be supported by more detailed Ward Level Action Plans (WLAPs). The WLAPs will highlight examples of good practice within each ward, and set out local priorities for reducing carbon emissions.
Economic Concerns	8	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognise that the UK is going through a cost of living crisis, and that people are concerned about climate change efforts adding further financial pressure. The Climate Strategy seeks to reduce costs for the borough's residents, businesses and organisations wherever possible.

		<p>Many actions which are good for the planet are also good for people's finances, such as walking and cycling more, growing your own food, or repairing rather than replacing items.</p> <p>Developing the green economy also offers new opportunities for economic growth and job creation.</p>
<p>Air Quality Concerned that road closures will displace the problem to neighbouring areas</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Air quality and climate change issues are related issues, with many measures that reduce air pollution also reducing carbon emissions. However, the Climate Strategy does not include measures specifically aimed at improving air quality as the focus of the document is on reducing carbon emissions. The Council is committed to tackling air quality issues in the Borough through other work. We have two existing Air Quality Management Areas, covering the Town Centre and Portobello. Work is also being progressed on a Clean Air Zone around the Tyne Bridge. More information on air quality issues in the borough and how these are being tackled is available here.</p> <p>Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p>

		To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.
Climate Sceptic	4	Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.

Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
Electric Vehicles and Chargepoints	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is supportive of the transition to electric vehicles, and more information on EV chargepoints in the borough is available on our website.</p> <p>However, electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p> <p>The government has made changes to Building Regulations, to require chargepoints to be provided at new homes and buildings from 2022, and where an existing building is subject to major renovation.</p>
Opposed to Electric Vehicles	1	Thank you for your comments. The government has confirmed that no new petrol or diesel cars or vans will be sold in the UK by 2030. Electric Vehicles generate no new emissions from being run: emissions from energy generation will reduce over time as the energy sector phases out fossil fuels.

		<p>The Council recognises that electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p>
Road Closures and Askew Road	7	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>
Modal shift: More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p>

		<p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
Active travel	6	Thank you for your comments. Active travel has great potential to reduce carbon emissions, and improve people’s mental and physical health. The Council will encourage and enable people in the borough to walk and cycle more through

		<p>the Transport section of the Climate Strategy and Ward Action Plans, as well as other ongoing work.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
Public transport	9	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the role that public transport has to play in reducing the borough's carbon emissions, and will work with operators to improve ticketing options and information.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant</p>

		improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.
Supportive of cycling/cycle lanes	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
Opposed to cycle lanes	6	Thank you for your comments. Whilst we acknowledge that cycling alone won't solve the climate emergency, increasing the number of trips taken by bike will help cut carbon emissions.
Car use and speed limits	10	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst lowering speed limits may help improve road safety, ultimately reducing overall car use will have the greatest impact in terms of lowering carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.</p>

Interventions	Number of Comments	Our Response
Diet: need to reduce overall meat consumption	2	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes encouragement of a reduced meat diet

		as an action in reducing emissions from food.
Insulation: existing houses should be insulated to the highest possible standards, and new homes should be built with insulation	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p> <p>Gateshead has a long history of investing in energy efficiency measures for the social housing stock. The Council started enveloping and insulating non-traditional housing stock in the 1990s and have continued a programme of insulating homes both internally and externally. During decent homes improvements we worked with Warm Up North to install loft and cavity insulation to thousands of Council homes across the borough. We have also funded energy improvements using Council funding, the Greendeal and ECO funding streams. We are continuing to plan works to further enhance the thermal performance of our homes in line with the Net Carbon Zero agenda and the Councils declaration of a climate emergency.</p> <p>The Council works with suppliers and manufacturers to ensure that the boilers that are installed in our properties are the most reliable and energy efficient. The vast majority of our homes have double glazed windows and we are working to replace the small number of single glazed windows that are predominantly found in flats. The average SAP rating of the Council stock is Band C and we are already looking at how we improve this position further and prepare for a Net Zero future. Hundreds of homes have been connected to the District Energy Scheme and we are exploring ways to build on this and introduce other new forms of green energy to support the efficiency and long term sustainability of our homes. The Council continues to invest significantly in its housing stock, as well as bidding for funding to deliver transformational energy efficiency</p>

		improvements. This investment will ensure sustainable Council homes are efficient, affordable and fit for the future.
Heating: alternative options such as geothermal heating should be used where possible	8	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes use of alternative heat sources where appropriate, with geothermal heating already in use in the borough through the District Energy Scheme.</p> <p>Hydrogen is also being explored as an alternative heat source in the borough: Northern Gas Networks have previously run a pilot hydrogen heating scheme in Winlaton, and two homes powered by hydrogen have been built in Low Thornley.</p>
Development	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p> <p>Policy CS1 (Spatial Strategy for Sustainable Growth) of the Local Plan sets out that the majority of development should be focussed in existing built up areas. The Council also maintains a Brownfield Register of previously developed sites that are suitable for development. The Register is updated annually, and can be viewed on our website.</p>
Trees and green spaces	9	<p>Thank you for your comments. As part of the Council's response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, the Council has committed to planting 100,000 trees by 2030 and increasing woodland cover in the borough from the current figure of 15% to 17% by 2050.</p> <p>The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.</p>

Renewables	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. Renewable energy generation has a key part to play in decarbonising the Borough.</p> <p>The Council would be supportive of community-led renewables projects, where appropriately located.</p> <p>Local Plan policy MSGP28 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) is broadly supportive of renewable energy development, where it would not cause unacceptable harm to other recognised interests. Renewable energy development would be considered in green belt on its own merit.</p> <p>Current national policy restricts development of onshore wind. Should this change it will be reflected through a future Local Plan review. Work to update the Council's evidence base on wind turbine development in Gateshead is currently being undertaken.</p>
Recycling	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch. The Economy and Consumption and Waste section of the Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions that can reduce waste, including buying less, re-using items, swapping things that are no longer needed but that could be used by someone else, buying second hand, buying local, buying ethical, and fostering a sharing and borrowing culture.</p>
Litter and packaging	7	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to improve the boroughs environment, including through street cleaning and litter picking. There are a number of community and volunteer groups who organise litter picking, who will be highlighted in the Ward Level Action Plans.</p> <p>Prevention of littering in the first place is important. National legislation is being introduced to reduce packaging, including from takeaways.</p> <p>Improvements to the public realm in other ways can also deter littering by increasing people's sense of pride in</p>

		<p>their local area. People who do drop litter should take responsibility for this, and littering carries a fixed penalty charge of £80.</p>
<p>New technology</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council acknowledges the importance that embracing new technology will have for reducing carbon emissions, for example using alternative fuel for transport. However, the potential for carbon capture and storage technology to be developed should not preclude other actions from being taken in the meantime to reduce emissions.</p>

Q2. Please think about where climate change is already being tackled in Gateshead. What could be replicated or scaled up?

This question was answered by 177 respondents. These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
Need to prioritise actions which will lead to the greatest reduction of carbon emissions	3	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes interventions across a range of emissions sources, with the aim of delivering a large cumulative impact in terms of working towards net zero carbon.
The Council needs to do more to take a lead in decarbonising the Borough	8	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy sets out how the Council will work with partners around the borough to reduce emissions overall. Whilst the Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans will help guide interventions, working together is essential to tackling climate change.
Education and awareness: More needs to be done to raise the profile of climate change and make people aware of what they can do to help	8	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to raise awareness of climate issues, including through work on the Climate Strategy and through liaising with Councillors and schools. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight opportunities to make a difference in each ward, empowering local residents, businesses, and organisations to get involved in tackling climate change.
Partnerships and the need to work with existing organisations and businesses	6	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with partners to tackle climate change, including community groups, businesses, and individuals. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
Not aware of any existing interventions	11	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans together will highlight what is already happening, and identify opportunities to make further progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Consumption and repairing or reusing items	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. Reducing overall consumption would help to reduce emissions, as well as save people money. However, sustainable economic growth should be supported, and it would not be proportionate for the Council to attempt to limit consumption.</p> <p>Promoting reuse and repair of items is a priority for the Council, with initiatives such as MakerPlace at Gateshead Central Library allowing people to use tools such as soldering irons and sewing machines.</p>
Financial concerns that cost of interventions will outweigh benefits	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy work will be carried out alongside other priorities for the Council, such as the Thrive agenda. Many actions which are good for the planet are also good for people's finances, such as walking and cycling more, or growing your own food. Developing the green economy also offers new opportunities for economic growth and job creation.</p>
Best practice should be encouraged and scaled up where possible	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. Best practice examples should be celebrated, and the Council is working to identify these around the borough. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.</p>
Need more organisation of different initiatives around the borough	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of linking up existing initiatives around the borough. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.</p>
Support for sustainable businesses should be provided	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes sustainable businesses in Gateshead and will highlight their work through the Ward Level Action Plans. The Climate Strategy sets out that services to support resource efficiency will be provided to businesses, and that</p>

		businesses will be helped to become more resilient to climate change.
Penalties should be introduced for businesses who use excess packaging	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations require businesses to register with the National Packaging Waste Database, report how much packaging they handle each year, and recycle a given percentage of packaging based on this figure.</p> <p>The Council encourages businesses to reduce use of packaging, and to use recyclable packaging where possible.</p>
Condition of Council buildings: Council houses should be provided with showers rather than baths and quality insulation	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead has a long history of investing in energy efficiency measures for the social housing stock. The Council started enveloping and insulating non-traditional housing stock in the 1990s and have continued a programme of insulating homes both internally and externally. During decent homes improvements we worked with Warm Up North to install loft and cavity insulation to thousands of Council homes across the borough. We have also funded energy improvements using Council funding, the Greendeal and ECO funding streams. We are continuing to plan works to further enhance the thermal performance of our homes in line with the Net Carbon Zero agenda and the Councils declaration of a climate emergency.</p> <p>The Council works with suppliers and manufacturers to ensure that the boilers that are installed in our properties are the most reliable and energy efficient. The vast majority of our homes have double glazed windows and we are working to replace the small number of single glazed windows that are predominantly found in flats. The average SAP rating of the Council stock is Band C and we are already looking at how we improve this position further and prepare for a Net Zero future. Hundreds of homes have been connected to the District Energy Scheme and we are exploring ways to build on this and introduce other new forms of green energy to support the efficiency and long term sustainability of our homes. The Council continues to invest</p>

		significantly in its housing stock, as well as bidding for funding to deliver transformational energy efficiency improvements. This investment will ensure sustainable Council homes are efficient, affordable and fit for the future.
Climate Sceptic	7	Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.

Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
Congestion around the town centre is contributing to emissions, and should be addressed	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now</p>

		made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.
Measures should be taken to discourage car use, such as reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst lowering speed limits may help improve road safety, ultimately reducing overall car use will have the greatest impact in terms of lowering carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.</p>
Public transport should be cheaper and more reliable, with more routes and services, to encourage people to use it	24	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst public transport is outside of the Council's control, we recognise that a quality public transport service is needed to help people see public transport as a realistic alternative to driving. The Council will liaise with operators to encourage provision of services where they are needed, and improvements to existing services.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
Electric vehicles and chargepoints – more chargepoints should be	25	Thank you for your comments. The Council is supportive of the transition to electric vehicles, and more information on EV

<p>provided to enable people to use electric vehicles</p>		<p>chargepoints in the borough is available on our website.</p> <p>However, electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p> <p>The government has made changes to Building Regulations, to require chargepoints to be provided at new homes and buildings from 2022, and where an existing building is subject to major renovation.</p>
<p>More roads should be closed to private cars to discourage car use</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home. We will take a balanced approach in working to deliver this objective.</p>
<p>Anti road closures</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network</p>

		<p>over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>
School run: parents should be encouraged to walk their children to school	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is aware that increased traffic around school drop off and pick up times is an issue, and will continue to work in partnership with schools and parents to encourage walking, cycling, or scooting to school where possible.</p>
More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel	9	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and</p>

		<p>helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
<p>Cycling should be encouraged, e.g. through increased cycle lanes, cycle clubs, and improvements to existing bike lanes</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
<p>Shared car use</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Provision of car clubs, and car leasing and car sharing schemes could help reduce the number of cars on the road, and prompt people to consider if they really need to make their</p>

		journey by car. The Council would be supportive of such initiatives within the borough.
A Park & Ride scheme should be introduced to reduce through traffic	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
Tolls and/or congestion charging	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Work is being progressed on a Clean Air Zone around the Tyne Bridge, which will help to improve air quality in the area by charging the most polluting vehicles to travel through it. Additional charges on motorists, in the form of tolls or a congestion charge, would not be appropriate at this stage.</p>

Interventions	Number of Comments	Our Response
Hydrogen should be used as a fuel source, and hydrogen filling stations provided for vehicles	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council would consider proposals for hydrogen, including filling stations, if submitted. Northern Gas Networks have previously run a pilot hydrogen heating scheme in Winlaton, and two homes powered by hydrogen have been built in Low Thornley.</p>

Drinking water should be provided in public spaces to enable use of reusable bottles	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council is exploring the feasibility of providing water fountains in public spaces.
Blue infrastructure (water, riverbanks, and saltmarshes) should be improved to help carbon sequestration	1	Thank you for your comments. Proposals to improve blue infrastructure would be welcomed. The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirements for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.
Renewables	23	<p>Thank you for your comments. Renewable energy generation has a key part to play in decarbonising the Borough.</p> <p>The Council would be supportive of community-led renewables projects, where appropriately located.</p> <p>Local Plan policy MSGP28 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) is broadly supportive of renewable energy development, where it would not cause unacceptable harm to other recognised interests. Renewable energy development would be considered in green belt on its own merit.</p> <p>Current national policy restricts development of onshore wind. Should this change it will be reflected through a future Local Plan review. Work to update the Council's evidence base on wind turbine development in Gateshead is currently being undertaken.</p>
Heating – alternative options such as geothermal heating should be used where possible	14	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes use of alternative heat sources where appropriate, with geothermal heating already in use in the borough through the District Energy Scheme.</p> <p>Hydrogen is also being explored as an alternative heat source in the borough: Northern Gas Networks have previously run a pilot hydrogen heating scheme in Winlaton, and two homes powered by hydrogen have been built in Low Thornley.</p>
Trees and green space: dead or felled trees should be replaced,	28	Thank you for your comments. As part of the Council's response to the climate

<p>more trees should be planted, and natural areas for biodiversity should be created</p>		<p>emergency and biodiversity crisis, the Council has committed to planting 100,000 trees by 2030 and increasing woodland cover in the borough from the current figure of 15% to 17% by 2050.</p> <p>The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.</p>
<p>Biodiversity: some areas should be rewilded, and habitats improved or created to support biodiversity</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats. Appropriate proposals for rewilding or habitat creation would be welcomed.</p>
<p>Development should be done to high energy efficiency standards, and should be sustainably located, ideally on brownfield land</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p> <p>Policy CS1 (Spatial Strategy for Sustainable Growth) of the Local Plan sets out that the majority of development should be focussed in existing built up areas. The Council also maintains a Brownfield Register of previously developed sites that are suitable for development. The Register is updated annually, and can be viewed on our website.</p>
<p>Insulation: existing houses should be insulated to the highest possible standards, and new homes should be built with insulation</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p>
<p>Recycling: more recycling facilities should be provided, and a wider range of materials recycled</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.</p>

		The Economy and Consumption and Waste section of the Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions that can reduce waste, including buying less, re-using items, swapping things that are no longer needed but that could be used by someone else, buying second hand, buying local, buying ethical, and fostering a sharing and borrowing culture.
Ways of working – working from home or hybrid working should be encouraged to reduce emissions from commuting	5	Thank you for your comments. The Council will maintain hybrid working moving forward.
Diet: people should be encouraged to eat less meat, or to adopt a plant based diet	3	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes encouragement of a reduced meat diet as an action in reducing emissions from food.
Allotments: more allotments should be provided to enable people to grow their own food	12	<p>Thank you for your comments. Due to an increasing interest in food growing the numbers of residents applying for allotments exceeds the supply of available sites.</p> <p>As a result, working with the various allotment associations in the Borough, we've reviewed the allocation and management of allotments. The Allotment Review has resulted in a new Allotment Strategy which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce overall waiting lists • introduce a consistent proactive approach to management • introduce minimum standards for quality of fencing / structures • provide guidance regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations • encourage directly managed allotments to form allotment associations <p>Our aim is to reduce the waiting list by encouraging plot-sharing schemes and providing land for shared community allotments in locations where this is appropriate.</p>
Street lighting: LED lights are more efficient and should be used more widely	3	Thank you for your comments. Street lights are now dimmed in the majority of residential streets in Gateshead. This will

		<p>help to reduce energy use and carbon emissions and save costs. We have decided to reduce the power by 50% up to midnight, and by 75% between midnight and 5.30am in appropriate residential areas.</p> <p>The eco-friendly Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights can be controlled remotely, to allow the level of lighting to be adjusted, should it be considered necessary. A reduction to 50% power before midnight will mean lighting levels are still in keeping with British Standard guidelines.</p>
Pollution: wood burning stoves and congestion in the town centre are causing air pollution	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. Work is being progressed on a Clean Air Zone around the Tyne Bridge, which will help to improve air quality in the area by charging the most polluting vehicles to travel through it.</p> <p>The Government's Clean Air Strategy (2019) will ensure that only the cleanest wood burning stoves are sold from 2022, and states that legislation will prohibit sale of the most polluting fuels for wood burners.</p>
Adaptation: measures should be taken to adapt to climate change in addition to reducing emissions	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions to adapt to climate change, including through improving resilience to flooding.</p>

Q3 (a). What specific actions do you think the Council, businesses or the community should take to tackle climate change in addition to those already outlined in the strategy?

This question was answered by 166 respondents. These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
The Council needs to do more to take a lead in decarbonising the Borough	8	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy sets out how the Council will work with partners around the borough to reduce emissions overall. Whilst the Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans will help guide interventions, working together is essential to tackling climate change.
Council investments and procurement: the Council should invest in low carbon or carbon neutral products and services to reduce emissions	3	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to improve its carbon monitoring system to include emissions from goods and services that have been procured. Our procurement process now requires consideration to be given to climate impacts.
Education and awareness: More needs to be done to raise the profile of climate change and make people aware of what they can do to help	7	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to raise awareness of climate issues, including through work on the Climate Strategy and through liaising with Councillors and schools. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight opportunities to make a difference in each ward, empowering local residents, businesses, and organisations to get involved in tackling climate change.
Partnerships and the need to work with existing organisations and businesses	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with partners to tackle climate change, including community groups, businesses, and individuals. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
No specific suggestions to make	12	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans together will highlight what is already happening, and identify opportunities to make further progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Consumption and repairing or reusing items	5	Thank you for your comments. Reducing overall consumption would help to reduce

		<p>emissions, as well as save people money. However, sustainable economic growth should be supported, and it would not be proportionate for the Council to attempt to limit consumption.</p> <p>Promoting reuse and repair of items is a priority for the Council, with initiatives such as MakerPlace at Gateshead Central Library allowing people to use tools such as soldering irons and sewing machines.</p>
<p>Finance and economic impact – concern that interventions will have a negative impact on residents. Economic incentives could encourage action</p>	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy work will be carried out alongside other priorities for the Council, such as the Thrive agenda. Many actions which are good for the planet are also good for people’s finances, such as walking and cycling more, or growing your own food. Developing the green economy also offers new opportunities for economic growth and job creation.</p>
<p>Best practice should be highlighted and encouraged</p>	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Best practice examples should be celebrated, and the Council is working to identify these around the borough. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.</p>
<p>Sustainable businesses should be supported, with incentives for best practice/demonstrating progress</p>	7	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes sustainable businesses in Gateshead and will highlight their work through the Ward Level Action Plans. The Climate Strategy sets out that services to support resource efficiency will be provided to businesses, and that businesses will be helped to become more resilient to climate change.</p>
<p>Council buildings: Council houses should be made more efficient and lights turned off in schools and other Council buildings</p>	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Motion activated lights are in use in many Council buildings, which turn off automatically when no one is within range.</p> <p>Gateshead has a long history of investing in energy efficiency measures for the social housing stock. The Council started enveloping and insulating non-traditional housing stock in the 1990s and have continued a programme of insulating</p>

		<p>homes both internally and externally. During decent homes improvements we worked with Warm Up North to install loft and cavity insulation to thousands of Council homes across the borough. We have also funded energy improvements using Council funding, the Greendeal and ECO funding streams. We are continuing to plan works to further enhance the thermal performance of our homes in line with the Net Carbon Zero agenda and the Councils declaration of a climate emergency.</p> <p>The Council works with suppliers and manufacturers to ensure that the boilers that are installed in our properties are the most reliable and energy efficient. The vast majority of our homes have double glazed windows and we are working to replace the small number of single glazed windows that are predominantly found in flats. The average SAP rating of the Council stock is Band C and we are already looking at how we improve this position further and prepare for a Net Zero future. Hundreds of homes have been connected to the District Energy Scheme and we are exploring ways to build on this and introduce other new forms of green energy to support the efficiency and long term sustainability of our homes. The Council continues to invest significantly in its housing stock, as well as bidding for funding to deliver transformational energy efficiency improvements. This investment will ensure sustainable Council homes are efficient, affordable and fit for the future.</p>
Actions need to be well thought out to ensure they are effective	1	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes interventions across a range of emissions sources, with the aim of delivering a large cumulative impact in terms of working towards net zero carbon.
An independent audit of the Council should be carried out to identify opportunities for improvement	1	Thank you for your comments. Since 2019 the Council has worked with GENEE and uses their Investors in the Environment system to audit the Council's own activities, and identify actions for reducing emissions.
Climate Sceptic	1	Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and

		that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.
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Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
Congestion around the town centre is contributing to emissions, and should be addressed	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>
Measures should be taken to discourage car use	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.</p>
Reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst lowering speed limits may help improve</p>

		<p>road safety, ultimately reducing overall car use will have the greatest impact in terms of lowering carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.</p>
Public transport should be cheaper and more reliable, with more routes and services, to encourage people to use it	16	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst public transport is outside of the Council's control, we recognise that a quality public transport service is needed to help people see public transport as a realistic alternative to driving. The Council will liaise with operators to encourage provision of services where they are needed, and improvements to existing services. We will also lobby the government to increase funding for public transport.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
Electric vehicles and chargepoints – more chargepoints should be provided to enable people to use electric vehicles	23	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is supportive of the transition to electric vehicles, and more information on EV</p>

		<p>chargepoints in the borough is available on our website.</p> <p>However, electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p> <p>The government has made changes to Building Regulations, to require chargepoints to be provided at new homes and buildings from 2022, and where an existing building is subject to major renovation.</p>
Anti road closures	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now</p>

		made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.
Schools: Pupils should not be accepted from outside the catchment area to reduce car use	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council is aware that increased traffic around school drop off and pick up times is an issue, however it would not be appropriate to limit enrolment to pupils within catchment areas where there is additional capacity. The Council will work with schools and parents to encourage walking, cycling, or scooting to school where possible.
More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation</p>

		<p>of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
<p>Cycling should be encouraged, e.g. through increased cycle lanes, cycle clubs, and improvements to existing bike lanes</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
<p>A Park & Ride scheme should be introduced to reduce through traffic</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p>

		<p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
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Interventions	Number of Comments	Our Response
Penalties should be introduced for businesses and households who don't recycle	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations require businesses to register with the National Packaging Waste Database, report how much packaging they handle each year, and recycle a given percentage of packaging based on this figure. The Council encourages businesses to reduce use of packaging, and to use recyclable packaging where possible.</p> <p>Recycling bins are provided to residents to enable them to recycle, however it would not be appropriate to penalise residents who do not recycle.</p>
Blue infrastructure (water, riverbanks, and saltmarshes) should be improved to help carbon sequestration	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Proposals to improve blue infrastructure would be welcomed. The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.</p>
Renewables	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Renewable energy generation has a key part to play in decarbonising the Borough.</p>

		<p>The Council would be supportive of community-led renewables projects, where appropriately located.</p> <p>Local Plan policy MSGP28 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) is broadly supportive of renewable energy development, where it would not cause unacceptable harm to other recognised interests. Renewable energy development would be considered in green belt on its own merit.</p> <p>Current national policy restricts development of onshore wind. Should this change it will be reflected through a future Local Plan review. Work to update the Council's evidence base on wind turbine development in Gateshead is currently being undertaken.</p>
<p>Heating – alternative options such as geothermal heating should be used where possible</p>	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes use of alternative heat sources where appropriate, with geothermal heating already in use in the borough through the District Energy Scheme.</p> <p>Hydrogen is also being explored as an alternative heat source in the borough: Northern Gas Networks have previously run a pilot hydrogen heating scheme in Winlaton, and two homes powered by hydrogen have been built in Low Thornley.</p>
<p>Trees and green space: dead or felled trees should be replaced, more trees should be planted, and natural areas for biodiversity should be created</p>	11	<p>Thank you for your comments. As part of the Council's response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, the Council has committed to planting 100,000 trees by 2030 and increasing woodland cover in the borough from the current figure of 15% to 17% by 2050.</p> <p>The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.</p>
<p>Biodiversity: some areas should be rewilded, and habitats improved or created to support biodiversity</p>	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a</p>

		Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats. Appropriate proposals for rewilding or habitat creation would be welcomed.
Development should be done to high energy efficiency standards, and should be sustainably located, ideally on brownfield land	13	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p> <p>Policy CS1 (Spatial Strategy for Sustainable Growth) of the Local Plan sets out that the majority of development should be focussed in existing built up areas. The Council also maintains a Brownfield Register of previously developed sites that are suitable for development. The Register is updated annually, and can be viewed on our website.</p>
Insulation: existing houses should be insulated to the highest possible standards, and new homes should be built with insulation	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p>
Recycling: more recycling facilities should be provided, and a wider range of materials recycled	8	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.</p> <p>The Economy and Consumption and Waste section of the Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions that can reduce waste, including buying less, re-using items, swapping things that are no longer needed but that could be used by someone else, buying second hand, buying local, buying ethical, and fostering a sharing and borrowing culture.</p>
Ways of working – working from home or hybrid working should be encouraged to reduce emissions from commuting	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council will maintain hybrid working moving forward.</p>

Diet: people should be encouraged to eat less meat, or to adopt a plant based diet	3	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes encouragement of a reduced meat diet as an action in reducing emissions from food.
Allotments: more allotments should be provided to enable people to grow their own food	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Due to an increasing interest in food growing the numbers of residents applying for allotments exceeds the supply of available sites.</p> <p>As a result, working with the various allotment associations in the Borough, we've reviewed the allocation and management of allotments. The Allotment Review has resulted in a new Allotment Strategy which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce overall waiting lists • introduce a consistent proactive approach to management • introduce minimum standards for quality of fencing / structures • provide guidance regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations • encourage directly managed allotments to form allotment associations <p>Our aim is to reduce the waiting list by encouraging plot-sharing schemes and providing land for shared community allotments in locations where this is appropriate.</p>
Street lighting: LED lights are more efficient and should be used more widely	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Street lights are now dimmed in the majority of residential streets in Gateshead. This will help to reduce energy use and carbon emissions and save costs. We have decided to reduce the power by 50% up to midnight, and by 75% between midnight and 5.30am in appropriate residential areas.</p> <p>The eco-friendly Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights can be controlled remotely, to allow the level of lighting to be adjusted, should it be considered necessary. A reduction to 50% power before midnight will mean lighting levels are still in keeping with British Standard guidelines.</p>

Adaptation: measures should be taken to adapt to climate change in addition to reducing emissions	1	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions to adapt to climate change, including through improving resilience to flooding.
Wood burning stoves are causing air pollution and should be banned	1	Thank you for your comments. The Government's Clean Air Strategy (2019) will ensure that only the cleanest wood burning stoves are sold from 2022, and states that legislation will prohibit sale of the most polluting fuels for wood burners.
Waste and Recycling	12	Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.

Q3 (b). What specific actions do you think the Council, businesses or the community should take to tackle climate change in addition to those already outlined in the strategy?

This question was answered by 136 respondents. These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
Education and awareness: More needs to be done to raise the profile of climate change and make people aware of what they can do to help	4	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to raise awareness of climate issues, including through work on the Climate Strategy and through liaising with Councillors and schools. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight opportunities to make a difference in each ward, empowering local residents, businesses, and organisations to get involved in tackling climate change.
Partnerships and the need to work with existing organisations and businesses	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with partners to tackle climate change, including community groups, businesses, and individuals. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
No specific suggestions to make	12	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans together will highlight what is already happening, and identify opportunities to make further progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Finance and investment: businesses are still recovering from the impact of the pandemic, investment would support decarbonisation efforts	3	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises that the past few years have been particularly difficult for businesses. Many actions which can reduce emissions can also help reduce costs, such as switching to a renewable energy provider or reusing materials where possible. Developing the green economy also offers new opportunities for economic growth and job creation.
Sustainable businesses should be supported, with incentives for best practice/demonstrating progress,	23	Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes sustainable businesses in Gateshead and will highlight their work through the Ward Level Action Plans.

such as grants or discounts on business rates		The Climate Strategy sets out that services to support resource efficiency will be provided to businesses, and that businesses will be helped to become more resilient to climate change.
Climate Sceptic	1	Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.

Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
Car sharing and pool cars	4	Thank you for your comments. Provision of car clubs, and car leasing and car sharing schemes could help reduce the number of cars on the road, and prompt people to consider if they really need to make their journey by car. In a business context, pool car and car leasing schemes can also make electric vehicles more accessible.
Public transport use should be encouraged by businesses, e.g through reimbursement of travel expenses	3	Thank you for your comments. Public transport has a key role to play in enabling people to drive less, and incentivising public transport use can help 'nudge' people to make the switch where possible. The Council works with businesses to help them develop Travel Plans to encourage staff to use PT and Active Travel.
Electric vehicles and chargepoints – more chargepoints should be provided to enable people to use electric vehicles	16	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is supportive of the transition to electric vehicles, and more information on EV chargepoints in the borough is available on our website.</p> <p>However, electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p>

		<p>The government has made changes to Building Regulations, to require chargepoints to be provided at new homes and buildings from 2022, and where an existing building is subject to major renovation.</p>
Anti road closures	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>
More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling</p>

		<p>and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
<p>Cycling should be encouraged, e.g. through increased cycle lanes, cycle clubs, and improvements to existing bike lanes</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p>

		<p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
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Interventions	Number of Comments	Our Response
Renewables	7	<p>Thank you for your comments. Renewable energy generation has a key part to play in decarbonising the Borough.</p> <p>The Council would be supportive of community-led renewables projects, where appropriately located.</p> <p>Local Plan policy MSGP28 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) is broadly supportive of renewable energy development, where it would not cause unacceptable harm to other recognised interests. Renewable energy development would be considered in green belt on its own merit.</p> <p>Current national policy restricts development of onshore wind. Should this change it will be reflected through a future Local Plan review. Work to update the Council's evidence base on wind turbine development in Gateshead is currently being undertaken.</p>
Heating – alternative options such as geothermal heating should be used where possible	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes use of alternative heat sources where appropriate, with geothermal heating already in use in the borough through the District Energy Scheme.</p> <p>Hydrogen is also being explored as an</p>

		alternative heat source in the borough: Northern Gas Networks have previously run a pilot hydrogen heating scheme in Winlaton, and two homes powered by hydrogen have been built in Low Thornley.
Development should be done to high energy efficiency standards, and should be sustainably located, ideally on brownfield land	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p> <p>Policy CS1 (Spatial Strategy for Sustainable Growth) of the Local Plan sets out that the majority of development should be focussed in existing built up areas. The Council also maintains a Brownfield Register of previously developed sites that are suitable for development. The Register is updated annually, and can be viewed on our website.</p>
Insulation: buildings should be insulated to the highest possible standards	1	Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.
Recycling: more recycling facilities should be provided, and a wider range of materials recycled	10	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.</p> <p>The Economy and Consumption and Waste section of the Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions that can reduce waste, including buying less, re-using items, swapping things that are no longer needed but that could be used by someone else, buying second hand, buying local, buying ethical, and fostering a sharing and borrowing culture.</p>
Diet: people should be encouraged to eat less meat, or to adopt a plant based diet	1	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes encouragement of a reduced meat diet as an action in reducing emissions from food.
Waste	10	Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to

		landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.
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Q3 (c). What specific actions do you think the Council, businesses or the community should take to tackle climate change in addition to those already outlined in the strategy?

This question was answered by 134 respondents. These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
Communities: community engagement is needed and communities should be empowered to take action at a local level	10	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with communities to tackle climate change. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
The Council and government need to do more to take a lead in reducing carbon emissions	1	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy sets out how the Council will work with partners around the borough to reduce emissions overall. Whilst the Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans will help guide interventions, working together is essential to tackling climate change. The Government has introduced a target of net zero for the UK by 2050 through legislation, supported by a range of policy documents including the Net Zero Strategy .
Best practice should be encouraged and scaled up where possible	2	Thank you for your comments. Best practice examples should be celebrated, and the Council is working to identify these around the borough. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
Education and awareness: More needs to be done to raise the profile of climate change and make people aware of what they can do to help	11	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to raise awareness of climate issues, including through work on the Climate Strategy and through liaising with Councillors and schools. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight opportunities to make a difference in each ward, empowering local residents, businesses, and organisations to get involved in tackling climate change.

Partnerships and the need to work with existing organisations and businesses	21	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with partners to tackle climate change, including community groups, businesses, and individuals. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
Consumption and repairing or reusing items	5	Thank you for your comments. Reducing overall consumption would help to reduce emissions, as well as save people money. However, sustainable economic growth should be supported, and it would not be proportionate for the Council to attempt to limit consumption. Promoting reuse and repair of items is a priority for the Council, with initiatives such as MakerPlace at Gateshead Central Library allowing people to use tools such as soldering irons and sewing machines.
Shopping locally	3	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy work will be carried out alongside other priorities for the Council, such as the Thrive agenda. Many actions which are good for the planet are also good for the local economy, such as shopping at local businesses and buying locally grown food.
Support for sustainable businesses should be provided	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes sustainable businesses in Gateshead and will highlight their work through the Ward Level Action Plans. The Climate Strategy sets out that services to support resource efficiency will be provided to businesses, and that businesses will be helped to become more resilient to climate change.
Funding should be made available for community climate projects, e.g. planting	2	Thank you for your comments. Community based climate projects are welcomed by the Council. The Climate Strategy confirms the Council's commitment to call on the government to help with funding to make reaching net zero carbon possible.
Climate Sceptic	1	Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding.

		The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.
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Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
Measures should be taken to discourage car use	11	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.
Public transport should be cheaper and more reliable, with more routes and services, to encourage people to use it	8	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst public transport is outside of the Council's control, we recognise that a quality public transport service is needed to help people see public transport as a realistic alternative to driving. The Council will liaise with operators to encourage provision of services where they are needed, and improvements to existing services. We will also lobby the government to increase funding for public transport.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>

<p>Electric vehicles and chargepoints – more chargepoints should be provided to enable people to use electric vehicles</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is supportive of the transition to electric vehicles, and more information on EV chargepoints in the borough is available on our website.</p> <p>However, electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p> <p>The government has made changes to Building Regulations, to require chargepoints to be provided at new homes and buildings from 2022, and where an existing building is subject to major renovation.</p>
<p>School run: parents should be encouraged to walk their children to school</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is aware that increased traffic around school drop off and pick up times is an issue, and will continue to work in partnership with schools and parents to encourage walking, cycling, or scooting to school where possible.</p>
<p>Modal shift: More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and</p>

		<p>stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
<p>Cycling should be encouraged, e.g. through increased cycle lanes, cycle clubs, and improvements to existing bike lanes</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to</p>

		expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.
Shared car use	2	Thank you for your comments. Provision of car clubs, and car leasing and car sharing schemes could help reduce the number of cars on the road, and prompt people to consider if they really need to make their journey by car. The Council would be supportive of such initiatives within the borough.
Congestion around the town centre is contributing to emissions, and should be addressed	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>

Interventions	Number of Comments	Our Response
Renewables	7	<p>Thank you for your comments. Renewable energy generation has a key part to play in decarbonising the Borough.</p> <p>The Council would be supportive of community-led renewables projects, where appropriately located.</p> <p>Local Plan policy MSGP28 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) is broadly supportive of renewable energy development, where it would not cause unacceptable harm to other recognised interests. Renewable energy development would be considered in green belt on its own merit.</p> <p>Current national policy restricts development of onshore wind. Should this change it will be reflected through a future Local Plan review. Work to update the Council's evidence base on wind turbine development in Gateshead is currently being undertaken.</p>
Heating and energy	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes use of alternative heat sources where appropriate, with geothermal heating already in use in the borough through the District Energy Scheme.</p> <p>Hydrogen is also being explored as an alternative heat source in the borough: Northern Gas Networks have previously run a pilot hydrogen heating scheme in Winlaton, and two homes powered by hydrogen have been built in Low Thornley.</p>
Trees and green space: dead or felled trees should be replaced, more trees should be planted, and natural areas for biodiversity should be created	14	<p>Thank you for your comments. As part of the Council's response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, the Council has committed to planting 100,000 trees by 2030 and increasing woodland cover in the borough from the current figure of 15% to 17% by 2050.</p> <p>The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out</p>

		requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.
Insulation: existing houses should be insulated to the highest possible standards, and new homes should be built with insulation	4	Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.
Recycling: more recycling facilities should be provided, and a wider range of materials recycled	13	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.</p> <p>The Economy and Consumption and Waste section of the Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions that can reduce waste, including buying less, re-using items, swapping things that are no longer needed but that could be used by someone else, buying second hand, buying local, buying ethical, and fostering a sharing and borrowing culture.</p>
Ways of working – working from home or hybrid working should be encouraged to reduce emissions from commuting	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council will maintain hybrid working moving forward.
Diet: people should be encouraged to eat less meat, or to adopt a plant based diet	8	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy includes encouragement of a reduced meat diet as an action in reducing emissions from food.
Allotments: more allotments should be provided to enable people to grow their own food	11	<p>Thank you for your comments. Due to an increasing interest in food growing the numbers of residents applying for allotments exceeds the supply of available sites.</p> <p>As a result, working with the various allotment associations in the Borough, we've reviewed the allocation and management of allotments. The Allotment Review has resulted in a new Allotment Strategy which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce overall waiting lists • introduce a consistent proactive approach to management • introduce minimum standards for quality of fencing / structures

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide guidance regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations • encourage directly managed allotments to form allotment associations <p>Our aim is to reduce the waiting list by encouraging plot-sharing schemes and providing land for shared community allotments in locations where this is appropriate.</p>
Pollution: wood burning stoves and bonfires are causing air pollution	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Work is being progressed on a Clean Air Zone around the Tyne Bridge, which will help to improve air quality in the area by charging the most polluting vehicles to travel through it.</p> <p>The Government's Clean Air Strategy (2019) will ensure that only the cleanest wood burning stoves are sold from 2022, and states that legislation will prohibit sale of the most polluting fuels for wood burners.</p>
Waste	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.</p>
Litter and packaging	14	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to improve the boroughs environment, including through street cleaning and litter picking. There are a number of community and volunteer groups who organise litter picking, who will be highlighted in the Ward Level Action Plans.</p> <p>Prevention of littering in the first place is important. National legislation is being introduced to reduce packaging, including from takeaways.</p> <p>Improvements to the public realm in other ways can also deter littering by increasing people's sense of pride in their local area. People who do drop litter should take responsibility for this, and littering carries a fixed penalty charge of £80.</p>
Composting: community composting facilities could help reduce food waste going to landfill	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight where</p>

		community composting facilities are available.
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Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach to create ward level action plans?

182 respondents answered this question.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	54	29.67%
Tend to agree	63	34.62%
Tend to disagree	27	14.84%
Strongly disagree	38	20.88%

77 respondents gave more information in response to the follow up question:

If you disagree, please tell us why

These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
Broadly supportive of vision	18	Thank you for your comments.
Opposed – no reason given	16	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change and reach net zero as a borough by 2030.</p> <p>The Climate Strategy will be supported by Ward Level Action Plans for each ward around the Borough, which will set out more detailed actions that can be taken at the local level. These have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members, and may be used to support funding bids where necessary.</p>
Ward Level Action Plans should be replaced with one strategy for the borough as a whole as climate change is not a locally specific issue	15	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change and reach net zero as a borough by 2030.</p> <p>The Climate Strategy will be supported by Ward Level Action Plans (WLAPs) for each ward around the Borough, which will set out more detailed actions that can be taken at the local level. These have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members, and may be used to support funding bids where necessary.</p> <p>The WLAP actions aim to identify specific opportunities to make the greatest</p>

		different within local areas, empowering residents and organisations to take action with confidence that it will make a difference.
Concerned about deliverability of Ward Level Action Plans, including for financial or resourcing reasons	15	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change and reach net zero as a borough by 2030.</p> <p>The Climate Strategy will be supported by Ward Level Action Plans for each ward around the Borough, which will set out more detailed actions that can be taken at the local level. These have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members, and may be used to support funding bids where necessary.</p>
Concerned that some wards will benefit more from the Ward Level Action Plans than others due to existing inequalities in wealth and resourcing	14	Thank you for your comments. The Ward Level Action Plans intend to set out specific, appropriate actions for each ward, taking account of their current position. The actions have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members, and may be used to support funding bids where necessary.
Concerned about role of members as climate champions as some may not engage with members, and responsibility should be shared by everyone	3	Thank you for your comments. Climate champions will use their position as elected members to help to raise the profile of groups and projects which aim to make a difference in reducing emissions.
Community engagement and partnership working is needed to deliver the Ward Action Plans	5	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with communities to tackle climate change. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
Population growth is an issue and should be addressed for climate interventions to be effective	1	Thank you for your comments. Carbon neutrality is not incompatible with population growth, and working together to reduce fossil fuel use and take action on climate change will help reduce global warming in the long term.
Concerned that many measures will be inaccessible, e.g. people with mobility issues will struggle to cycle,	1	Thank you for your comments. The Ward Level Action Plans intend to set out specific, appropriate actions for each ward, taking account of their current position. The

many will not have time to grow their own food		actions have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members. Although some actions will not be practical for everyone, all actions do make a difference – reducing emissions does not need to be all or nothing. Working together to reduce fossil fuel use and take action on climate change will help reduce global warming in the long term.
Climate Sceptic	2	Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.

Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
Road Closures	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now</p>

		made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.
Supportive of cycling/cycle lanes	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
Opposed to cycle lanes	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst we acknowledge that cycling alone won't solve the climate emergency, increasing the number of trips taken by bike will help cut carbon emissions.</p>
Modal shift: More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also</p>

		<p>utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
<p>Opposed to speed bumps: braking and acceleration increases emissions</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Slower speeds reduce the risk of injury or death in case of a collision. Speed bumps are used to enforce lower speed limits, and NICE guidance supports their use to maintain a reduced, steady pace along long stretches of road.¹</p>

¹ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2017: [Recommendations | Air pollution: outdoor air quality and health | Guidance | NICE](#)

Q5. Are there any actions needed within specific wards to tackle climate change?

This question was answered by 109 respondents. These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category.

General	Number of Comments	Our Response
Partnerships and the need engage communities and to work with existing organisations and businesses	7	Thank you for your comments. The Council recognises the importance of working with partners to tackle climate change, including community groups, businesses, and individuals. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight organisations which are making a difference in their communities, and whose work is helping to reduce emissions. This will enable better co-ordination of resources and activity around the borough, as well as highlighting success stories.
Education and awareness: More needs to be done to raise the profile of climate change and make people aware of what they can do to help	7	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to raise awareness of climate issues, including through work on the Climate Strategy and through liaising with Councillors and schools. The Ward Level Action Plans will highlight opportunities to make a difference in each ward, empowering local residents, businesses, and organisations to get involved in tackling climate change.
Concerned that some wards will benefit more from the Ward Level Action Plans than others due to existing inequalities	2	Thank you for your comments. The Ward Level Action Plans intend to set out specific, appropriate actions for each ward, taking account of their current position. The actions have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members, and may be used to support funding bids where necessary.
Cobenefits and the perception of climate change as at odds with other priorities	2	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy work will be carried out alongside other priorities for the Council, such as the Thrive agenda. Many actions which are good for the planet are also good for people's finances, such as walking and cycling more, or growing your own food. Developing the green economy also offers new opportunities for economic growth and job creation.

One strategy should be adopted for the whole borough to ensure a joined up approach	7	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change and reach net zero as a borough by 2030.</p> <p>The Climate Strategy will be supported by Ward Level Action Plans (WLAPs) for each ward around the Borough, which will set out more detailed actions that can be taken at the local level. These have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members, and may be used to support funding bids where necessary.</p> <p>The WLAP actions aim to identify specific opportunities to make the greatest difference within local areas, empowering residents and organisations to take action with confidence that it will make a difference.</p>
Sustainable businesses should be supported, with incentives for best practice/demonstrating progress	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council welcomes sustainable businesses in Gateshead and will highlight their work through the Ward Level Action Plans. The Climate Strategy sets out that services to support resource efficiency will be provided to businesses, and that businesses will be helped to become more resilient to climate change.</p>
More focus should be given to wards outside Gateshead centre	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Ward Level Action Plans intend to set out specific, appropriate actions for all of the borough's wards, taking account of their current position. The actions have been informed by the Climate Strategy consultation and discussions with ward members.</p>
No specific suggestions	15	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p>
Climate Sceptic	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. The IPCC is clear that climate change is occurring, and that it is man made. This can be seen in the increasing number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding. The Council is committed to taking action to tackle climate change, and to reach net zero carbon as a borough by 2030.</p>

Transport	Number of Comments	Our Response
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Electric Vehicles and Chargepoints	11	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council is supportive of the transition to electric vehicles, and more information on EV chargepoints in the borough is available on our website.</p> <p>However, electric vehicles are not a perfect solution to reducing carbon emissions from transport. EVs are currently more expensive than petrol or diesel cars, and the manufacturing process for an EV is more carbon intensive. It is important that a range of interventions are used alongside the switch to EVs to help minimise transport emissions.</p> <p>The government has made changes to Building Regulations, to require chargepoints to be provided at new homes and buildings from 2022, and where an existing building is subject to major renovation.</p>
Road Closures and Askew Road	5	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked</p>

		<p>motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>
Active travel	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Active travel has great potential to reduce carbon emissions, and improve people's mental and physical health. The Council will encourage and enable people in the borough to walk and cycle more through the Transport Section of the Climate Strategy and Ward Action Plans, as well as other ongoing work.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
Public transport provision should be improved, e.g. through expansion of the metro or additional bus services, to enable people to drive less	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst public transport is outside of the Council's control, we recognise that a quality public transport service is needed to help people see public transport as a realistic alternative to driving. The Council will liaise with operators to encourage provision of services where they are needed, and improvements to existing services. We will also lobby the government to increase funding for public transport.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and</p>

		<p>helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
Supportive of cycling/cycle lanes	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to travel. The Council is working to improve facilities for cycling in the borough, and to encourage more people to travel by bike, through its Cycling Strategy. We also offer maps of existing and proposed cycle routes in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p>
More should be done to create modal shift towards green transport, including EVs, public transport, and active travel	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Changing how we get around will be an important part of reducing carbon emissions, and will also have health and financial benefits. The Climate Strategy and Ward Level Action Plans set out a number of interventions</p>

		<p>which will encourage modal shift, including improvements to cycling facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) covering pilot areas of Deckham/Felling and Birtley/Kibblesworth. The draft plan pre-dates Gear Change and LTN 1/20 and the Council is currently using DfT Capability Fund money to review the interventions identified in the plan to ensure compliance with current guidance. The Council is also utilising further Capability Fund money to expand the geographical coverage of the LCWIP. This will involve public and stakeholder consultation to identify potential interventions across the borough and also incorporate the existing draft. The overall plan will hopefully be approved later in this financial year.</p> <p>The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the North East was submitted to Government last year, outlining an £804M package of region-wide ambitions to make buses more attractive by making them an affordable and practical alternative to using private cars for more people and helping existing bus users to travel more frequently.</p> <p>In response to the Plan, Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £163.5m for the North East. A draft Enhanced Partnership Scheme and Plan, expanding on how the Partners intend to use this funding to deliver on the ambitions of the BSIP, will be agreed through North East Joint Transport Committee and submitted to DfT by the end of June. Consultation will follow.</p> <p>This is a significant allocation for the North East and will potentially fund significant improvements to bus services, fares, passenger experience, bus priority, Park & Ride and bus infrastructure.</p>
<p>A Transport Strategy should be developed to ensure a joined up approach to transport</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The North East Joint Transport Committee adopted the North East Transport Plan in 2021. The Plan sets out the region's aspirations for its</p>

		transport system up to 2035. Work is underway to develop a number of more detailed strategies which will support delivery of the North East Transport Plan, for example a North East Rail and Metro Strategy.
Electric and/or hydrogen buses should be used to reduce emissions from public transport	3	Thank you for your comments. Electric buses are already in use in Gateshead, notably on the 53 and 54 routes. Although public transport does not fall within the Council's remit, we would welcome further provision of low or zero emission buses in Gateshead.
Shared car use	3	Thank you for your comments. Provision of car clubs, and car leasing and car sharing schemes could help reduce the number of cars on the road, and prompt people to consider if they really need to make their journey by car. The Council would be supportive of such initiatives within the borough.
Through traffic: through traffic should be limited, e.g. by providing a Park and Ride service or closing the Town Centre to cars	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different</p>

		<p>routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p> <p>Whilst providing a Park and Ride service would be beyond the remit of the Council, provision of a Park and Ride by the private sector would be welcomed.</p> <p>It would not be appropriate to ban cars from the Town Centre. The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.</p>
Speed limits should be reduced	6	<p>Thank you for your comments. Whilst lowering speed limits may help improve road safety, ultimately reducing overall car use will have the greatest impact in terms of lowering carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Council is working to make walking, cycling, and public transport easier and more accessible, so that more people feel able to leave the car at home.</p>
Congestion around the town centre is contributing to emissions, and should be addressed	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. Gateshead Council has committed to retain the transformative changes made to road layouts and management at the north end of Gateshead town centre.</p> <p>The aim of the changes was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce through traffic and the feeling of separation between the town centre and the quays / bridges area • improve cycling and walking links between Gateshead, Newcastle and the Quays • prepare for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone • Reduce delays to buses accessing the Tyne Bridge. <p>The new layouts will be retained for an extended period, with a review to be carried out after two years.</p> <p>We recognise that as the Council has implemented changes to the road network over the last 18 months, especially in the</p>

		<p>area close to the Tyne Bridge, this has had an impact on traffic circulation.</p> <p>To help us prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, we have asked motorists to sometimes take different routes than previously, and we have now made adjustments to help traffic flow more easily on those routes.</p>
Allow people to use electric scooters	1	Thank you for your comments. Privately owned electric scooters are currently not permitted on public roads, pavements, or cycle lanes under national legislation. In DfT trial areas, including parts of Newcastle, hire scooters are permitted.
Footpaths and pavements should be better maintained to encourage people to use them	4	Thank you for your comments. Issues with specific roads or pavements can be reported to us on our website .
School run: parents should be encouraged to walk their children to school	2	Thank you for your comments. The Council is aware that increased traffic around school drop off and pick up times is an issue, and will continue to work in partnership with schools and parents to encourage walking, cycling, or scooting to school where possible.
Parking: stop inappropriate parking on pavements and verges	3	Thank you for your comments. Illegally parked vehicles cost the Council thousands of pounds a year in damaged paving, damaged grass verges, and cause serious problems for blind, disabled and older people. For more information on how the Council takes action on illegal parking, please follow this link .

Interventions	Number of Comments	Our Response
Renewables	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. Renewable energy generation has a key part to play in decarbonising the Borough.</p> <p>The Council would be supportive of community-led renewables projects, where appropriately located.</p> <p>Local Plan policy MSGP28 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) is broadly supportive of renewable energy development, where it would not cause unacceptable harm to other recognised interests. Renewable energy</p>

		<p>development would be considered in green belt on its own merit.</p> <p>Current national policy restricts development of onshore wind. Should this change it will be reflected through a future Local Plan review. Work to update the Council's evidence base on wind turbine development in Gateshead is currently being undertaken.</p>
The District Energy Scheme should be expanded	1	<p>Thank you for your comments. The District Energy Scheme has already doubled in size since the initial 2.5km network, by extending the network to new customers during 2018-2019. The network is now being extended by a further 5km, to the east, towards Gateshead Stadium.</p> <p>We continue to work with other commercial customers and new developers in the town centre to see the network expand further in the coming years.</p>
Trees and green space: dead or felled trees should be replaced, more trees should be planted, and natural areas for biodiversity should be created	18	<p>Thank you for your comments. As part of the Council's response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, the Council has committed to planting 100,000 trees by 2030 and increasing woodland cover in the borough from the current figure of 15% to 17% by 2050.</p> <p>The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats.</p>
Development should be done to high energy efficiency standards, and should be sustainably located, ideally on brownfield land	2	<p>Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.</p> <p>Policy CS1 (Spatial Strategy for Sustainable Growth) of the Local Plan sets out that the majority of development should be focussed in existing built up areas. The Council also maintains a Brownfield Register of</p>

		previously developed sites that are suitable for development. The Register is updated annually, and can be viewed on our website .
Insulation: existing houses should be insulated to the highest possible standards, and new homes should be built with insulation	5	Thank you for your comments. The government is introducing higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, including housing, through Building Regulations Part L from 15 June 2022.
Repair or reusing items	1	Thank you for your comments. Promoting reuse and repair of items is a priority for the Council, with initiatives such as MakerPlace at Gateshead Central Library allowing people to use tools such as soldering irons and sewing machines.
Allotments: more allotments should be provided to enable people to grow their own food	3	<p>Thank you for your comments. Due to an increasing interest in food growing the numbers of residents applying for allotments exceeds the supply of available sites.</p> <p>As a result, working with the various allotment associations in the Borough, we've reviewed the allocation and management of allotments. The Allotment Review has resulted in a new Allotment Strategy which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce overall waiting lists • introduce a consistent proactive approach to management • introduce minimum standards for quality of fencing / structures • provide guidance regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations • encourage directly managed allotments to form allotment associations <p>Our aim is to reduce the waiting list by encouraging plot-sharing schemes and providing land for shared community allotments in locations where this is appropriate.</p>
Pollution: wood burning stoves are causing air pollution	1	Thank you for your comments. The Government's Clean Air Strategy (2019) will ensure that only the cleanest wood burning stoves are sold from 2022, and states that legislation will prohibit sale of the most polluting fuels for wood burners.

Adaptation: measures should be taken to adapt to climate change in addition to reducing emissions, such as flood prevention	1	Thank you for your comments. The Climate Strategy sets out a number of actions to adapt to climate change, including through improving resilience to flooding.
Wildlife: habitats should be improved or created to support biodiversity	1	Thank you for your comments. The Council is working to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a Biodiversity SPD, alongside Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council. These documents will set out requirement for where biodiversity might be improved, including water and wetland habitats. Appropriate proposals for rewilding or habitat creation would be welcomed.
Waste, litter, and flytipping	4	<p>Thank you for your comments. Increasing reuse and recycling of existing materials will help limit waste going to landfill and reduce emissions from creating new products from scratch.</p> <p>The Council is working to improve the boroughs environment, including through street cleaning and litter picking. There are a number of community and volunteer groups who organise litter picking, who will be highlighted in the Ward Level Action Plans.</p> <p>Prevention of littering in the first place is important. National legislation is being introduced to reduce packaging, including from takeaways.</p> <p>Improvements to the public realm in other ways can also deter littering by increasing people's sense of pride in their local area. People who do drop litter should take responsibility for this, and littering carries a fixed penalty charge of £80.</p>
Safety and policing	2	Thank you for your comments. Issues around antisocial behaviour and safety have been discussed in meetings with ward members, who confirmed that the police are aware of the problem.

Q6. Would you personally be willing to make a climate pledge?

This question was answered by 187 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	126	67.38%
No	43	22.99%
Don't know	18	9.63%

Q7 (a). To help tackle climate change, what pledges could you make?

This question was answered by 146 respondents, and allowed people to submit their own pledges for how they could help tackle climate change as an individual.

These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category. The majority of pledges involved transport related actions, such as driving less or using alternative fuel vehicles.

Category	Category Total	Response Summary	Number of Respondents
Transport	118	Travel more sustainably	2
		Reduce number of trips, e.g. by working from home	5
		Take public transport where possible	9
		Buy a hydrogen car	1
		Drive an electric or hybrid car	15
		Use a more efficient car	2
		Use car sharing/car clubs	3
		Drive less	21
		Not own a car	4
		Cycle more where possible	19
		Fly less often	4
		Stop taking flights	5
		Walk more	26
		School run – walk, scoot or cycle rather than drive	1
Use an electric scooter when possible	1		
Economy and Consumption	44	Buy less in general	8
		Don't buy products with excess packaging/packaging that can't be recycled	1
		Shop more sustainably / locally	11
		Buy more second hand	3
		Use less plastic	4
		Buy less plastic items/products packaged in plastic	10
		Use less water	1
		Reuse as much as possible – plastic bags, reusable coffee cups, etc	4

		Use more environmentally friendly cleaning products	2
Food	39	Eat more locally produced food	4
		Eat less meat	13
		Stop eating meat	5
		Stop consuming dairy	1
		Consume less dairy	4
		Go vegan	3
		Reduce food waste	4
		Grow own food	5
Woodland and Nature	17	Get involved with tree planting	6
		Encourage/protect wildlife in green areas	3
		Rewilding	2
		Grow more plants	6
Energy and Heating	32	Use a renewable energy provider	4
		Stop using gas for energy at home	3
		Turn heating down to use less energy	12
		Insulate my home	4
		Use a more energy efficient/sustainable heating system	4
		Install solar panels	2
		Use a heat pump	1
		Turn lights off	1
		Take showers instead of baths	1
Waste and Litter	21	Recycle more	13
		Reduce waste	4
		Compost	2
		Pick up litter	2
Other	35	Educate and support others	8
		Follow actions in Climate Strategy in my own life	1
		Get a better understanding of my own carbon footprint	2
		Lobby politicians to take action	1
		Get involved with climate pressure groups	1
		Unsure	5
		Have fewer children	1
		Do everything I can	7
		Already doing everything I can	6
		No pledge – should not be responsibility of individuals	3

Q7 (b). To help tackle climate change, what pledges could others make?

This question was answered by 102 respondents, and allowed people to suggest actions that others could take to reduce their carbon emissions.

These responses fell into a number of categories, with many responses falling into more than one category. The majority of suggestions involved transport related actions, such as driving less or using alternative fuel vehicles. Where an action was suggested for a specific organisation, this has been indicated in the response summary.

Category	Category Total	Response Summary	Number of Respondents
Transport	44	Reduce unnecessary journeys, including by working from home where possible	2
		Use an electric vehicle	5
		Council: allow drop kerbs to enable people to put in driveways and their own EV chargepoint	1
		Car manufacturers: reduce the price of EVs	1
		Drive less	9
		Don't leave car idling	1
		Walk more where possible	7
		Cycle more where possible	2
		More active travel	1
		Use public transport instead of driving	6
		Make public transport more affordable	1
		Improve public transport services	2
		Create a Park and Ride service for Gateshead	1
		Walk to school	1
		Stop taking flights	1
		Travel more sustainably	1
		Companies: improve provision for cycle commuters, e.g. showers and bike lockers	1
Reduce number of holidays abroad	1		
Economy and Consumption	18	Businesses: set their own net zero targets and work towards them	1
		Shop locally	2
		Buy less in general	3
		Repair and reuse items where possible	3
		Buy second-hand	1
		Support green business	1
		Don't buy fast fashion	2
		Use less plastic packaging	5
Food	18	Buy locally grown produce	3
		Go vegan	1
		Be vegetarian	1
		Eat less meat	10
		Consume less dairy	3
Woodland and	5	Plant more trees	1

Nature		Improve biodiversity in landscaped areas	1
		Maintain and protect green areas	2
		Grow more plants, including food	1
Energy and Heating	12	Cut down on carbon emissions generally, only use fossil fuels when really necessary	3
		Reduce household energy use	2
		Stop using gas heating	1
		Improve energy efficiency of buildings (homes and business premises)	2
		Invest in energy efficient heating systems	1
		Conserve energy	1
		Install heat pumps	1
		Install solar panels and/or wind turbines	2
		Waste and Litter	12
Stop littering	1		
Reduce waste	2		
Other	20	Educate others, especially children, about climate issues	3
		Measure their carbon footprint and take action to reduce it	3
		Put carbon neutrality at the centre of decision making	1
		More community activities to improve local pride and encourage people to look after their neighbourhoods	2
		Everyone should make at least one change to make a big cumulative impact	2
		Encourage volunteer groups	1
		Engage with climate actions	3
		Feedback to Councils about what is working	1
		More changes should be mandated – the situation is too urgent for action to be a choice	1
		Introduce a green tariff	1
		Lobby politicians to take action, vote for politicians who take the issue seriously	2

Demographics Questions

The following questions were asked to establish which communities within Gateshead were engaging with the consultation, and where more work might need to be done to reach communities.

Q. Age

This question was answered by 188 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Under 25	7	3.72%
25 to 44	51	27.13%
45 to 64	79	42.02%
65 or over	38	20.21%
Prefer not to say	13	6.91%

Q. What is your sex?

This question was answered by 186 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Male	88	47.31%
Female	74	39.78%
Prefer not to say	24	12.90%

Q. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex?

This question was answered by 177 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	160	90.40%
No	3	1.69%
Prefer not to say	14	7.91%

Q. Ethnicity

This question was answered by 185 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
White British	154	83.24%
White Other	10	5.41%
Mixed	2	1.08%
Asian	1	0.54%
Black	1	0.54%

Other	1	0.54%
Prefer not to say	16	8.65%

Q. Do you live in Gateshead?

This question was answered by 187 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	166	88.77%
No	21	11.23%