



Cambridge City Council

**Services, Climate and Communities Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Tuesday, 3 February 2026

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ [access the building via Peashill entrance]

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes (Pages 3 - 16)
- 4 Public Questions
- 5 Work Programme
- 6 Update on the Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031) (Pages 17 - 118)
- 7 Cambridge City Homelessness Review (Pages 119 - 244)

The Appendix to the report contains exempt information during which the public may be excluded from the meeting subject to determination by the Scrutiny Committee following consideration of a public interest test. This exclusion would be made under paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Services, Climate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members: Young (Chair), Gardiner-Smith (Vice-Chair), Divkovic, Glasberg, Griffin, Hauk, Payne, Pounds and Swift

Alternates: Bick, Gawthrope Wood, Martinelli and Tong

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Further information on public speaking will be supplied once registration and the written question / statement has been received.

SERVICES, CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 December 2025

5.30 - 8.30 pm

Present: Councillors Young (Chair), Gardiner-Smith (Vice-Chair), Bick, Divkovic, Gawthrope Wood, Glasberg, Griffin and Payne

Leader of the Council: Councillor Holloway

Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Space and City Services: Councillor Smart

Cabinet Member for Communities: Councillor A Smith

Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources: Councillor S Smith

Officers:

Director of Communities: Sam Scharf

Assistant Director Public Realm & Environment: Alistair Wilson

Head of Economy, Energy and Climate: Jemma Little

Head of Climate, Environment & Waste: Bode Esan

Strategic Enabling Communities Lead: Vicky Haywood

Waste Policy Officer: Rebecca Weymouth Wood

Project Officer: James Ogle

Deputy Democratic Services Manager: Claire Tunnicliffe

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

25/1/SC&C Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pounds and Swift, Councillor Gawthrope Wood attended as a reserve.

Councillor Hauk also gave apologies and Councillor Bick attended as a reserve.

25/2/SC&C Public Questions

There were no public questions.

25/3/SC&C Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

25/4/SC&C Community Wealth Building Strategy Implementation

The Director of Communities presented a report on the delivery of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy, approved in 2024.

The report brought together progress across procurement and social value, the inclusive economy programme, community grants and investment, neighbourhood working, meanwhile use, and whole system partnership work.

Members were invited to comment on progress, identify areas where additional assurance may be helpful and advise on priorities for the next phase of the programme. Particular attention should be paid to several areas that were being developed and proposed more immediately, with Scrutiny feedback helpful in directly informing these considerations

- Social Value Policy
- Community Grants
- Meanwhile Use of Assets
- Performance Measures

The Scrutiny's guidance on these areas would help shape the ongoing work and ensured that the Community Wealth Building programme continued to deliver practical benefits for residents and communities.

In response to questions, the Director of Communities, Head of Economy, Energy and Climate and Strategic Enabling Communities Lead said the following:

Social Value Policy

- i. When a contract was first set up the weighting attributed to between price and quality; first split of 100% with 10% of the social value sat in the quality aspect of the contract.
- ii. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 required public authorities to consider the economic, social, and environmental well-being in the procurement processes, promoting broader social value in public services.
- iii. There were challenges, for example, when 30% of the quality weighting focused on social value that did not directly contribute to delivering the core elements of the commission. It required careful balancing to ensure internal practices were still properly followed.

- iv. There were some Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) within the community wealth-building strategy, which had struggled with the 10% social value requirement as they were unsure how to answer and demonstrate their contribution in this area.
- v. Therefore, a balanced approach was required, increasing the social value weighting to 30% could further deter some suppliers. The 10% set would go into all procurement.
- vi. There were minimum standards for employment practices: all contractors were required to pay the Living Wage and comply with sustainability, equality, and modern slavery standards. Beyond these baseline expectations, there was also recognition of the inherent value offered by social enterprises and charities, which could meet their social value obligations through the very nature of their organisational purpose.
- vii. The Match my Project platform allowed for smaller SMEs to easily contribute social value.
- viii. Evidence of previous social value competition were favourable.
- ix. Contract management processes were in place to monitor the successful contractor's delivery of their social value commitments throughout the duration of the contract.
- x. If the bench mark of the social value was set too high this could potentially add to the cost of the contract.
- xi. The Match My Project framework should enable high-quality, high-value businesses, particularly those without significant costs to achieve stronger quality scores based on their organisational values and behaviours and not to submit through the 10% social value low-quality responses.
- xii. Match My Project had been procured alongside Cambridgeshire County Council, a joint exercise.

The committee discussed:

- i. Possible task and finish group.
- ii. Employment practices.
- iii. The Employment and Work Plan policy outlined in the Emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
- iv. Cambridge Investment Partnership Social Value Framework.

The Cabinet Member for Communities said the following:

- i. Community Wealth was seen as a Cabinet priority.
- ii. It was important to have a social value framework in place to prevent undercutting by companies that were unwilling or unable to demonstrate social value.

- iii. Regarding Match My Project, it served as an important mechanism that was highly valued by the voluntary and third sectors and should be viewed positively.
- iv. It was important to challenge the assumption that high-quality products cannot be delivered by good-quality employers who already demonstrated strong employment practices.
- v. There were examples where social value requirements had opened new procurement pathways for strong social enterprises.

Noted the following:

- i. Members supported the 10% social value requirement.
- ii. Work was required to improve the Employment practices
- iii. Members welcomed the Inherent Value being recognised.
- iv. Recommended that further work be undertaken to assess how many contract award decisions fell within the 10% margin, and to determine the extent to which social value influenced a change of contractor.

Community Grants

In response to questions, the Director of Communities, Head of Economy, Energy and Climate and Strategic Enabling Communities Lead said the following:

- i. Proposing a tiered approach for the multi-year grant platform for a three period with review points throughout the period, which would need to be renewed.
- ii. Had carried out some market testing under a procurement exercise for the larger charity organisations, such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau; the services this organisation offered could only be matched in part. Further work could possibly be carried out.
- iii. The Grants Team had been restructured as the Community Investment Team, and Officers have been asked to consider how this sector could be supported more broadly, moving beyond a narrow focus on the dependency of the Council's grants and build resilience.
- iv. Officers were also working with charities to support long-term planning and to develop a pipeline of potential investments under the Greater Cambridge Impact programme.
- v. It was needed to be made clear that grants whether awarded by the Council to local or national charities must fund activities or services that directly benefit residents across the city.
- vi. New guidance had been produced regarding Community Interest Companies (CIC).

The Committee discussed:

- i. Digital platform for grant applications and multi-year grants.

The Cabinet Member for Communities said the following:

- i. Work was currently underway on a paper to develop a wider multi-year funding trial model, building on the success of the initial pilot. This included exploring the potential for an unrestricted grant model. The paper would be taken to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.
- ii. There was so much need within the city; lot of work with partner organisations around resilience was to expand what could be done beyond the grant.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources said:

- i. Greater Cambridge Impact operated as an asset-based model, supported by funding from organisations that required interest payments on their investment.
- ii. The main constraint on Greater Cambridge Impact was the availability of equity funding, which was intended to support the growth and development of social enterprises.
- iii. As Greater Cambridge Impact expanded, the release of equity finance was dependent on reaching a first close of £4 million, at which point the first viable investment could be made.
- iv. The Council's funds would not be drawn upon until this threshold has been met.

Noted the following:

- i. The Committee fully supported the multi-year grant platform.
- ii. To encourage Officers to review the approach for charities that received regular annual funding from the Council, looking beyond a narrow focus on grant dependency and working towards building long-term resilience.

Meanwhile Use of Assets

In response to questions, the Director of Communities, Head of Economy, Energy and Climate and Strategic Enabling Communities Lead said the following:

- i. Important to reach a balance to ensure that the Council had a robust policy for the Council's own assets (many of which were leased, but there were some vacant) while facilitating these principles across the city.
- ii. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan Requirement would have Meanwhile Use policy and an Affordable Work Space policy.

- iii. There were vacant spaces within the Guildhall, but it was difficult to determine potential uses for them while the Civic Quarter project was still in development.
- iv. There were some new units which were built to first fix only which presented financial challenges for new businesses to come forward to take these on.
- v. There were twenty Council owned properties which were leased to charities, these were separate to Meanwhile Use.

The committee discussed:

- i. The importance for the Council to concentrate on areas where it could add the most value to the Meanwhile policy, rather than spreading its resources too thin.
- ii. Would encourage the Council to be active on the empty commercial properties but should consider whether these should be Meanwhile spaces.
- iii. The consideration of the financial implications for the Council if a unit or property required upgrading for Meanwhile Use, as well as the duration for which it will be occupied.

The Cabinet Member for Communities said the following:

- i. Supportive of using the Council's assets for social good.
- ii. Have asked the question that when income is generated from the Council's assets, should this be directed to a third-sector group, or should the Council instead inform the first sector group that there is a Council asset available for potential collaboration.
- iii. Charity Leaders in North Cambridge had stated that they would like to see a permanent space to bring charities together that benefited the whole of the city; have asked Officers to investigate the viability.

Noted the following:

- i. Members asked Officers to look at the cost benefit and the total number of vacant units.
- ii. The Committee expressed support for the Meanwhile policy but emphasised that Officers should avoid taking on more responsibilities than necessary.

Performance Measures

In response to questions, the Director of Communities, Head of Economy, Energy and Climate and Strategic Enabling Communities Lead said the following:

- i. Staff absences, combined with the need for additional work and investigation on performance indicators influenced by factors outside the Council's control, had resulted in some gaps in the reporting; this led to questions being asked as to what revisions need to be made.
- ii. Would be running the State of the City report for the third year in a row.
- iii. Greater Cambridge Impact would also produce a report that could be monitored as investments began to be deployed.
- iv. Work was ongoing to develop alongside public health and the Council's health partners, a neighbourhood level of data which would show local level what the community needs were.

The committee discussed:

- i. Important to Focus on the most tangible impacts first and then expand these, for example by starting with procurement.
- ii. Important to assess whether the Social Value Policy had led to a change in behaviour among the Council's suppliers, or if it had resulted in an increase in social value through the contracts over time.
- iii. Would welcome a clearer understanding on the reporting of the Council's employment and workforce.
- iv. Important to note the purpose of the data was to assess the impact of the Council's work; for example, issues such as deprivation cannot be fully addressed by the Council's efforts alone.

Noted the following:

- i. To have a discussion outside of the Committee to compare data sources.
- ii. Further discussion to form a task and finish group with the new Senior Scrutiny Officer who will start in January and how to take this forward.

25/5/SC&C Task and Finish Work on Bin Fill Levels and Scheduling

The Assistant Director Public Realm & Environment and the Project Officer provided an update on the agreed task and finish activity under the Litter Strategy for Cambridge (2023–2030).

The focus was to:

- i. Trial bin fill-level sensors and digital scheduling tools to assess whether technology can improve efficiency.
- ii. Reduce costs and support cleaner public spaces.
- iii. Review the type, number, location, and collection schedules for litter and dog waste bins.

From 28 November 2024, sensors and digital scheduling technology had been installed and trialled across Trumpington and Queen Ediths and from March 2025 to Cherry Hinton, this had then extended from 28 July 2025 to all suburban wards and arterial routes but did not include the city centre.

In response to questions and statements from Members, Officers said the following:

- i. The report referred general waste, recycling and dog waste bins in the public realm, not residential bins.
- ii. Dog waste could be placed in general waste bins. These bins were usually placed in close vicinity to one another which often meant duplication of the same waste stream. General waste bins were of a larger volume than dog waste bins. Dog waste bins were small and therefore required emptying more frequently.
- iii. One of the intentions of the review was to consider whether both bin types were required and if dog waste could be disposed of in nearby general waste bins, this would reduce the number of trips required to empty the bins. If this scheme did go ahead, Officers would work with the Communication Team to publicise these changes and label affected bins.
- iv. The bin sensor trial monitored both fill levels and fill rates, indicating how quickly bins reached capacity. As an example, when a bin reached 80% full, the bin would automatically be scheduled on the scheduled rounds for a visit. This optimised Officer time and reduced unnecessary vehicle trips to low % filled bins. Additionally, the data provided an understanding whether the number and placement of bins were appropriate.
- v. Monitoring would continue on those bins highlighted as low usage, and further data assessment would be done to establish whether they were needed in their current locations or whether they could be repropose elsewhere.
- vi. The trial aimed to free up staff capacity for other tasks. If resource time required for bin-emptying rounds could be more efficient and reduce the resource needs of the bin emptying rounds.
- vii. By reducing the forty-four bins in Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street, which staff had to walk down to service (no vehicle access) had saved staff time.
- viii. No other bins had been removed in the City Centre.
- ix. The trial would continue for another year.
- x. It was likely that in two years' time there still would be bin sensors, these would likely be in areas where the bin levels were unpredictable.

- xi. It was unlikely that bin sensors would be used in the city centre, these bins regularly used and therefore frequency of visits to empty the bins was well known and did not need to be changed.
- xii. On sensed bins each time the bins were emptied, their fill levels should be recorded by operatives, creating an additional rich source of data. Over time, this process would reduce reliance on the sensors.
- xiii. It was probable that relocation or rationalisation of unneeded bins would be in consultation with Councillors.
- xiv. The total cost of all the two hundred and sixty-three sensors amounted to £25,000 per year.
- xv. There were a total of 1898 public bins across Cambridge.

The committee discussed:

- Behavioural changes required for placing dog waste in general waste.
- The style and design of bins to match their location, especially in the city centre which had an impact on the visual experience to visitors and residents.
- Reduced vehicle movements that impact on the open spaces in the city centre.
- Alternate waste collection such as underground bin storage.
- Discussion, consultation and opinions from Ward Councillors when making any changes, particularly on the location and number of bins in the city centre.

The Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Space and City Services said the following:

- i. Acknowledged what had been said, particularly the conversation around the city centre.
- ii. Would encourage people to recycle their litter at home which reduced the risk of cross contamination of on-street bins.
- iii. A location map of all the bins across the city had been produced by Officers approximately ten years ago; this had provided the basis to determine where additional bins were required at the time.
- iv. It was imperative that the trial continued to determine if all these bins were in the correct location and were of the right type.
- v. The additional bins added 10 years ago in many cases added recycling bin containers whilst the intention was to increase recycling they have often been misused and the material collected contaminated; it would be more appropriate and effective if recycling waste is taken home and put into the household recycling stream. As these bins are paired with general waste and often underused it would seem appropriate to consider whether two bins are required at such locations.

- vi. Acknowledged the work of former Councillor Rod Cantrill and Councillor Glasberg to reduce the 39 bins on Laundress Green.
- vii. No bins were removed as part of the trial. Any bins that needed to be re-purposed would be considered in consultation with Councillor's until a policy was in place in regard the data collection.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the outcomes of the bin sensor and digital monitoring trial as an agreed task and finish work under the Litter Strategy Action Plan.
- ii. To endorse the principle of using sensor data and digital tools to guide bin placement, type, and collection schedules in line with the "Right Bin, Right Location, Right Reason" policy.
- iii. To support the immediate use of evidence from the trial to:
 - Consider duplicated usage or underused bins (general, recycling) utilising the digital data technology information
 - Adjust routing to maintain the reduction from six to five collection rounds, with further efficiencies explored as data builds.
 - Remove low-capacity dog bins that are underused or with nearby alternatives as appropriate, accompanied by clear signage that dog waste can be placed in general bins.
- iv. To agree that requests for new bins should be supported only where sensor data and usage evidence demonstrate genuine need, and proposals align with Litter Strategy principles.
- v. To request officers to report back in Spring 2026 with:
 - A summary of proposed bin rationalisation and re-purposing.
 - An update on cost savings, carbon reduction, and operational benefits delivered.
 - Proposals for extending the approach to the city centre.

25/6/SC&C Work Programme

Prior to the meeting the Chair of the Services, Climate and Communities Overview Scrutiny Committee had sent the following list to the Deputy Democratic Services Manager to update the work programme.

February 2026

Climate Strategy

Urban Forest strategy

Homelessness

Heat Network

Biodiversity

March 2026

Fees and charges

Effect on services of the internal reorganisations

Other potential items

Fleet decarbonisation

After summer

Folk Festival

Culture strategy

25/7/SC&C Cambridge City Council Report MRF Update Dec 2025

The Head of Climate, Environment & Waste and the Waste Policy Officer provided a briefing note giving an update on contract performance and observations from the Officers visit on 22 September 2025. The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service began its contract for sorting recycling with Re-Gen in March 2025.

Key points highlighted:

- i. Monthly reports from the contractor provided the amounts collected and composition information were being provided on time for meet the national data reporting deadlines.
- ii. Material was being sorted and recovered to a high standard, and the plant continued to extract and send for sale 96% of the material it sorts.
- iii. The commodity prices being reached over the last six months were largely above the typical values of the market indices which was testament to the high standard of sorting achieved and quality of the products.
- iv. Recycling was being sent to UK and European destinations for recycling.
- v. Operations continued to be compliant with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency requirements.
- vi. There had been no health and safety or welfare related issues including any RIDDOR reportable incidents. (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, Dangerous Occurrences Regulations.)
- vii. There was now the ability to recycle additional items, cardboard Pringles TM tubes (with inner foil lining) and toothpaste tubes.
- viii. Officers observed how well the site was being run on a recent site visit. The Environment Agency in Northern Ireland had confirmed that operations were compliant.

- ix. It remained Re-Gen's intention to build another MRF on the mainland, but there was no further information to share on this point currently

In response to questions and statements from Members, the Waste Policy, Change and Innovations Manager said the following:

- i. Officers held regular meetings with Re-Gen, where the establishment of a new recycling plant on the mainland was a standing agenda item.
- ii. The Enforcement Notice issued by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) on 25 July 2025 was unrelated to the Council's contract, and the issues raised had been resolved.
- iii. Work was underway to reduce recycling contamination. Refuse crews could immediately record any contamination they observed, enabling officers to monitor reports and write to residents to provide guidance on what could and could not be recycled.
- iv. The contract was due to run for five years.
- v. Peterborough City Council also held a contract with Re-Gen.
- vi. Huntingdonshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, and Fenland District Council had contracts with Biffa, which used a MRF in London.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Action said the following:

- i. There were disputed claims of conflicting information, lack of transparency, or councillors being misled.
- ii. Contracts had been approved and agreed in April 2025 with the final version actually signed in August 2025.
- iii. The contract involved several complexities, including a requirement for a transfer station.
- iv. Recycling had been collected by Re-Gen before the new contract was signed. The existing transfer station was at the MRF in Waterbeach, where all recycling was delivered before being collected by Re-Gen vehicles.
- v. Agreement was reached in August 2024 that the new contract would be signed as a shared service based in Newry, Northern Ireland.
- vi. The previous contract had been extended to allow recycling to continue at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Waterbeach between August and March.
- vii. Recycling at Newry had produced a 16% increase.
- viii. Although recycling travelled a considerable distance, it was sent to UK and European destinations, not worldwide.
- ix. The contract was considered value for money; the quality of the products meant they were purchased by businesses recycling waste into new products.

- x. Under the previous contract, recycling was transported to Waterbeach for sorting. It was now sent to Northern Ireland, which increases mileage but remained within the UK.
- xi. The new facilities were modern, energy-efficient, and markedly different from the former site. As a result, the quality of recycling had significantly improved, with the benefits outweighing the additional cost.
- xii. Under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), higher levels of recycling equated to increased income for the Council.
- xiii. The contract had been through a public procurement process in which Councillors did not have input.
- xiv. Although there were initial concerns about recycling being transported to Northern Ireland, the contract had since proven entirely positive and was fully supported.
- xv. Re-Gen was a UK family-run, award-winning business in waste management and recycling.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note and accept the update given by the briefing.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR

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REPORT TITLE: Update on the Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031)

To:

Services, Climate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3 February 2026

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Rosy Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment

Report by:

David Wright, Inclusive Economy and Climate Manager

Tel: (01223) 457599 Email: david.wright@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

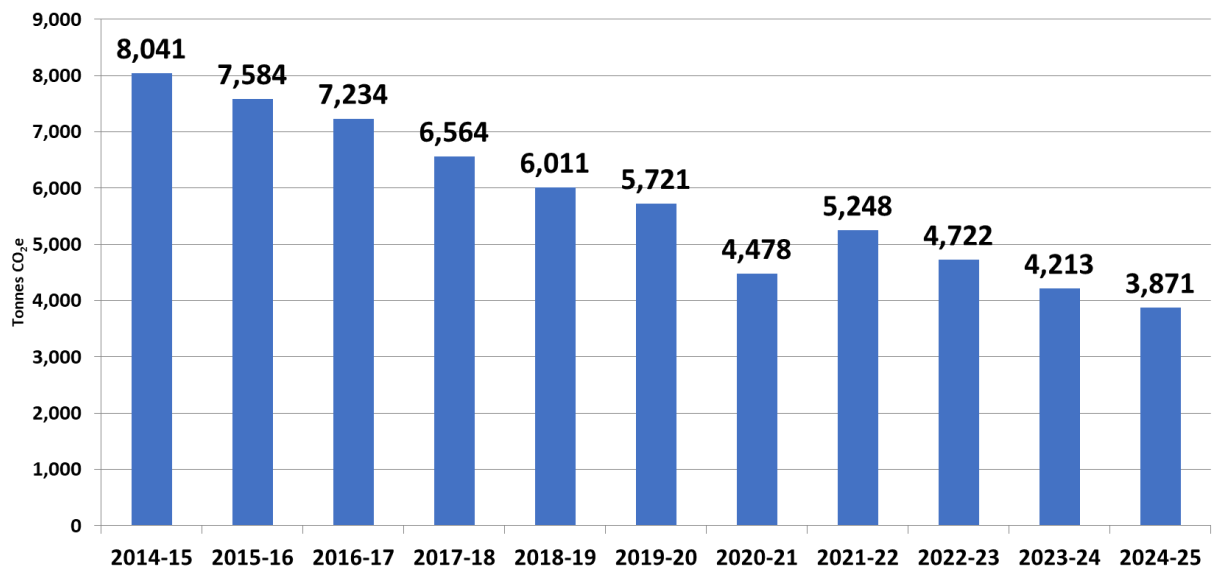
Director Approval: Director Lynne Miles confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Committee for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Services Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the progress on carbon reduction and the findings of the public engagement. 2. Provide feedback on the proposed strategic direction for the 2026-2031 Climate Change Strategy.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	<p>This report provides an update on the development of the new Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031), which will replace the current strategy ending in March 2026. An updated Climate Change Strategy is required from April 2026 to continue to direct the Council's work on addressing climate change and working towards the Council's net zero target.</p>
2.2	<p>This report outlines the progress made in reducing carbon emissions, analysis of recent public engagement, and the proposed strategic direction and members are asked to note the findings and the timeline for final approval at Cabinet on 24 March 2026.</p>

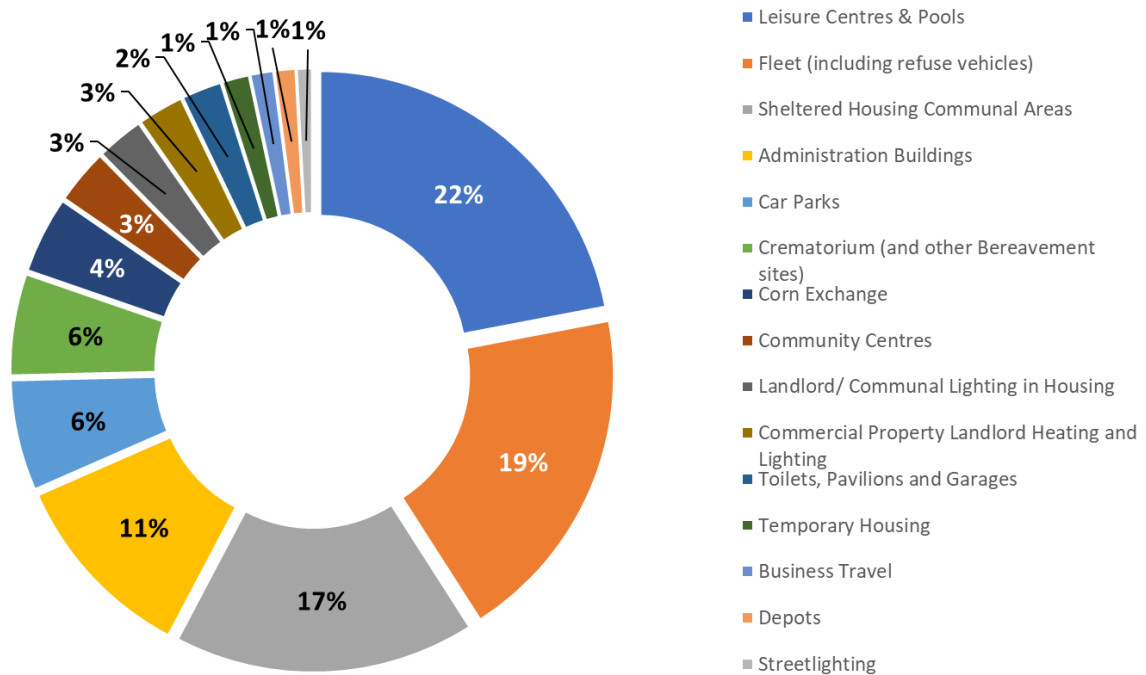
2.3	<p>In particular, it would be helpful for the Committee to provide feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether we have sufficiently taken account of the public feedback? • Do Members have any views on what progress to date we should incorporate when developing the new strategy? • Do Members agree with the rationale for interim 2028 targets, taking account of the anticipated timescale for Local Government Reorganisation? Do Members have any views on the relative priority of identified next steps?
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	The alternative options considered were:
3.1.1	Let the current Climate Change Strategy end after March 2026. This option was rejected as it would mean the de-prioritisation of efforts to tackle climate change, isolated and fragmented project delivery, risk slower progress in carbon reduction, and decrease the Council's ability to achieve net zero by 2030.
3.1.2	Extend the current Climate Change Strategy for a year to cover the period up to the elections in April/ May 2027 for the new Unitary Council under Local Government Reorganisation. This option was rejected as there are important new issues to be considered in the next year, South Cambridgeshire District Council are also developing a new Strategy in parallel, and a longer time horizon is needed to plan for and deliver the Council's major decarbonisation projects in development such as the Civic Quarter and District Heat Network.
3.1.3	Develop a Climate Change Strategy for Greater Cambridge in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council. This was rejected in favour of working together on a co-ordinated approach to the development of both Councils' strategies that enable residents, stakeholders and businesses in both Council areas to participate in the engagements, be clear on the decisions being taken by each Council, understand how our shared services are involved in the delivery and enable alignment in the future as part of Local Government Reorganisation implementation.
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	The City Council has been tackling climate change since the launch of the Cambridge Climate Change Charter in 2007 and our first Climate Change Strategy in 2008. In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the urgency of the action needed

	<p>to limit global warming to 1.5°C and avoid severe and irreversible consequences for people and ecosystems.</p> <p>Real progress has been made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions both within the city, and the Council since 2014/15. While the Council, residents and partners in the city have taken a range of actions over this period, the reduction in emissions from Cambridge (and other local authority areas) has been driven primarily by the removal of the use of coal in electricity generation and the inclusion of higher levels of renewable energy in the national electricity mix.</p>
4.2	<p>Cambridge City Council's emissions</p> <p>Cambridge City Council's direct emissions from the council's own operations only make up approximately 0.7% of the total carbon emissions of the whole city. This is on the low side compared with many other comparable councils, although it does reflect the fact that our 'operational footprint' is relatively small compared with city's housing, transport and business demands, as well as recognising the considerable efforts to reduce our carbon emissions over the last ten years.</p> <p>Every year, Cambridge City Council reviews performance against its climate strategy and action plan and publishes a Greenhouse Gas Report, which describes the total of all our Scope 1, 2 + 3 emissions. Our most recent Greenhouse Gas Report from 2024/25 is included as Appendix A to this report.</p> <p>In 2024/25, (the last complete year that data is available), the City Council emissions had reduced by 51.9% from the 2014 baseline against which it measures its organisational progress.</p> <p>Cambridge City Council's total gross greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 were 3,871 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).</p> <p>Emissions were 8.1% lower in 2024/25 than in 2023/24 (4,213 tCO₂e) and 51.9% lower than the 2014/15 baseline (emissions total was 8,041 tCO₂e) and so the emissions total is lower over the period by 4,169 tCO₂e.</p>

Cambridge City Council's Carbon Emissions 2024/25 (tCO₂e)



Sources of Cambridge City Council's Carbon Emissions 2024/25 (tCO₂e)



The greatest proportion of the Council's emissions came from leisure centres and pools (22%), followed by the Council's vehicles (19%). Some of the main sources of the council's emissions are the sites that use a significant amount of gas, including the leisure sites, sheltered housing communal areas, administration buildings, Corn Exchange and crematorium.

How has the reduction in emissions been achieved?

Decarbonising the national grid: Often referred to as the 'greening the grid', the transition from fossil fuels to renewable electricity generation at a national level, has been a major driver in reducing Cambridge City Council's carbon footprint. As the UK's electricity supply becomes cleaner, the 'emissions factor' for every kilowatt-hour consumed has plummeted. This means that all our operations, which use electricity, will generate significantly fewer emissions, even if our energy use remains constant, thus amplifying the impact of our own efficiency upgrades, including switching from gas to electricity usage.

Electric waste vehicles: Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is progressively replacing refuse collection vehicles with electric vehicles or low carbon alternatives at the point when they are due for replacement. A fourth electric refuse collection vehicle went into service in June 2024 and principally serves commercial waste customers in Cambridge, which has reduced the service's diesel use and therefore carbon emissions from 2024/25.

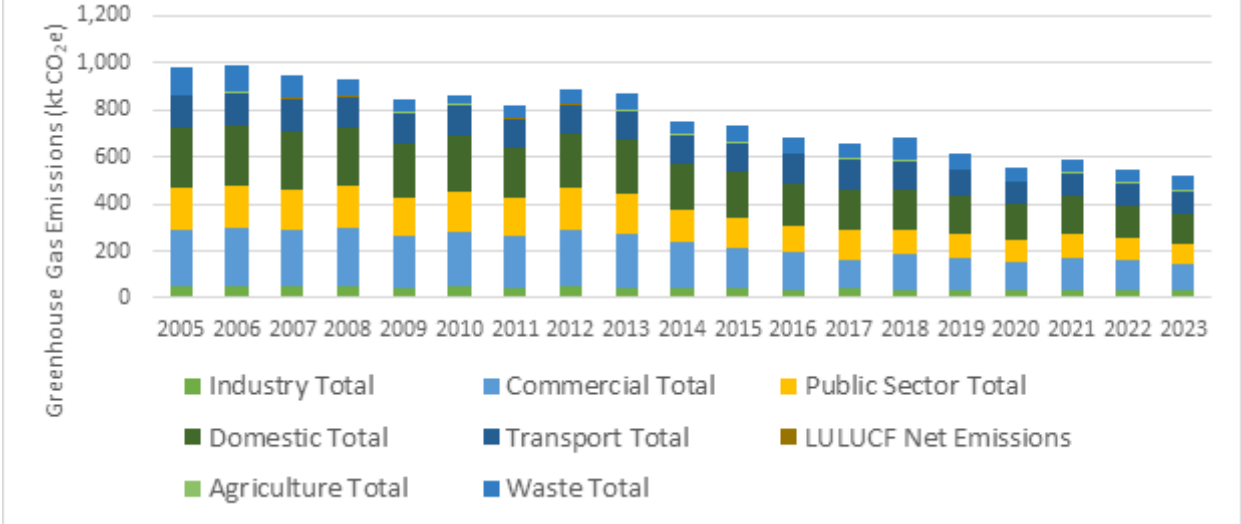
HVO Waste Vehicle: Following a successful trial of using hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), there has been a gradual replacement of diesel refuse vehicles operating in Cambridge City, which has resulted in at least a 90% reduction in carbon emissions when compared to running the same vehicles on diesel. HVO burns much cleaner than traditional diesel, leading to less downtime and lower maintenance costs. The service has 54 RCVs, 4 are electric, (which is the maximum able to be charged at the site due to electricity grid constraints, until they can generate their own solar electricity), 30 are run on HVO and 24 on diesel. The fleet has now transitioned away from diesel by 59%, with further plans underway.

Event generators HVO: The Council's Events team now uses HVO instead of diesel to power the generators used at large events that the Council organises in the city's parks, including the Cambridge Folk Festival and the annual fireworks event. This change of fuel has significantly reduced the carbon emissions, with an overall reduction of approximately 315 tonnes CO₂.

Parkside and Abbey Pools Air Source Heat Pumps: With funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, a £1.7m project installed air source heat pumps, solar PV panels and energy efficiency upgrades in 2022. Overall, this has resulted in a significant reduction in gas consumption, and a saving of over 2,000 tonnes CO₂.

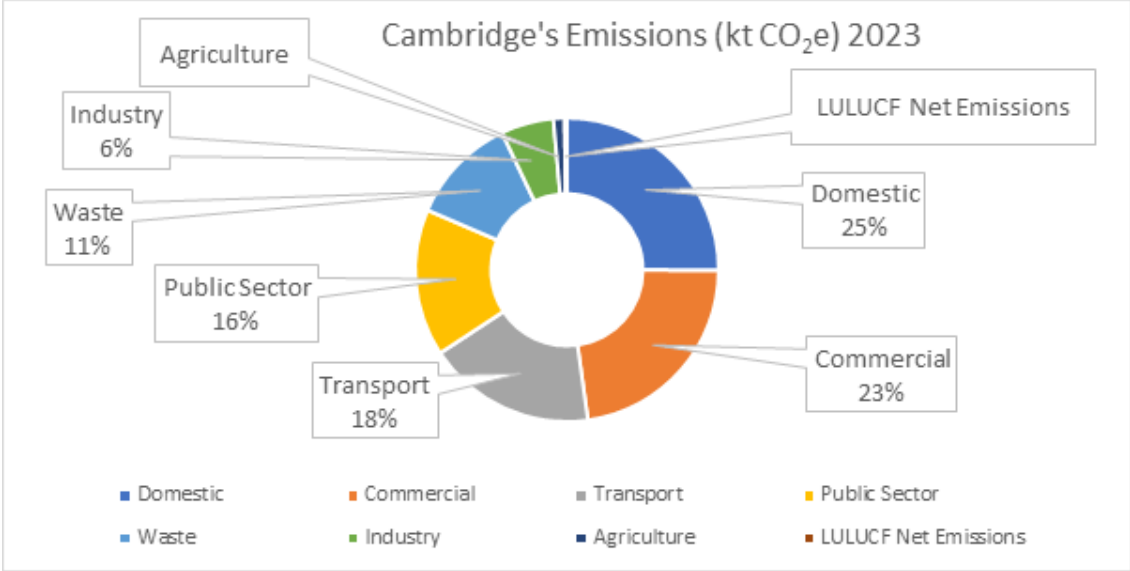
4.4 Cambridge emissions
In 2023 (the last complete year that data is available), Cambridge’s greenhouse gas emissions had reduced by 45% since 2005. Per capita emissions have reduced over the same period, from 8.4 t CO₂e per person, to 3.5 t CO₂e.

Cambridge Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2023 (ktCO₂e)



¹ [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023](#). Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, August 2025.

Sources of Cambridge's Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2023 (ktCO₂e)



	<p>Twenty-five per cent of the emissions were estimated to be from domestic sources and are the highest proportion, which is common with other local authority areas (national average was 22%).</p> <p>Commercial properties (shops and businesses) account for the next most significant proportion of emissions in Cambridge (23%) which is a much higher proportion than the UK average emissions from this source, which was 8%.</p> <p>Emissions from transport was the third highest proportion in Cambridge at 18%. This is much lower than the UK average which was 32%, mainly as a result of the city having fewer main roads passing through than other areas and that, as a compact city, it is easier to use lower carbon options to travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport, as is demonstrated particularly the high cycling rates in the city.</p> <p>Public sector (councils, health and education bodies) emissions are significant at 16% which is high compared to the UK average (3%). This is a result of the size and number of universities, hospitals and other public organisations in the city.</p> <p>As with the Council's own emissions, much of the city-wide reduction to date is also attributed to the decarbonisation/ greening of the national grid rather than local action. It is notable though that, as an organisation, Cambridge City Council was only directly responsible for 0.7% of total carbon emissions in the city in 2023. This means that success in reducing emissions depends on collective city-wide action, where the Council's role is one of leadership and influence rather than total control.</p>
4.5	<p>How do we compare?</p> <p>Cambridge City Council performs extremely strongly compared with other UK councils on carbon reduction and sustainability.</p> <p>Cambridge is currently one of the highest-performing cities in the UK for sustainability. It was ranked the UK's most sustainable city in the 2025 Next X Green Cities Index, ahead of cities such as Exeter, Bristol and Oxford. This ranking reflects Cambridge's strong environmental policies, efficient infrastructure, and high access to open space.</p>

In the 2023 Climate Emergency UK Council Climate Action Scorecards, Cambridge City Council was joint 3rd out of 186 district councils, alongside Oxford and just behind Lancaster. This reflects strong performance across a wide set of climate action indicators. More recently, in 2025, we have dropped to 8th place, with a number of other councils making significant increases over the last few years. The areas where our scores particularly dropped were in Planning, Land Use and Transport, some of which are outside of our control. However, the development of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, (which is intended to have strong sustainability and net zero policies), and indeed our new Climate Change Strategy, should make a difference to our scores in future, and will continue to use the scorecards to see where we may be able to improve and learn from good practice elsewhere.

Cambridge City Council is particularly considered as a leader in low-carbon housing, including running major retrofit and new build programmes, including houses built to our 'Cam Standard' which ensures that every new home delivers low operational energy usage, high levels of thermal comfort, and strong resilience to future climate impacts.

Cambridge has also been recognised internationally and is listed on the global Carbon Disclosure Project City A-List for climate action for the third consecutive year, one of only 120 cities worldwide. As one of only 20 UK cities on this list, this score recognises the positive action being taken to reduce emissions and increase the resilience of the city to the impacts of climate change.

Cambridge City Council performs strongly against the main LGA-supported carbon and sustainability metrics and tools. While the LGA does not have a single consolidated sustainability score, it provides standardised approaches that allow councils to measure and benchmark carbon reduction and climate action. Based on those, Cambridge's performance is as follows:

- **Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool:** This tool measures operational emissions from council estates, fleet, street lighting, and other operational sources. Cambridge City Council performs very well, reducing its operational emissions by 8.1% in 2024/25, as mentioned above. These reductions place Cambridge ahead of many councils in terms of operational decarbonisation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESNZ Local Authority Emissions Statistics: These official figures provide the standard national method for area-wide climate performance. Cambridge's emissions have fallen by more than 47% since 2005. This is a substantial reduction and compares favourably with many other urban authorities. It indicates strong area-wide progress in line with nationally recognised metrics. • LGA Sustainability Programme: The LGA's sustainability programme focuses on capability building, tools, planning and governance. Cambridge City Council aligns very strongly with these expectations. It has major retrofit programmes, strong governance structures and climate leadership, reflected in national assessments showing Cambridge as one of the highest-performing councils in the UK. Its collaboration and engagement work also performs well. • Waste Emissions Calculator (waste-related emissions): The LGA encourages councils to measure emissions from waste and recycling operations. Cambridge City Council performs well here too, as demonstrated by the move to electric and HVO refuse collection vehicles and decarbonisation of waste operations. This places us ahead of many councils still reliant on diesel fleets, as less than 5% of local authorities have decarbonised their entire fleets. <p>Overall, Cambridge City Council performs exceptionally well across all major carbon and sustainability measures. It is reducing operational emissions quickly, achieving strong city-wide carbon reductions, delivering large-scale retrofit programmes, improving waste-related emissions and demonstrating high organisational capability. Using the various tools and frameworks available, Cambridge City Council is performing at the level of a national leader. However, there is still lots to do and investment to make if we are to meet our 2030 Net Zero target, without substantial offsetting.</p>
4.6	<p>Feedback from Public Engagement</p> <p>As mentioned in section 6.1, a public engagement exercise on the Climate Change Strategy was conducted between October and November 2025. The full report of the engagement is enclosed as Appendix B. The findings from this exercise have informed both content and emphasis within the new Climate Change Strategy for 2026-2031. The</p>

following examples demonstrate how the results of the public engagement informed and refined the development of the Strategy:

Prioritising Actions: The engagement exercise helped us to prioritise areas of work to take forward in the implementation of the strategy. For example, a lot of support for one of the Strategy's new focus areas: supporting and applying research and innovation on climate change, so we will prioritise this within the implementation of the strategy.

Council Responsibilities: Some of the feedback suggested that recipients were confused about what different councils were responsible, (e.g. suggesting that Cambridge City Council repaired potholes, when this is a County Council responsibility). We therefore identified a need to show clearly what the City Council is directly responsible and therefore where we can have the most impact. In parallel, we also need to highlight the areas where we are not the lead organisation and do not have control over. We will be creating a diagram to help explain our direct areas of responsibility.

New Projects: We received some strong suggestions of ideas the Council could explore. Some of these are already included in our action plan so it helps us to understand that we are aligned with our residents and reinforces the need to implement these. We will also look to explore some of the additional ideas suggested such as more visual communications and engagement, and annual environment events.

Guidance and Information: A number of respondents requested guidance or a resource of information to help individuals take action on climate change. In some instances, we already have a lot of guidance such as home improvement guides and a Council approved list of retrofit contractors. This highlighted the need for us to share these more widely, more frequently as part of our communications and engagement with residents. We'll also use these ideas to create more resources such as best practice case studies.

Growth: There was some concern about the rapid growth in Cambridge potentially damaging biodiversity and undermining climate goals. This reinforced the need for the new Local Plan to include strong climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure that new development is required to consider climate change and biodiversity,

	<p>and to show within the Strategy how the Climate Change Strategy is aligned with the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service's work.</p> <p>Impact of Climate Change: Responses reflected a need for further and continued training and awareness raising, both within the council and for the public, on the impacts of climate change and the solutions to build resilience. This is something the Council already provides for both staff and residents so reinforced the need to continue this education offering, raise awareness of it and explore the feasibility of increasing it in the future.</p> <p>Offsetting: Concern was raised about the principle of using of offsetting. This reinforced the Council's stance that we need to prioritise carbon reduction over offsetting wherever possible and if needed, ensure any offsetting is done through local schemes and it is always verified.</p>
4.7	<p>Proposed Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>The new Climate Change Strategy will be presented in three sections, reflecting the Council's differing levels of authority, control and influence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable City Council (High Control): reducing our carbon emissions towards our Net Zero target, increasing our organisation's climate resilience and enhancing the sustainability of our organisation. This includes focussing on the Council's own operational buildings, fleet, and business travel, as well as major infrastructure projects like the Civic Quarter and the proposed City Centre Heat Network. 2. Sustainable City (Medium Control/ Influence): Working with residents and businesses to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change and protect and enhance nature in the city, through policies and partnerships where the Council has a mandate, such as the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (which aims for Net Zero new buildings) and the shared waste service. 3. Working Together for a Sustainable Cambridge (Influence/ Facilitation): Supporting and encouraging partners to collaborate and explore city wide approaches to reduce the city's emissions and adapt to climate change.

	<p>The Strategy will set out our continued and renewed drive to build on the achievements to date, respond to changes in policy and to set out a clear pathway to achieving our net zero vision for the city and for the Council.</p> <p>Our focus in 2026-31 is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the City Council's own emissions and increase organisational climate resilience. 2. Support the city to reduce Cambridge's emissions - mitigating and adapting to climate change - to increase its climate resilience. 3. Protect and increase our nature and biodiversity. 4. Achieve better outcomes for people's daily lives - with lower bills, cleaner air, more comfortable homes, greener neighbourhoods, new job opportunities and stronger local economies. 5. Ensure that our climate change strategy is fair and inclusive, delivering a just transition, so that those most affected by climate change are not left behind and the benefits of addressing climate change - improved the health, wellbeing and livelihoods, for current and future generations - are shared widely and felt by all. <p>The strategy sets out detailed objectives and an action plan that will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the Council's direct emissions to net zero and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. 2. Use our policy and financial powers to create systemic change. 3. Convene and collaborate with local partners, businesses, organisations and residents to act. 4. Influence Government, industry and regulators to make the necessary changes and investments needed to enable the city and the rest of the UK to achieve net zero.
4.8	<p>Future Direction and Local Government Reorganisation</p> <p>The new strategy will bridge the transition toward Local Government Reorganisation in 2028.</p> <p>Interim Targets: Given the fact that the Strategy will extend beyond the anticipated tenure of Cambridge City Council, we are proposing to establish interim targets for March 2028, in order to maintain momentum during the transition to a new unitary council.</p>

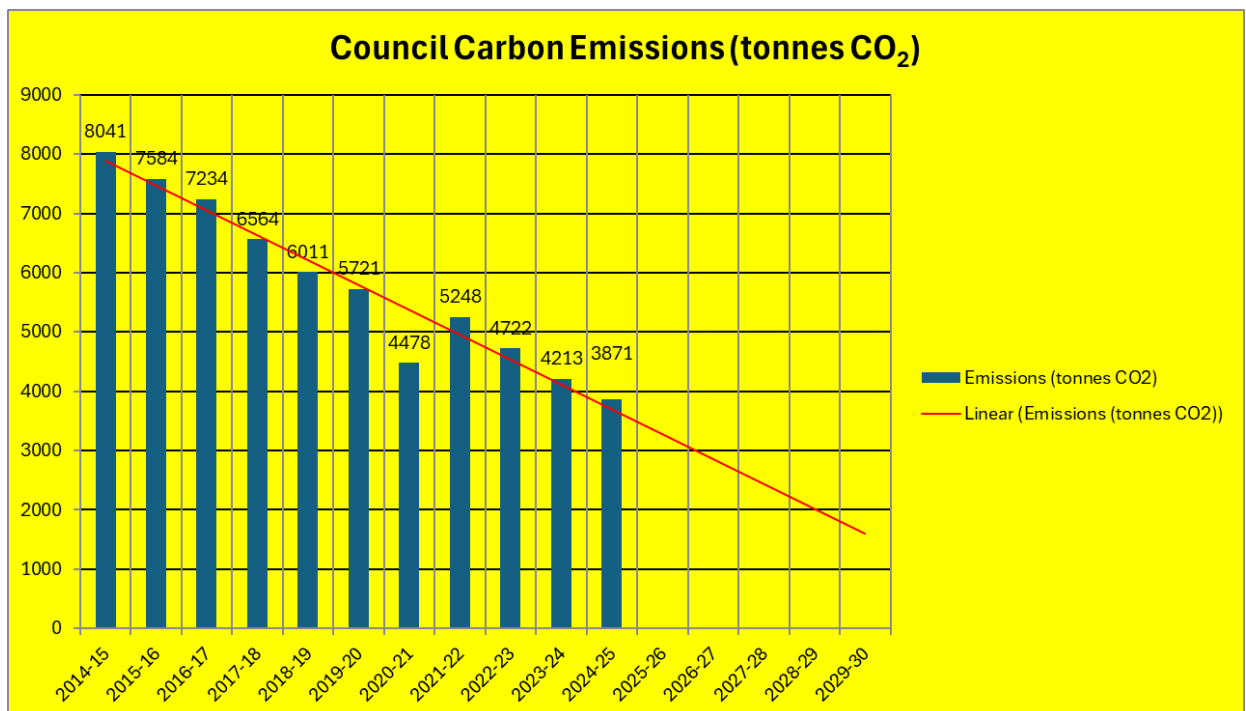
Residual Emissions: The strategy recognises that there is likely to be a need to consider addressing unavoidable residual emissions through local offsetting schemes, although this is likely to be after Local Government Reorganisation in 2028.

Next Steps: Following the Scrutiny Committee's feedback, the final Strategy and detailed Action Plan will be submitted for Cabinet approval on 24 March 2026.

4.9

New Strategy Proposals

In order to set realistic targets for Cambridge City Council's carbon emissions, we have plotted the reduction over the last ten years. This shows the following trend, which if continued, would suggest that emissions could reduce by approximately 500 tCO₂e) per annum, resulting in 2,500 tCO₂e) by March 2028 and 1,500 tCO₂e) by March 2030.



These targets assume that the reduction in carbon emissions resulting from the ongoing decarbonisation/ greening of the national grid continues at a similar pace as over the last ten years.

A range of projects have been identified, which could contribute towards achieving the anticipated reduction. These focus particularly on those areas of the Council's operation, (as identified in section 4.2), which make up the highest proportion of the Council's

emissions, (i.e. leisure centres and fleet). The new Strategy includes the following specific projects:

City Council-operated buildings (collectively 24% of all emissions): Projects include:

City Centre Heat Network: We are collaborating with the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University to assess the feasibility of delivering design a City Centre Heat Network. Targeted for 2030, this network aims to supply renewable heat to hard-to-decarbonise heritage buildings like the Guildhall, Corn Exchange and Parkside Pool, which are also harder to decarbonise due to the age, construction and size of the buildings.

Civic Quarter Project: This redevelopment targets exemplar outcomes, including operational net zero for the Guildhall and water neutrality across the site. We are aiming for a 65% reduction in Corn Exchange emissions through upgrades to the building's energy efficiency and solar power. This major redevelopment project, if approved, will upgrade the Guildhall, Corn Exchange and Market and could be completed in December 2028, but could include a future connection to the proposed city centre district heating network.

Building Management Systems: We are optimising Building Management Systems (BMS) across other estate buildings, in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs and energy usage, and so have prioritised decarbonisation feasibility studies for following key sites during January 2026:

- Crematorium
- Trumpington Pavilion
- Clay Farm Community Centre
- Grand Arcade main car park

Leisure facilities (22% of all emissions): The Council's leisure facilities, were responsible for the greatest proportion of the Council's emissions in 2024/25. Through the procurement of a new leisure management contract for 2026-2041, we will seek to reduce carbon emissions at the pools and leisure facilities towards net zero through

	<p>requirements for capital investment into the facilities and involvement in city-wide scheme, e.g. possible district heating at Parkside Pools. The following sites have been prioritised for feasibility studies in early 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Pool • Parkside Pool • Kings Hedges Learner Pool <p>City Council Fleet (19% of all emissions): proposals to transition from current diesel fleet to electric vehicles, are currently being finalised and should result in a significant reduction in carbon emissions, further details of which should be confirmed later in 2026.</p> <p>With the development of the new solar generation facilities at Waterbeach, by WREN, this will allow current diesel waste fleet to transition to electric vehicles beyond that which can be supported by the national grid capacity, which should also result in a significant reduction in carbon emissions for the estimated proportion of the waste service operating within Cambridge City Council area, further details of which should be confirmed later in 2026.</p> <p>Sheltered housing (17% of all emissions): Awaiting detail of proposed projects once feasibility studies have been completed in early 2026, and the necessary funding has been identified and secured.</p> <p>Commercial properties (3% of all emissions): Because the Council is responsible for heating and lighting to communal areas of a small number of our commercial properties, this energy consumption contributes to our emissions and is included in the Council's annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) report. We will be able confirm specific projects later in 2026, once feasibility studies are complete and funding is secured.</p>
5.	Corporate plan
5.1	<p>Within Cambridge City Council's Corporate Plan (Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council), priority 1 is: Leading Cambridge's response to the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.</p>

	The Climate Change Strategy is one of the key strategies to deliver this priority, alongside the Biodiversity Strategy, the Urban Forestry Strategy and the Joint Local Plan.
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	<p>A public engagement exercise on the Climate Change Strategy was conducted in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire District Council, between October and November 2025. The two Councils jointly hosted the engagement survey to recognise the fact that we have a number of shared services and the reality that there are a number of residents and businesses who interact with the two areas, depending on where they live and work. The survey received 486 responses, of which 96% identified themselves as residents of Greater Cambridge, with 4 responses from businesses, 5 from community or voluntary organisations and 5 from visitors to the area.</p> <p>The survey aimed to capture responses on how the people who live and work in Cambridge felt about the emerging Climate Change Strategy and provide an opportunity for the public to shape the strategy to reflect the needs and ambitions of Cambridge and its residents.</p> <p>In addition to the survey, both Councils hosted face-to-face drop-in sessions with six sessions taking place across Cambridge in libraries, community centres and shopping centres, which attracted limited attendance, and considerable effort was made to try reach young people and cover all areas of the city. Going forward, the intention is to offer those who engaged in the exercise the opportunity to receive updates and ongoing communication about the progress and implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>The full report of the engagement is enclosed as Appendix B. Key takeaways include:</p> <p>High Levels of Support: 86% of respondents support the Council's vision for the new strategy. The Nature and Water objective received the strongest individual support.</p> <p>Experienced Impacts: Over half of respondents stated they have already experienced the local effects of climate change, specifically extreme heat and water scarcity.</p>

	<p>Barriers to Action: Respondents identified high upfront costs, (255 mentions), as the primary barrier to taking personal climate action.</p> <p>Strategic Needs: Stakeholders expressed a strong desire for more clear communication, practical guidance, and financial support, (such as grant funding), to enable them to decarbonise their own homes and businesses.</p> <p>Alongside the public engagement exercise, we put out a Call for Information asking stakeholders and organisations to share their plans which will help to build a city-wide picture and identify opportunities for collaboration or area-based working and stimulate opportunities for innovation. This exercise attracted contributions from 15 organisations, including Anglia Ruskin University, ARM and Cambridge University Hospitals (Addenbrookes), as well as a number of community organisations and provides a good starting point for collating good practice and wider engagement and sharing envisaged in Section 3 of the Strategy, in terms of trying to develop more of a city-wide strategy that captures and celebrates work being done by other employers, groups and organisations across the city.</p>
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	<p>The outcome of this process will be the development and adoption of a new Climate Change Strategy for 2026-31.</p> <p>Anticipated outcomes from the Strategy include a substantial reduction in carbon emissions through the decarbonisation of council buildings and fleets, alongside a rise in urban climate resilience achieved by increasing the tree canopy to 20% and improving water management.</p> <p>Residents are expected to benefit from lower energy bills through extensive housing retrofits, enhanced public health from improved air quality and a just transition that ensures vulnerable communities are supported.</p>

	Ultimately, the strategy aims to foster a sustainable local economy and a 'nature-rich' city where cleaner air, greener spaces and resilient infrastructure safeguard the quality of life for future generations.	
8	Implications	
8.1	Relevant risks	
	Risks	Mitigation
	That the reduction in carbon emissions resulting from the ongoing decarbonisation/ greening of the national grid does not continue at a similar pace as over the last ten years.	Monitor trends closely and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.
	That a change in government or national policies/ legislation reduce the level of political and financial support for climate adaptation and the reduction of carbon emissions, (e.g. current consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework is proposing to limit Planning Authority's powers to set climate change and adaptation policies).	Monitor closely and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate, with a view to participating in relevant consultations and lobbying government if deemed necessary.
	That specific projects arising from the strategy prove to be unaffordable or undeliverable due to cost inflation or failure to secure additional funding/finance.	Monitor closely and consider alternative projects and funding routes if necessary.
	That projects fail to deliver the carbon or financial savings anticipated.	Monitor closely and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.
	That we fail to get the buy-in and support from key partners to progress specific projects.	Consider alternative partners, if appropriate and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.

	That the transition towards Local Government Reorganisation delays or curtails progress on implementing the Climate Change Strategy.	Continue to work with other councils for better alignment in advance of the new unitary formation and monitor closely, escalating to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.
	Financial Implications	
8.2	There are no direct financial implications from the strategy. However, for specific projects arising from the strategy, funding will need to be secured through the Council's normal budget bidding process and supported by detailed business cases. Wherever possible, appropriate external funding sources will be explored to reduce the financial burden on Cambridge City Council and allow us to deliver more than our own funds would allow.	
	Legal Implications	
8.3	There are no legal implications relating directly to the Strategy, although the strategy will consider any relevant legal requirements such as the new Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) regulations and the target of requiring commercial properties to achieve an EPC rating of C or higher by 2027 and B by 2030.	
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications	
8.4	During the development of the Strategy, and prior to it being presented to Cabinet, a new Equality Impact Assessment will be produced to inform and assess the equalities impacts of the proposed Strategy and its actions.	
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications	
8.5	<p>The Climate Change Strategy will have a high positive impact on the net zero, climate change and the environment by setting out a planned approach to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the Council's carbon emissions • setting high standards for residents, businesses and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions and manage climate risks • working in partnership with, influencing and learning from other organisations to address the causes and effects of climate change. 	

	Procurement Implications
8.6	There are no procurement implications, however, for any specific projects arising from the strategy, these will be delivered in line the Council's procurement policies and regulations, taking advice and input from the Procurement team, as appropriate.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	There are no community safety implications.
9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	Cambridge City Council Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 Climate Change Strategy - Cambridge City Council Cambridge City Council Annual Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management plan Update 2023/24 ClimateChangeStrategyUpdateCommitteeReportSeptember2024.pdf
10.	Appendices
10.1	Appendix A - Greenhouse Gas Report 2024/25 Appendix B - Bioregional Report on Public engagement results – December 2025
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact: David Wright, Inclusive Economy and Climate Manager, tel: 01223 457599 email: david.wright@cambridge.gov.uk

Cambridge City Council

Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2024-25

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1. Introduction

Local authorities in England were requested by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which has now become Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), to measure and publish their greenhouse gas (GHG) report, detailing the total gross greenhouse gas emissions from their own estate and operations, on an annual basis. In this report, we give details of Cambridge City Council's total gross greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

2. Summary of Achievements

The Council's total gross greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 was 3,871 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Emissions were 8.1% lower in 2024/25 than in 2023/24 (emissions total was 4,213 tCO₂e) and 51.9% lower than the 2014/15 baseline (emissions total was 8,041 tCO₂e) and so the emissions total is lower over the period by 4,170 tCO₂e.

Table 1: Overall Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2024/25											
GHG Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)											
Scopes	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Scope 1	2,749	2,641	2,819	2,618	2,727	2,819	2,704	2,692	2,522	2,298	2,009
Scope 2	2,975	2,597	2,080	1,678	1,254	1,256	1,136	1,013	920	907	883
Scope 3	2,317	2,346	2,335	2,268	2,030	1,646	638	1,543	1,280	1,008	980
Total Gross Emissions	8,041	7,584	7,234	6,564	6,011	5,721	4,478	5,248	4,722	4,213	3,872¹
Intensity Measurement Tonnes of CO ₂ e per head of population ²	0.0626	0.0579	0.0549	0.0525	0.0478	0.0452	0.0358	0.0360	0.0323	0.0281	0.0259
Carbon Offsets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Tariff	3,386	2,821	2,588	2,002	1,601	1,432	1,287	1,102	1,113	1,219	1,245
Total Net Emissions	4,655	4,763	4,646	4,562	4,410	4,289	3,191	4,146	3,609	2,994	2,627

The Council's Carbon Management Plan 2021-2026 was adopted in March 2021 and set a target to reduce the Council's direct carbon emissions (from our corporate buildings, our fleet vehicles and business travel) to net zero by 2030.

3. Cambridge City Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Table 2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2024/25 – by Scope.											
GHG Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)											
Scopes	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Scope 1											
Gas Consumption	1,540	1,637	1,544	1,303	1,347	1,478	1,438	1,392	1,288	1,380	1,275
Owned Transport	1,209	1,004	1,275	1,315	1,379	1,341	1,260	1,300	1,234	918	734
Process Emissions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fugitive Emissions	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	0	0	0	0

¹ Amount is greater than reported total due to rounding issues

² Population of 149,352 used for 2024/25 ([Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2024](#), 30 July 2025).

Total Scope 1	2,749	2,641	2,819	2,618	2,727	2,819	2,704	2,692	2,522	2,298	2,009
Scope 2											
Purchased Electricity	2,975	2,597	2,080	1,678	1,254	1,256	1,136	1,013	920	907	883
Total Scope 2	2,975	2,597	2,080	1,678	1,254	1,256	1,136	1,013	920	907	883
Scope 3											
Business Travel	52	57	59	62	61	64	34	41	52	56	50
Outsourced Activities Gas & Electricity	1,904	2,001	2,012	1,985	1,819	1,449	495	1,399	1,120	840	808
Transmission and distribution (T&D) losses	361	288	264	221	150	132	109	103	109	111	121
Employee Commuting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Scope 3	2,317	2,346	2,335	2,268	2,030	1,646	638	1,543	1,281	1,007	980
Total Gross Emissions	8,041	7,584	7,234	6,564	6,011	5,721	4,478	5,248	4,723	4,212³	3,872⁴

4. General Organisation Information

Cambridge City Council is a district authority and is responsible for providing a wide range of services to people who live within the City of Cambridge, to people who visit the City, and to businesses and other organisations based in Cambridge including housing, refuse and recycling collections, licensing, planning and building control, Council Tax collection, and environmental health services. It currently serves a population of 149,352⁵; has 42 elected Members; and employed 859 members of staff as of 31 March 2024 (full-time equivalent of 748.02). Further information on the Council can be found on the Council's [website](#) and within its [constitution](#), which sets out the responsibilities of the Council, its Members and its employees.

5. Reporting Period

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

6. Significant Changes in Emissions

As detailed in Table 1, the Council's gross emissions for 2024/25 was 3,871 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_{2e}) which is a reduction in emissions of 4,170 tCO_{2e} from the 2014/15 baseline when the emissions total was 8,041 tCO_{2e}. Our emissions are therefore 51.9% lower since the baseline year of 2014/15.

The average of the last 3 years' emissions totals (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) is 4,269 tCO_{2e}:

³ Amount is lower than reported total due to rounding issues

⁴ Amount is greater than reported total due to rounding issues

⁵ Mid-Year 2024 Population estimates for England and Wales:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2024

Table 3: 3 Year Average Emissions

Year	tCO ₂ e
2022/23	4,722
2023/24	4,213
2024/25	3,871
3 Year Average	4,269

Last year's 3-year average figure was 4,728 tCO₂e, which has reduced in 2024/25 to 4,269 tCO₂e. This comparison of the average figure will reduce the impact of fluctuations in energy consumption due to factors such as a warm winter requiring less energy for heating and allow us to assess if the Council's emissions are reducing overall, over a longer time period.

This three-year average figure will be used to compare with next year's 3-year average figure which will be calculated when next year's 2025/26 emissions total is compiled.

During 2024/25 the Council completed the following carbon reduction projects, which will have contributed, in part, to the reduction in this year's emissions total, despite an increase in the carbon factor used to calculate the carbon emissions from electricity use during the year, including:

- Electric waste vehicles: Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS), a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils, is progressively replacing Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV) with electric vehicles (eRCV) or low carbon alternatives at the point when they are due for replacement. A 4th eRCV, a Dennis eCollect, went into service in June 2024 and principally serves commercial waste customers in Cambridge, which will have further reduced the service's diesel use and therefore carbon emissions during 2024/25.
- Waste Vehicle HVO: The Service has also increased the usage of HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil – results in at least a 90% reduction in carbon emissions when compared to running the same vehicles on mineral diesel fuel), with effect from the end of June 2024 - the biofuel now serving almost 50% of the domestic waste fleet. During 2024/25 the service replaced 11 diesel RCVs that were at the end of their life - all 11 run on HVO (5 of these operate in the city).
- The service now has 58 RCVs, 4 are electric (maximum eRCVs able to be charged at the site at this time due to electricity grid constraints), 30 are run on HVO and 24 on diesel. Total fleet transitioned away from diesel is 59%.

7. Approach

We have followed the guidance provided in [Environmental Reporting Guidelines](#) published by Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions and also the guidance in the [Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#) developed for councils by Local Partnerships, working with the LGA.

8. Organisational Boundary

We have defined our organisational boundary following the Financial Control approach. Further detail on which operations or activities have been included within our organisational boundary for the purposes of compiling this greenhouse gas report is provided under 'Operational Scope' below.

9. Operational Scopes

We have measured our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for all properties and vehicles that we fully own and control. Our reported Scope 1 and 2 emissions also include emissions from properties that we lease in from others, where the Council is delivering a service.

We have reported some of our Scope 3 emissions, depending on the availability of comprehensive and reliable data; and the extent to which Cambridge City Council has control over the operation/ activity in question. See the table below for details:

Table 4: Rationale for Inclusion and Exclusion of Emissions.

Source of Emissions	Emissions included in our reporting?	Explanation for specific emissions included or excluded from our reporting
Scope 1 (Direct)		
Gas consumption: in buildings we fully own, occupy and control	Yes	This includes our office buildings, community centres, sheltered and temporary housing and crematorium (our leisure centres, are included as Scope 3 emissions because they are Outsourced Activities).
Gas consumption: in buildings we own and lease out to others	Partially	We have only included emissions arising from energy used in the communal areas of some of the buildings that we lease out (energy used in communal areas is provided and paid for by the Council). We do not have access to data on energy used by our tenants.
Gas consumption: in buildings we lease in from others	Yes	
Other fuel consumption (in owned transport) i.e. own fleet	Yes	Includes the Waste fleet vehicles managed by Greater Cambridge Shared Waste which operate predominantly in Cambridge.
Process emissions	No	Not relevant
Fugitive emissions (from air conditioning units)	Yes	Included for the first time in 2020/21.
Scope 2 (Energy Indirect)		

Source of Emissions	Emissions included in our reporting?	Explanation for specific emissions included or excluded from our reporting
Purchased electricity: in buildings we fully own, occupy and control	Yes	This includes our office buildings, community centres, car parks, sheltered and temporary housing and crematorium (our leisure centres are included as Scope 3 emissions because they are Outsourced Activities).
Purchased electricity: in buildings we own and lease out to others	Partially	We have only included emissions arising from energy used in the communal areas of some of the buildings that we lease out (energy used in communal areas is provided and paid for by the Council). We do not have access to data on energy used by our tenants.
Purchased electricity: in buildings we lease in from others	Yes	
Scope 3 (Other Indirect)		
Purchased materials and fuels	No	Excluded due to time/ cost of data collection.
Business travel (business mileage, car club use, rail journeys and flights)	Yes	Rail journeys and flights Included for the first time in 2022/23.
Hotel stays	Yes	Included for the first time in 2022/23.
Commuter travel	No	Excluded due to time/ cost of data collection.
Waste disposal	No	Excluded due to time/ cost of data collection.
Water usage	No	Excluded due to time/ cost of data collection.
Outsourced activities	Partially	Included: Management of leisure sites & swimming pools ¹ ;

¹ We share management & maintenance responsibility for our leisure sites & swimming pools with the appointed contractor.

10. Conversion/ Emissions Factors Used

The emissions factors used to calculate the emissions in this Greenhouse Gas Report are those provided by Defra (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) titled: 'UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting' which is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2022.

11. Geographical Breakdown

All of our operations and activities are carried out in the UK.

12. Baseline Year

Our baseline year is 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

13. Base Year Recalculation Policy

In establishing our base year recalculation policy, we have closely followed advice given in the [Government's guidance](#) on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions.

Should the Council **in-source or acquire** a facility or emission source from another party, then we will recalculate our base year emissions provided that:

- The facility or emission source in question was operational during our base year (2014/15); *and*
- We had not accounted for the emissions from this facility or emission source when we first established our base year emissions; *and*
- The emissions from the in-sourced or acquired emission source equate to more than 1% of our original base year emissions.

Should the Council **outsource** a facility or emission source to another party, we will *not* recalculate our base year emissions but we will instead report the emissions arising from the outsourced facility or activity as part of our Scope 3 emissions, provided that:

- We are able to source comprehensive and accurate data on emissions arising from the facility/ activity from the party to which the facility/ activity has been outsourced; *and*
- The emissions from the outsourced facility or activity equate to more than 1% of our original base year emissions.

Should we discover errors in the energy and fuel consumption data that we used to calculate our base year emissions, we will recalculate our base year emissions using revised/ amended data in order to correct the errors.

In all other circumstances, we will not recalculate our base year emissions, unless this is specifically required or advised in relevant guidance.

14. Target

The Council's new Carbon Management Plan 2021-2026 was adopted in March 2021 and set a target to reduce the Council's direct carbon emissions (from our corporate buildings, our vehicles and business travel) to net zero by 2030.

15. Intensity Measurement

We have included an intensity ratio of 'tonnes of CO₂e per resident of Cambridge City', which for 2024/25 is based on Mid-Year 2024 Population estimates for England and Wales:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2024.

16. External Assurance Statement

In August 2015 the Building Energy Manager from the University of Cambridge assessed the approach and methodology we have followed when compiling this Greenhouse Gas Report and confirmed that our approach is robust and fit for purpose.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Internal Audit team have audited the process every year since, to ensure that the data used to compile this report is accurate in the form of an assessment of the data collection process and the carbon emissions calculations.

17. Carbon Offsets

We have not purchased any carbon credits.

18. Amount of Electricity Purchased for use or consumption in owned or controlled sources

6,604 MWh

19. Purchased Green Tariffs – Reduction in tonnes of CO₂e per year

From October 2016, the council signed up to Total Gas and Power's Pure Green energy tariff. The energy under the Pure Green Energy tariff comes from 100% renewable sources, which includes solar, wind and hydro/wave energy. This tariff is applied to all the council's electricity meters (except outsourced sites – other than Parkside Pool - which is included because its meters are on the council's energy contract).

The amount of CO₂ saved in 2024/25 as a result of the council's green tariff is 1,245 tonnes CO₂.

The GHG report only collates gross emissions (totals for Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3) and so although we can report the amount of electricity we have used on a green tariff, the net emissions are not used for the total.

20. Amount of Electricity Generated from Owned or Controlled Sources

In 2024/25 the Council owned or part-owned 12 solar photovoltaic (PV) systems which are 'on-site' at council owned buildings where it provides services and so are included in the Greenhouse Gas Report:

Table 5: Electricity Generated from Council Owned Solar PV

Site	Generated in 2024/25 (kWh)	Exported 50% deemed (kWh)
1. Brandon Court	21,663	10,832
2. New Street Hostel	5,965	2,982
3. Cherry Hinton Village Centre	9,042	4,521
4. Parkside Pool	42,126	21,063
5. Kings Hedges	8,415	4,208
6. Abbey Pool	23,020	11,510
7. Clay Farm	20,313	10,157
8. Crematorium	7,111	3,556
9. Whitefriars	16,888	8,444
10. Mandela House	25,182	12,591
11. The Guildhall	22,211	11,106
12. Waterbeach (50% owned by South Cambridgeshire District Council so figures are 50% of the total)	12,474	6,237
TOTAL:	214,411	107,205

Since none of the systems have export meters installed, it is not possible for us to include the amount of own generated renewable electricity exported to the grid in this GHG Report.

21. Amount of Heat Generated from Owned or Controlled Sources

During 2024/25 two solar thermal systems installed at Abbey Pool generated 0 kWhth (kilowatt hours of heat) as they are not operational.

For further information about this report, please contact the Climate Change Officer on (01223) 457176 or email: sustainablecity@cambridge.gov.uk.

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Cambridge City Council Climate Change Strategy

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Public engagement results
18 December 2025

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Introduction

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01

Introduction

What is the Climate Change Strategy 2026-2031 and why do we need it?

Cambridge City Council has been taking action to address climate change since the launch of the first Cambridge Climate Change Charter in 2007 and its first Climate Change Strategy in 2008. The Council declared a Climate Emergency and a Biodiversity Emergency in 2019, and the Council's current Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 shared a vision for the city of Cambridge to be net zero by 2030. The strategy also set a target to reduce the Council's own direct carbon emissions from operational and administrative buildings, fleet vehicles and business travel to net zero by 2030.

The Council is now developing a new Climate Change Strategy (2026 – 2031) to build on the achievements to date, respond to changes in policy and to set out how a plan for continuing to work towards its net zero vision for the city and for the Council; and to deliver the associated benefits of improved health, wellbeing, and livelihoods for current and future generations. A public engagement survey was carried out to help inform and shape the development of the new strategy

Introduction

The Climate Change Strategy 2026-2031

Cambridge City Council engaged with the public on seven key thematic objectives to consider for the development of the new strategy. The views received will inform a new strategy to drive the council’s pathway to net zero and increase climate resilience, while providing flexibility supported by emerging and evolving opportunities and priorities.

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Seven strategic themes			
Transport		Waste minimisation	
Reducing travel powered by fossil fuels and encourage low/zero carbon transport.		Support a circular economy and reduce waste.	
Energy and Retrofit		Communications and behaviour change	
Improve energy efficiency and climate resilience in homes and buildings. Support low-carbon heating.		Decrease emissions while maximising social and environmental value from procurement and partnerships.	
Nature and Water		Businesses, supply chain and finance	
Increase tree canopy cover, enhance nature, safeguard water sources, and support climate adaptation.		Enable low-carbon behaviour change through communication and accessible/inclusive support.	
Sustainable Foods			
Promote local, seasonal, low-impact food and reduce food waste.			

Introduction

The Climate Change Strategy 2026-2031

Continued

The draft strategy outline includes five new areas of focus to be introduced from 2026, along with identifying four key thematic areas of climate action to support this.

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Focus Areas

1. Reducing the council’s own emissions and increase climate resilience
2. Support the city reduce emissions and build climate resilience
3. Protecting and increasing nature and biodiversity
4. Improve people’s daily lives
5. Ensuring climate action is fair and inclusive

Climate action

1. Reducing emissions
2. Tree planting
3. Biodiversity and nature-based solutions
4. Supporting new technologies

Further actions and focuses

The new areas of focus from 2026 include working with suppliers to support them to reduce emissions (Councils scope 3 emissions), reducing emissions from commercial properties and exploring addressing unavoidable residual emissions through offsetting, Another element highlighted. was the commitment to take a collaborative approach to develop a city-wide climate plan informed by the inputs from organisations.

Public engagement

Public engagement

A draft outline version of the Cambridge City Council Climate Change Strategy underwent public engagement from 1st of October 2025 until the 9th of November. (See the methodology section for details on how the engagement was conducted). The consultation provided an opportunity for feedback from Cambridge residents, organisations, and businesses to shape early drafting.

Why is public engagement important?

Providing an opportunity for Cambridge residents and workers to submit their input and feedback is important to gain an understanding of how the public feels about the topics discussed within the Climate Change Strategy. It also serves as an opportunity for Cambridge residents, organisations, and businesses to shape the emerging Climate Change Strategy.

Methodology

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02

Methodology

Approach to public engagement

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have several shared services and have been working closely together to align priorities and actions that are reflective of a shared ambition of addressing climate change and enhancing nature.

The two Councils jointly hosted the engagement survey to recognise these shared services and the reality that there are a number of residents and businesses who interact with the two areas, depending on where they live and work.

The survey aimed to capture responses on how the people who live and work in Cambridge felt about the emerging Climate Change Strategy and provide an opportunity for the public to shape the strategy to reflect the needs and ambitions of Cambridge and its residents.

In addition to the survey, both Councils hosted face-to-face drop-in sessions with six sessions taking place across Cambridge in libraries, community

centres and shopping centres, which attracted limited attendance.

Format of survey

The survey was conducted in two parts:

Part 1 – General Awareness and Understanding

This section of the survey aimed to capture the concerns respondents had about climate change and nature loss as well as any steps that the individuals and organisations have already taken. Part 1 also allowed the respondents to identify areas where they needed support to take further action on addressing climate change and enhancing nature in Greater Cambridge.

This section combines the responses of both Cambridge respondents and South Cambridgeshire respondents to develop an analysis for Greater Cambridge. Note that there were 486 responses to the survey, but the majority of the responses reflect 484 responses. This is because

two responses were received in a format that did not respond to the survey in its entirety and the themes from these two responses were adapted into the wider qualitative responses.

Part 2 – Cambridge City Council's specific questions

This section focuses on Cambridge's specific strategies and priorities. This section aims to get direct feedback on the emerging Climate Change Strategy.

Please note the survey response analysis begins with question 17 and omits question 16 which asked respondents to indicate if they would like to provide further feedback to the Cambridge Climate Change Strategy or South Cambridgeshire Climate and Nature Strategy. There were 273 overall respondents to the Cambridge City Council's specific questions. Note that there are some variances in number of respondents across each question based on where people chose to respond.

Greater Cambridge

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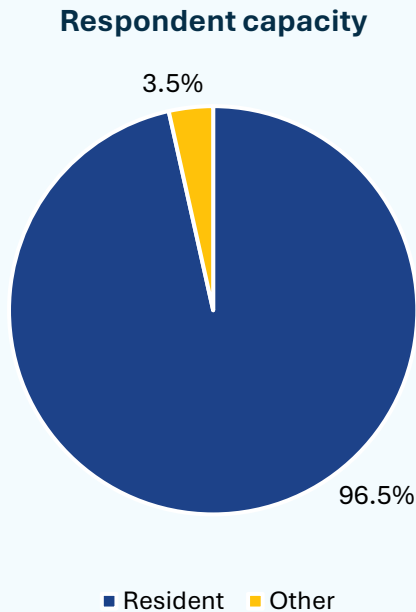
Public engagement results

Note: This section of the report presents the results from the Greater Cambridge, Part 1- General Awareness, portion of the survey. The results reflect feedback received from both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge residents, organisations, and businesses. The quantitative and qualitative responses are represented with appropriate graphs and text.

Question 2: In which capacity are you responding to this survey?

For this question, participants were asked to identify if they were responding as a resident and/or responding from another capacity. Additionally, it was optional to provide the organisation on which they were responding on behalf of (question 3). See the table on the right to see the other entity category options available to select.

96% of respondents identified themselves as a resident of Greater Cambridge.



Total responses: 486

Category	Number of responses
Resident	469
A member of the public who visits Greater Cambridge for work, study or leisure	5
An elected representative	1
On behalf of a parish council	1
Private Company	1
Private Company less than 10 employees	1
Private Company more than 10 employees and less than 250	1
Private Company 250 or more employees	1
Public sector organisation	1
Community or voluntary organisation	5
An individual from outside Greater Cambridge	1
Education or Research organisation	n.a.
A representative group representing multiple members	n.a.

Note: a small number of residents identified themselves as an additional entity, as well as a resident.

Question 3: If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of it?

As a part of question 2, participants were given the option in question 3 to identify the organisation they are associated with if they were responding to the survey on behalf of that organisation. The organisations identified are shown in the table on the right.

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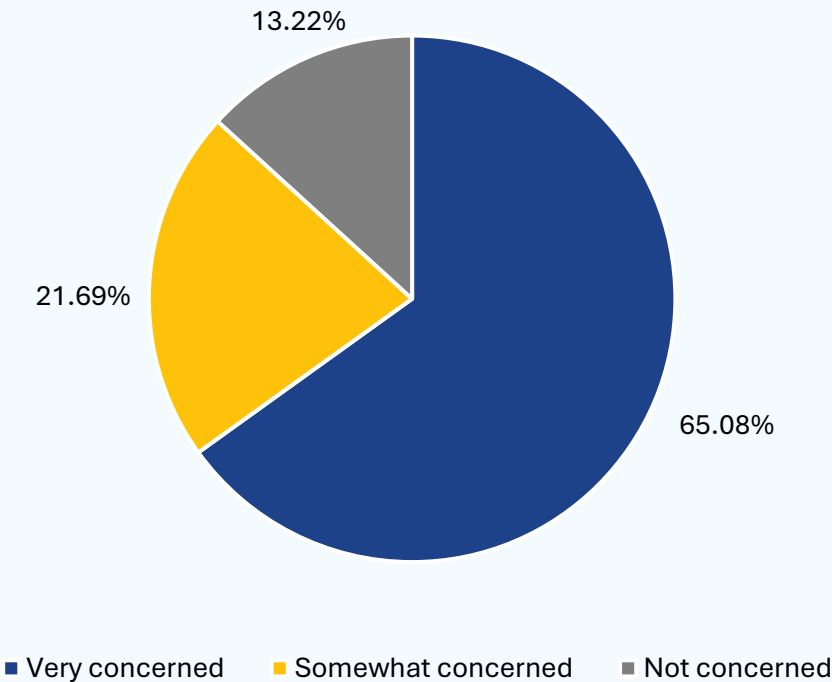
Total responses: 18

Organisation
28th Cambridge Beaver Colony
2G3S Green Group for Sawston, Stapleford and Shelfords
Cambridge Past Present and Future
Cambridgeshire Climate Leaders; The Great Collaboration
Cambridgeshire Families for Sustainable Travel
Carbon Neutral Cambridge
Chesterton Community College
Clay Farm Allotment Society
Friends of Stourbridge Common
Gamlingay Parish Council
Mill Road Cemetery Management Committee
Mothers CAN Cambridge
North Newtown Residents Association
Oakington Environment Action Group
PEM
Scouts
Sohnius & Perry Ltd
Sustainable Shepreth

Question 4: How concerned are you about the impacts of climate change in Greater Cambridge?

In Greater Cambridge, there is an overall concern for the impacts of climate change. Within the responses, **65% of individuals identified themselves as feeling very concerned about the impacts of climate change.**

Degree of concern on the impacts of climate change



Total responses: 484

Question 5: What do you see as the most urgent climate-related and nature-related challenges in Greater Cambridge?

The question asked respondents to select from the 12 climate and nature challenges based on urgency. Respondents were allowed to select up to three answers.

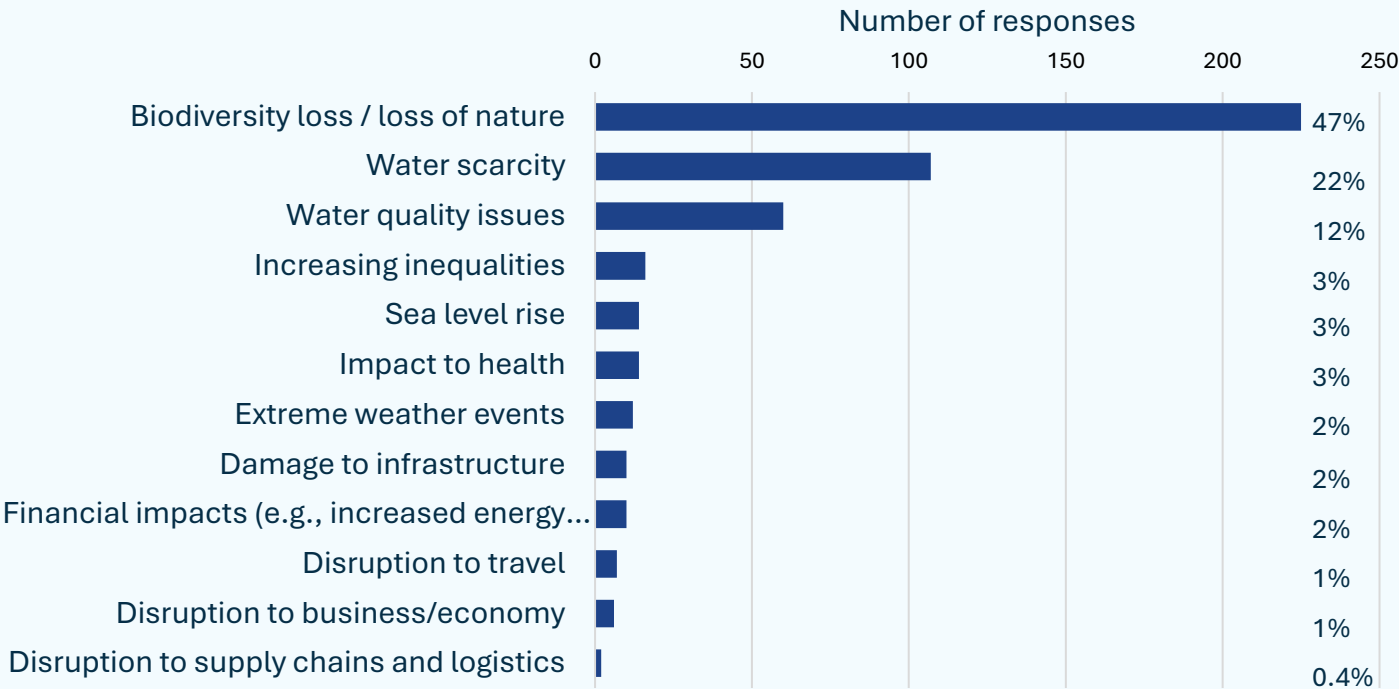
47% of participants responded that biodiversity loss/ loss of nature was the most urgent climate-related and nature-related challenges in Greater Cambridge.

Where respondents selected extreme weather events, they were provided an opportunity to specify further. In these responses, the most common specifications of extreme weather events expressed were the following:

- Flooding
- Heatwaves/ extreme heat/ high temperatures
- Drought/ water scarcity
- Storms/ high winds
- Heavy rain/ rainfall.

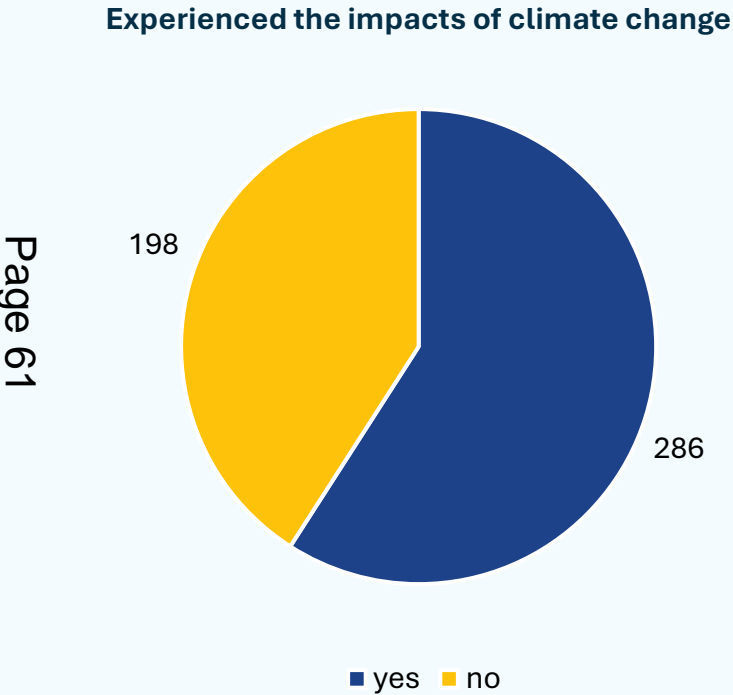
Total responses: 483

Most urgent challenge selected by survey respondents in Greater Cambridge



Question 6: Have you, your community, or your business already experienced impacts as a result of climate change?

Over half of respondents from Greater Cambridge have expressed they themselves, their community, and/or businesses have already experienced the impacts of climate change.



Total responses: 484

Question 7: Please specify what the impact was and if you have taken any action as a result of this.

Summary table of key themes

Theme	Example issues/responses
Extreme heat and drought	Overheating homes, health impacts, gardening challenges, air conditioning installations
Water dcarcity	Water butts, greywater use, changing gardening practices, anxiety about future supply
Flooding and storms	Property damage, travel disruption, inadequate drainage
Biodiversity loss	Fewer birds/insects, grief over nature loss, community wildlife projects
Economic/social impacts	Rising food/energy costs, climate anxiety, activism
Adaptation actions	Home insulation, shading, solar panels, behaviour change
Policy critique	Frustration with council, calls for regulation
Air/water quality	Sewage overflows, river pollution
Equity and vulnerability	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups, housing inequality

Question 8: How do you think climate change will affect you, your community or your business in the next five years?

Responses to this question reveal that the community is highly aware of the multifaceted risks posed by climate change in the near future. **Water scarcity, extreme heat, and flooding are the most commonly anticipated challenges**, with significant concern about the social, economic, and health impacts – especially for the most vulnerable. While many are taking action at home and in their communities, there is a strong call for more ambitious, equitable, and coordinated policy responses.

Anticipated **impacts** of climate change include:

- 1. Water scarcity and drought
- 2. Extreme weather events
- 3. Biodiversity and nature loss
- 4. Economic and social pressures
- 5. Community and societal change.

Total responses: 484

There were several themes emerging in relation to **adaptation**, including upgrading buildings, conserving water, growing food, and reducing energy use. There were also indications that local community initiatives were important and more public education and awareness are required to meet the challenge.

Key critiques

Policy and governance

- Frustration over perceived government inaction and prioritisation of development over the environment.
- Calls for stricter regulation, bans on new gas projects, improved planning for water/nature, and higher climate ambitions.

Equity and vulnerability

- Concerns that vulnerable groups, including the poor, elderly, and those in inadequate housing, face the greatest impacts.
- Renters and social housing residents often lack capacity to adapt.

Scepticism and dissent

A limited number (less than 5%) of respondents expressed doubt about climate change or government efficacy.

Key commonalities

Water and **heat** are the dominant concerns for the next five years, with nearly all respondents mentioning one or both.

Anticipation of **rising costs** (food, water, energy) and social pressures is widespread.

Adaptation is already underway for many, but barriers remain, especially for renters and vulnerable groups (1% of total responses).

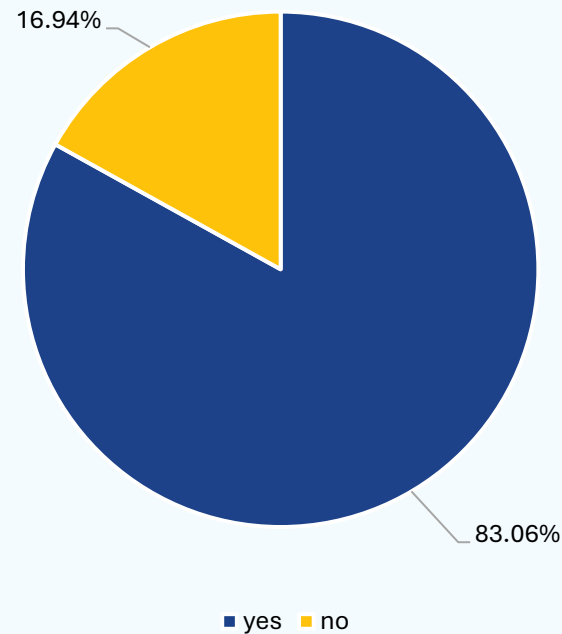
Desire for **stronger, more coordinated action (1% of total responses)** from local authorities, with a focus on equity and practical support.

Community resilience and local action are seen as both necessary and empowering, though not sufficient on their own.

Question 9: Are you currently taking action to address climate change and protect nature in Greater Cambridge (such as doing things to reduce carbon emissions or ensuring you are prepared for the impacts of climate change)?

The majority of Greater Cambridge is already taking action to address climate change and protect nature.

Action taken to address climate change and protect nature

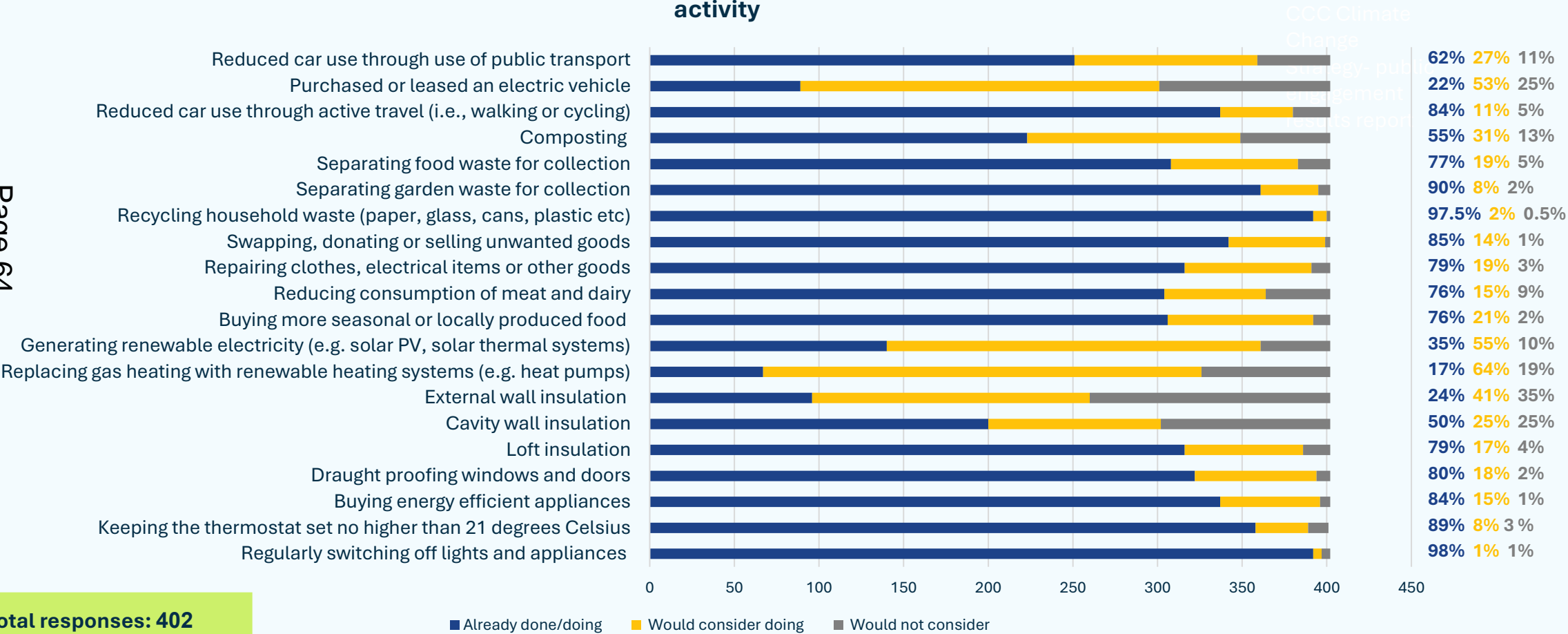


Question 10: Please select which steps you (or your landlord if you are renting your property) have already taken, and which steps you would or would not consider taking.

Note there were 81 respondents who selected no for question 9 and, therefore, did not respond to question 10.

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Number of respondents indicating they are doing, would consider doing or would not consider each activity



Question 11: If you are taking steps which are not mentioned above, please provide more details (optional)

Total responses: 185

1. Personal lifestyle changes

- Reduced air travel: **11% of total respondents** mentioned they **have stopped or significantly reduced flying**, especially for holidays, as a climate action.
- Dietary changes: 4% of respondents reported eating less meat and dairy, adopting vegetarian or vegan diets, or buying organic/local food.
- Ethical consumption: 4% of respondents described buying fewer new clothes, choosing second-hand items, and supporting ethical or green brands.

2. Home and energy improvements

- Energy efficiency: A minority have taken action such as switching to triple glazing external blinds, or installing internal wall insulation. **7% of respondents have considered home improvements but are not able to** as detailed in the green challenges box to the right.
- Renewable energy: 3% of respondents have installed solar panels, solar water heating, or are planning to do so.

- Water conservation: Installing water butts, using grey water for gardening, and reducing water usage were mentioned by **15% of respondents**.

3. Transport and travel

- Car use reduction: **14% of respondents** have sold their cars, switched to electric vehicles, or rely more on cycling, walking, or public transport.
- Car sharing: A minority of respondents participate in car sharing or use hire cars only when necessary.

4. Gardening and biodiversity

- Wildlife-friendly gardening: 5% of respondents described planting for pollinators, creating wildflower meadows, building ponds, and avoiding pesticides.
- Tree planting: Planting trees in gardens, public spaces, or as part of community projects was a recurring theme amongst 4% of respondents.
- Composting: 2% of respondents compost food and garden waste at home.

5. Community and activism

- Local groups and volunteering: **10% of respondents** are involved in local environmental groups, repair cafes, tree planting initiatives, or community gardening.
- Campaigning and political action: 5% of respondents participate in protests, write to councillors/MPs, or support climate-focused charities.
- Education and awareness: 4% of respondents mentioned educating children, neighbours, or the wider community about climate and nature issues.

6. Waste reduction

- Plastic reduction: 3% of respondents try to avoid single-use plastics, use refill services, and buy in bulk to reduce packaging.
- Recycling: 2% are diligent about recycling and reusing materials, and some lament the lack of options for certain types of waste (such as the lack of option for non-plastic wrapped produce).

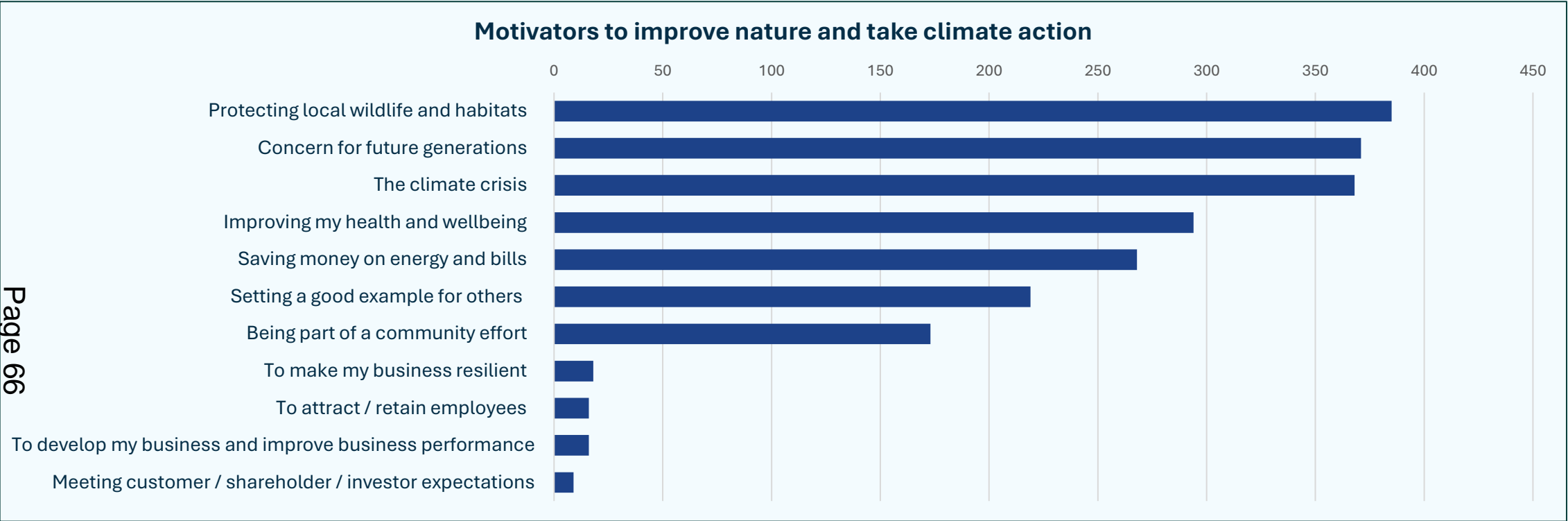
Other notable actions

- Ethical banking: A minority of respondents have switched to banks that do not invest in fossil fuels.
- Offsetting: A minority (1% of respondents) have offset carbon emissions from necessary flights.
- Reducing consumption: 4% of respondents are buying less overall, avoiding unnecessary purchases, and focusing on quality over quantity.

Challenges identified in response to question 11:

- Tenancy/lease restrictions: **Renters** and those in flats often noted they cannot make structural changes (such as insulation, solar panels).
- Cost and accessibility: Some cited the **high cost** of energy-efficient appliances or renewable installations as a barrier.
- Physical limitations: A few respondents mentioned **disability** or age as limiting their ability to take certain actions.

Question 12: What motivates you to improve nature and take action on climate change? (select all that apply)



Total responses: 484

Question 12 Continued

The most frequently selected options for the motivation to improve nature and take action on climate change by respondents were the following:

- Protecting local wildlife and habitats (385 responses)
- Concern for future generations (371 responses)
- The climate crisis (368 responses) were selected the most frequently by respondents.

Respondents were able to select all applicable answers.

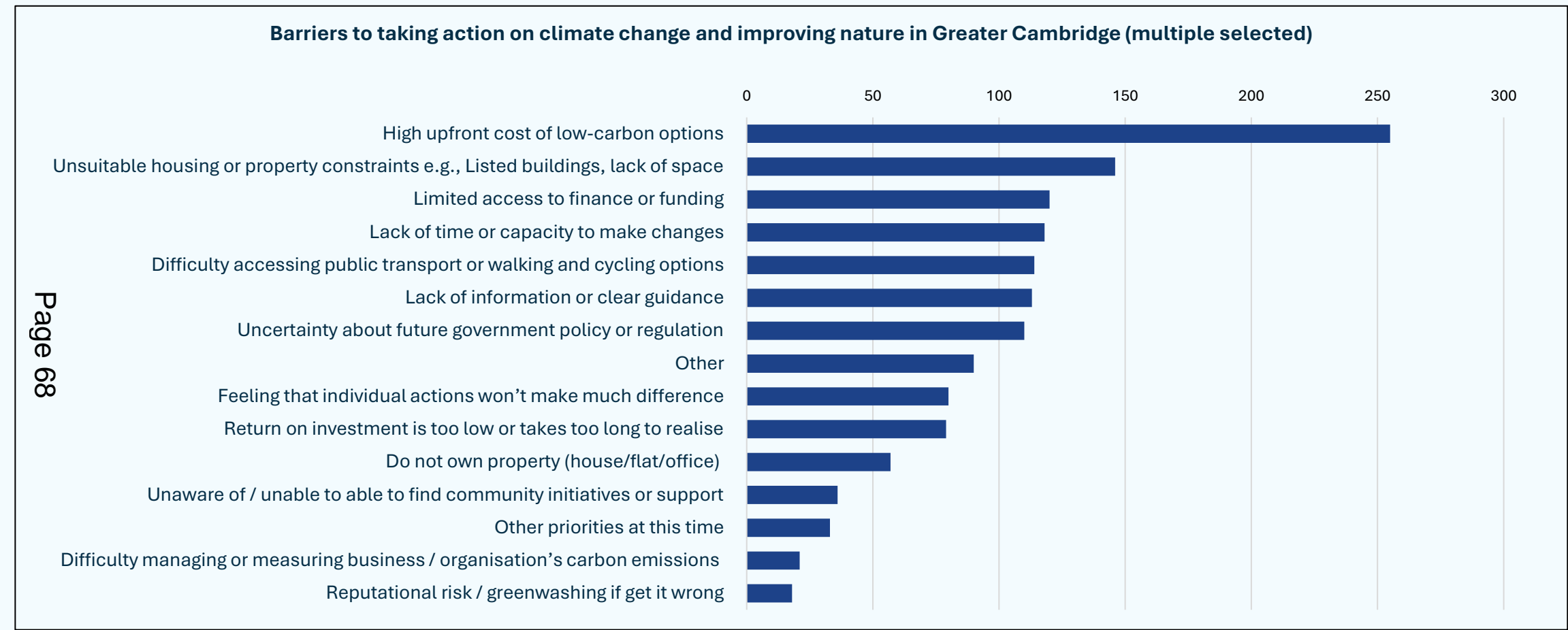
Where respondents selected other, the common themes for motivators to improve nature and take action on climate change included:

- Concern for nature, biodiversity, and wildlife
- Motivation to protect future generations
- Desire for practical, local solutions and community involvement
- Interest in restoring ecosystems and improving local environments
- Sensitivity to not ‘greenwash’
- Economic challenges and cost concerns.

Other responses included scepticism or opposition to climate change action and local government involvement.

Total responses: 484

Question 13: What barriers do you face to taking action on climate change and improving nature in Greater Cambridge?



Total responses: 484

- Options not selected by any respondents and not appearing on the graph:
- Uncertainty about which actions will make a difference
 - Lack of low-carbon alternative choices.

Question 13 *Continued*

High upfront costs were identified by 255 respondents as a main barrier to taking action on climate change and improving nature. Respondents were allowed to select multiple responses. Not all options were selected by residents, which is why some are omitted from the graph.

Where respondents selected other, the common themes were:

- Scepticism about the effectiveness of individual or local action versus the need for systemic/governmental change
- Concerns about cost, affordability, and economic barriers to climate action (such as retrofitting homes, heat pumps, public transport)
- Barriers related to infrastructure (such as poor public transport, lack of EV charging, unsafe cycling conditions)
- Community apathy, resistance, or lack of engagement
- Desire to protect nature, biodiversity, and green spaces from development
- Personal limitations (such as age, resources, housing situation)
- Some respondents state they face no barriers or have already taken action.

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Total responses: 484

Question 14: What type of support would be most helpful for you as an individual, organisation, or business to aid emissions reduction and climate resilience?

Respondents were given the opportunity to select as many options as possible to indicate areas of support that would be the most helpful for them to reduce emissions and build climate resilience, summarised in the table on this page.

Where respondents selected other, the following themes were found in their additional suggestions for areas of support:

- Desire for improved public transport, cycling, and walking infrastructure and systems
- Emphasis on affordability and economic impact
- Calls for accurate information, practical support, and collective action
- Interest in protecting nature, biodiversity, and green spaces
- Some respondents support ambitious local government action/political leadership.

Further commentary of responses received (4% of the total responses) were a mix of calls for strategic use of resources, and opposition to this strategy (whether this was due to climate scepticism or uncertainty on the scope of local government).

Total responses: 484

Area of support chosen by respondents (multiple responses allowed)	
Area of support	Count
Grant funding	215
Access to expert advice	214
Guidance and resources	200
Other	112
Access to finance or green finance	109
Networking opportunities	57
Training	53

Question 15: If you were looking for guidance on action to reduce emissions (including home energy efficiency measures), increase your resilience, or support nature recovery, where would you look for information or advice?

As the table on the right shows, respondents were asked which entity they would turn to for guidance. Multiple entities were allowed to be selected.

Where respondents selected other, the following themes arose in their responses:

- Preference for independent research and trusted scientific sources (such as university experts or actual scientists)
- Use of the internet and online resources
- Desire for unbiased, non-political, or non-commercial information
- Reliance on personal expertise, friends, or family.

Further commentary, though a minority, included a mix of those who expressed not knowing which sources to trust for information (1% of total respondents) and those who opposed the strategy whether it was due to scepticism on the scope of local government or on climate change (2% of total respondents).

Entity	Count
Local council	232
Non-profit organisations	232
Local environmental groups	219
Examples in my community	187
Friends/neighbours	159
A trusted contractor	117
Other (please specify)	101

Total responses: 484

Cambridge City Council

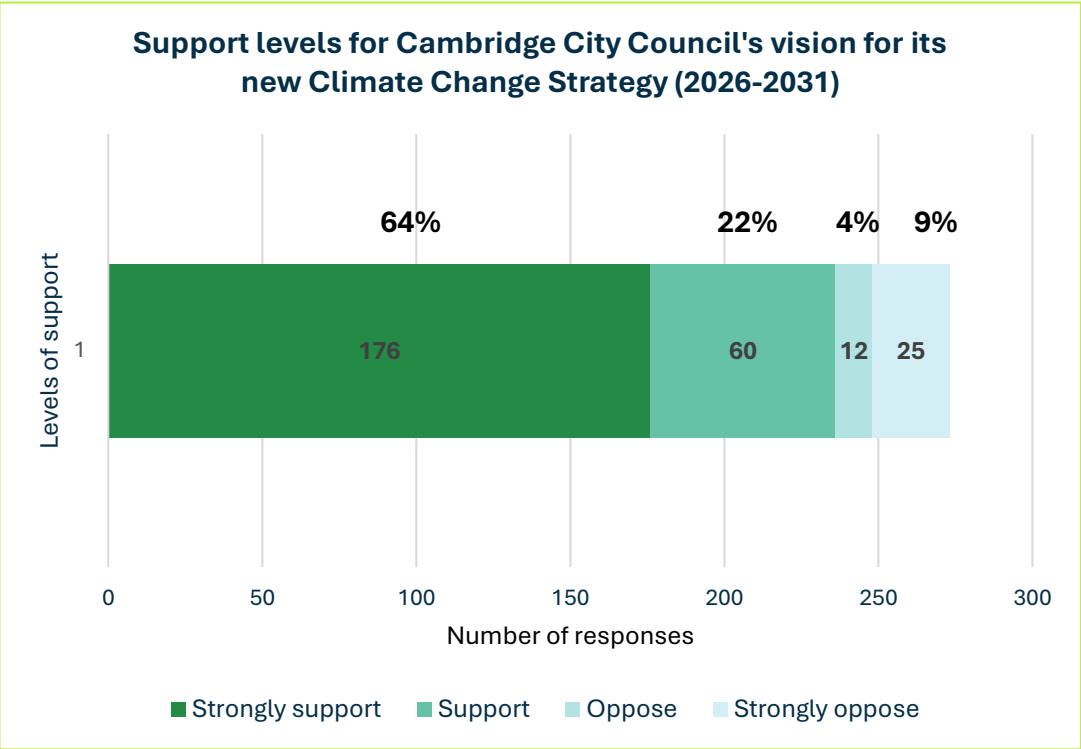
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Public Engagement Results

Note: This section of the report presents the results from Cambridge City Council's section of the survey. Responses were received from both the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council platform, where participants identified whether they would be responding to this portion of the survey. Qualitative and quantitative responses are represented with appropriate graphs and text. There were overall 273 people responding to this portion of the survey, but there are variances in response numbers where participants chose not to respond to a question.

Question 17: To what extent do you support Cambridge City Council’s vision for its new Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031)?

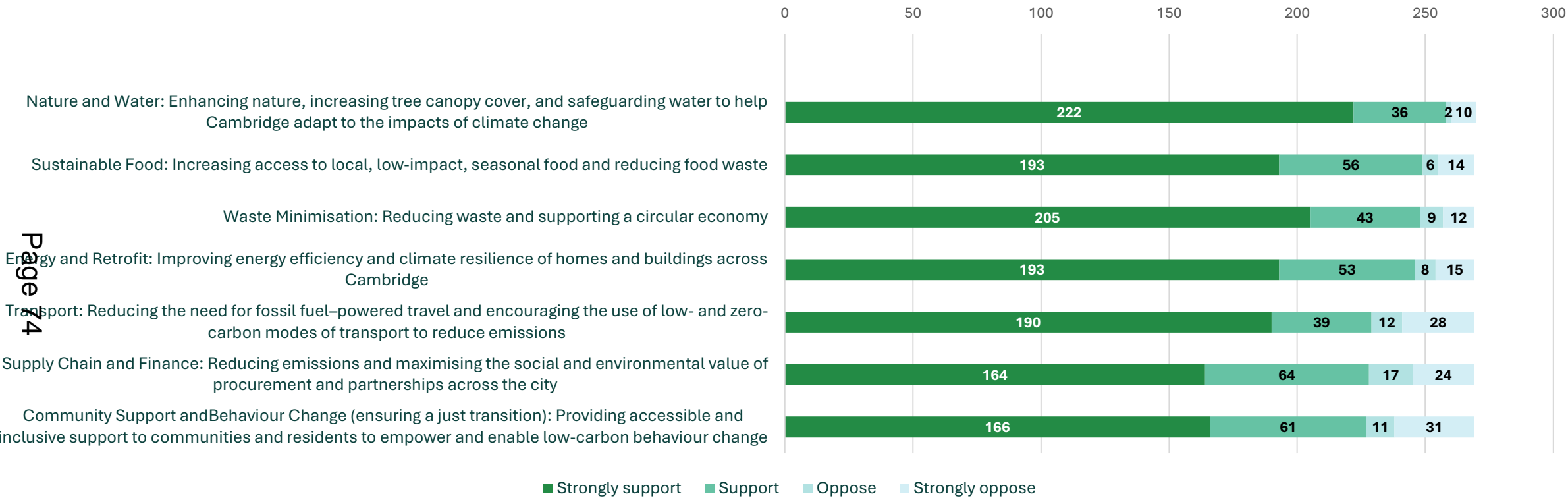
86% of respondents showed overall support for the vision for Cambridge City Council’s new Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031), as shown in the graph on the right.



Total responses: 273

Question 18: Rate your level of support for each of the objectives in the Climate Change Strategy

Level of support for each objective in the Climate Change Strategy



Respondents were asked to rank their level of support per objective in the Climate Change Strategy. The bar graph shows that there is overall support for the objectives in the strategy. In particular, the nature and water objective has the highest number of strongly support responses (222).

Total responses: 269

Question 19: If you have any further comments on key objectives, please add them here (optional question)

There was an overall mix of support, challenges and suggestions in the responses to this question. Key themes from the responses to question 19 are as follows:

1. Transport

There were mixed responses for transport where there were some responses in support of decarbonisation transportation, reducing car usage and promoting active travel. However, there were some that highlighted challenges of inclusivity and lack of safe infrastructure (6% of overall respondents) for them to support active travel. This led to a call for **inclusive and alternative transportation solutions with increased connectivity**, especially for those reliant on public transport **from 5% of overall respondents**. Additionally, **5% of overall respondents underscored the complexity in switching away from car usage or to electric vehicles**. This included that car dependency can be a result of their age or health and, unfortunately, cannot switch to active transport mode. Another reason was due to there being no other alternative commute to work available. There was also a question on the practicality of transitioning to a new electric car when they own a petrol car that is still fit for purpose.

2. Social equity

There was a strong call for ensuring measures in the strategy consider maintaining affordability for residents, supporting low-income residents, and promoting inclusivity. **4% of overall respondents raised concerns about making public transportation fares more affordable and the tension surrounding the congestion and parking charges/taxes** as a means of discouraging car use. Limited voices also acknowledged the support that the council has provided within its own estate and assets to increase energy efficiency, but called for the need to extend support to private renters, owners occupiers, and leaseholders as well since the rising costs of living make it challenging for individuals to access the choice to make changes to address the climate crisis.

3. Implementation

There was a recurring theme on the need for better implementation where respondents voiced a **desire for clear plans of action, leadership, and the efficient use of resources**. This was especially the case for the ideas reflected in the Climate Change Strategy where the respondents felt the council should be leading by example, understand their areas/scope of influence and present a strategic plan of implementing the objectives in the strategy. Additionally, **10% of all respondents proposed the efficient use of public resources** to improve existing infrastructure and wider issues in Cambridge instead of on new projects, climate related action, or initiatives that are beyond the scope of the council's responsibilities.

4. Planning, development and growth pressures

The tension between development (especially housing and infrastructure) **and environmental protection was a recurring theme**. Respondents are concerned that rapid growth is increasing the urban heat island effect from all the concrete, damaging biodiversity, and undermining climate goals (6% of overall respondents). **7% of overall responses calls for more sustainable planning, higher building standards, and prioritisation of preserving nature and planting trees**. Balancing growth with protecting the natural environment is seen as a core strategic objective.

5. Guidance and support

There was a recurring theme of the **desire to receive advice on how to navigate the complexity of their individual circumstances** where some support the objectives in the strategy but are not in a position to address it themselves or do not know how. Additionally, **4% of overall responses reflected a need for further education both within the council and for the public** on the impacts of climate change and the solutions to build resilience. This was suggested as a way to empower Cambridge residents to make informed decisions.

Total responses: 111

Question 20: We’ve introduced some new areas of focus in this Climate Change Strategy. Please tell us how supportive you are of the council taking these areas of work forward over the next five years and share any feedback you have.

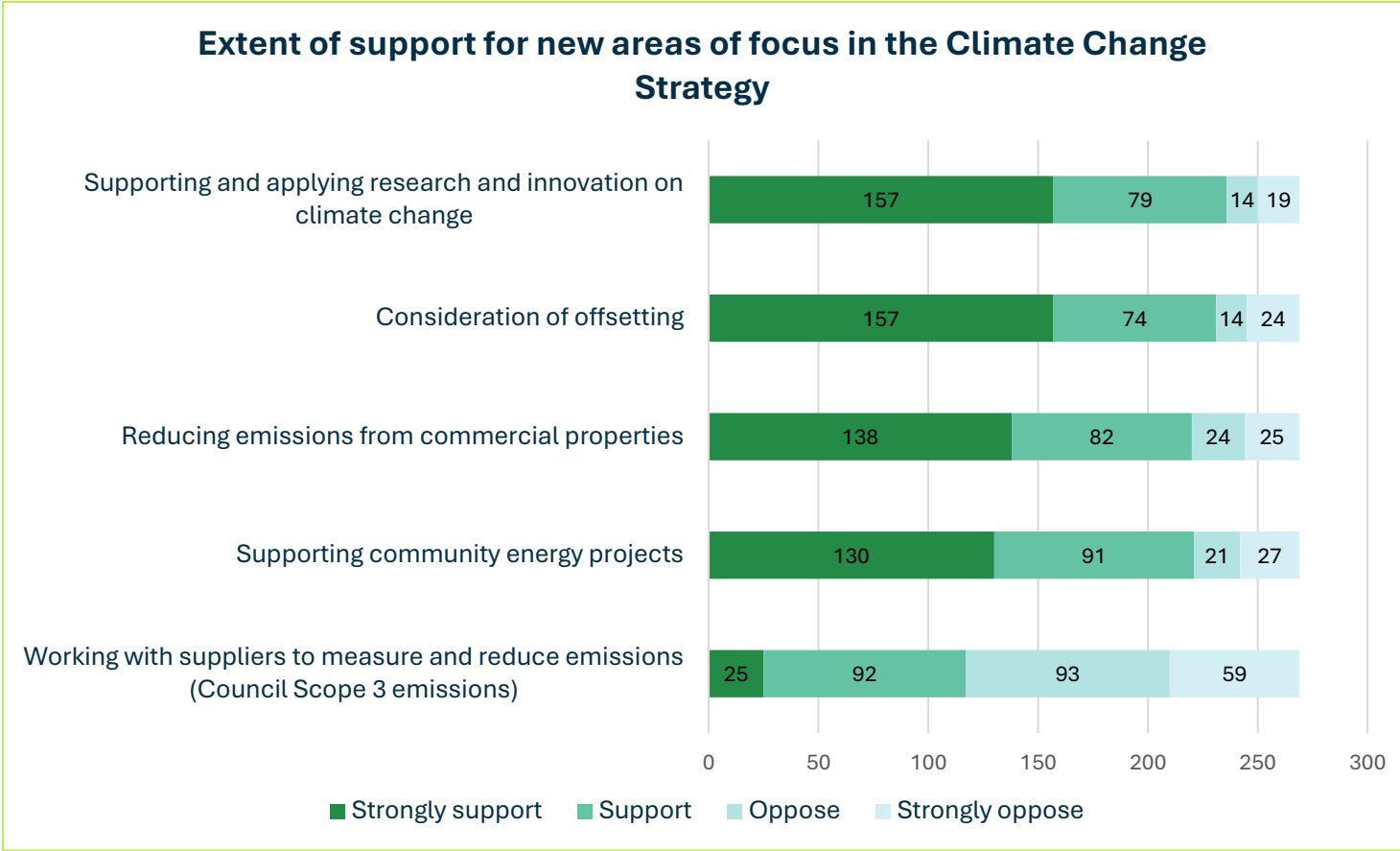
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for each of the new areas of focus the council will take over the next five years, as listed in the Climate Change Strategy.

The graph shows areas of focus receiving the highest level of supportive responses are:

- Supporting and applying research and innovation on climate change (157 strongly support, 79 support)
- Consideration of offsetting (157 strongly support, 74 support).

6 additional feedback was provided by respondents.

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Total responses: 269

Question 21: Do you think that there is anything within Cambridge City Council’s control or influence, that has not been covered within objectives and action areas of the strategy but should be?

Responses were varied for this answer, where some have claimed there is nothing further to add to the strategy, while others have declined to comment due to being unsure. There were also responses where individuals disagreed with the strategy due to perceptions of the council’s scope of influence and a desire to use the resources elsewhere. Where respondents provided additional commentary to add to the objectives and action areas of the strategy, it has been summarised below.

1. Planning policies and development

13% of overall responses to this question centred on the need to **utilise the planning and development process** to enforce the objectives and actions in the strategy through building design and planning decisions. Many expressed planning policies could place restrictions or requirements on developers to design new buildings to be energy efficient, protect and enhance the natural environment, and incorporate climate mitigation measures.

2. Transport

8% of overall respondents to this question stressed the need for **improved public transportation networks, accessibility and infrastructure and reduction in traffic congestion to improve air quality**. This was in addition to the support for the active travel and low-carbon/electric vehicle objectives in the strategy. However, there is a larger connectivity and congestion issue that needs to be addressed for improved mobility, transport-related emissions reductions, and air quality. It is important to note that the main authority for highways and transport is Cambridgeshire County Council. Cambridge City Council works with them on this area through the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

3. Enhancing and protecting the natural environment

14% of overall responses expressed a desire to protect the natural environment, increase green space, and support nature recovery. In particular, there was a

stress on the concern for the losses to nature to support development projects. Respondents also expressed an interest in supporting initiatives for community gardens and strategic planting to enable local food growing (2 responses).

4. Accountability and transparency

4% of overall respondents expressed a desire for greater accountability from the council, enquiring about what other opportunities the council has considered to reduce its own emissions and **asking for transparency**. There were also 2 responses highlighting a desire to improve the procurement process to ensure the supply chain can integrate the objectives laid out in the strategy.

5. Waste minimisation and circular economy

3% of overall responses reflected a desire to reduce waste and discourage single-use consumption products and practices. There were a few voices raising a concern about the amount of waste going into landfill.

6. Offsetting scepticism

A minority, **3% of overall responses** to this question, **stressed concern towards offsetting**, stating that offsetting is unreliable and provides an excuse to continue polluting instead of reducing emissions. Thus, expressing a desire to remove this from the strategy and focus on restoration instead. A few voices shared that if there is offsetting, it should be managed locally and be carried out cautiously.

7. Policy implementation and integration

3% of overall responses called for stronger leadership, a need to **integrate the objectives** in the strategy **with the wider region** and following up with **an action plan** to ensure the council can achieve its ambitions.

Additional suggestions: 157

Is there anything else that you think Cambridge City Council could do within its control or influence, to support you to take action on climate change?

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Feedback for this question reveals broad support for the current strategy but also additional areas where the council could control or influence to support residents and businesses take action on climate change. While there were some voices of concern on the scope of the council's influence on climate action, there was also an emphasis on the need for practical measures to address the rising costs of living.

The following themes were identified in the responses received.

Financial support and grants

Multiple respondents highlighted the need for financial support and access to grant schemes to enable them to take action on climate change.

Suggested initiatives to be supported by grants included:

- Installation of PVs
- Home improvement funding schemes
- Community schemes - schools, allotments, nature recovery, etc.

Development, planning and infrastructure

Concerns about overdevelopment, the environmental impact of new housing, and the need for better planning controls.

Suggestions included:

- Enforce enhancement of biodiversity in planning decisions
- Requirements to instil climate mitigation in planning decisions such as greening drives
- Ensuring building design incorporates PV and/or green roofs.

Transport and traffic

Calls for improved public transport systems, reducing traffic congestion, and improving existing mobility infrastructure.

Suggestions included:

- Improved public transport systems (connectivity, options, and fares)
- Congestion charges to reduce traffic and pollution
- Transport hubs/ park and ride services
- Integrated public transport payment

system across services

- Low-emissions zones
- Alternatives to reduce reliance on cars.

Communication and guidance

Requests for guidance or a resource of information to help individuals take action on climate change.

Suggestions included:

- Council-approved list of contractors/ renewable energy providers
- Best practice case studies
- A guide on actions that can be taken, such as a home improvement guide
- Educate residents on the various climate action initiatives via campaigns and slogans
- Signage to promote sustainable practices.

If you have any further comments on, or ideas for, the Climate Change Strategy to add that you feel have not been covered within the survey, please provide them here.

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Feedback for this question allowed residents, organisations, and businesses to provide any additional ideas or comments on the Climate Change Survey not already covered.

While there were some question on the scope of the council's influence on climate action or on climate change itself, there were also many who were supportive of what the strategy covers. Additionally, there were indications of respondents experiencing engagement fatigue at the end of the survey.

Concerns on offsetting

There was a tension in the responses where respondents called for the removal of references to offsetting or expressed the need to work cautiously with options for offsetting. These concerns were raised because majority of respondents felt that the costs associated with offsetting should be used elsewhere and that it only permits further pollution.

Suggestions included:

- Removing offsetting references
- Support if the offset is done locally
- Should not be considered unless verified.

Transport and traffic

Many respondents wanted to emphasise the priority to improve transport infrastructure, especially for public transportation, and reduce congestion.

Suggestions included:

- Low-emission zones
- Affordability of buses
- Establishing light rail.

Community and social impact

There were various ideas supporting a community, collaborative approach to promote some of the objectives in the strategy.

Suggestions included:

- Annual environmental festival
- Fostering community practices
- Group purchasing schemes for renewable energy technologies
- Ensuring equitable practices
- Events that are carbon neutral.

There were also voices to take a country-wide or wider regional approach to integrate the climate strategy objectives.

Is there anything else that you think Cambridge City Council could do within its control or influence, to support you to take action on climate change?

Page 80

Planning, development and infrastructure

There was a recurring theme of using the planning process to hold developers accountable and enforce building designs that incorporate climate mitigation and resilience.

Suggestions included:

- Looking at best practices
- Requiring sustainable measures (such as solar panels, water efficiency, greening) through planning application reviews.

Nature, biodiversity and agriculture

Many voiced the need to protect and enhance the natural environment, planting more trees, but also strategically connecting to the agricultural sector.

Suggestions included:

- Sustainable food production and regenerative farming
- Promoting local biodiversity
- Partnerships with existing projects and organisations to protect trees and develop a coherent strategy.

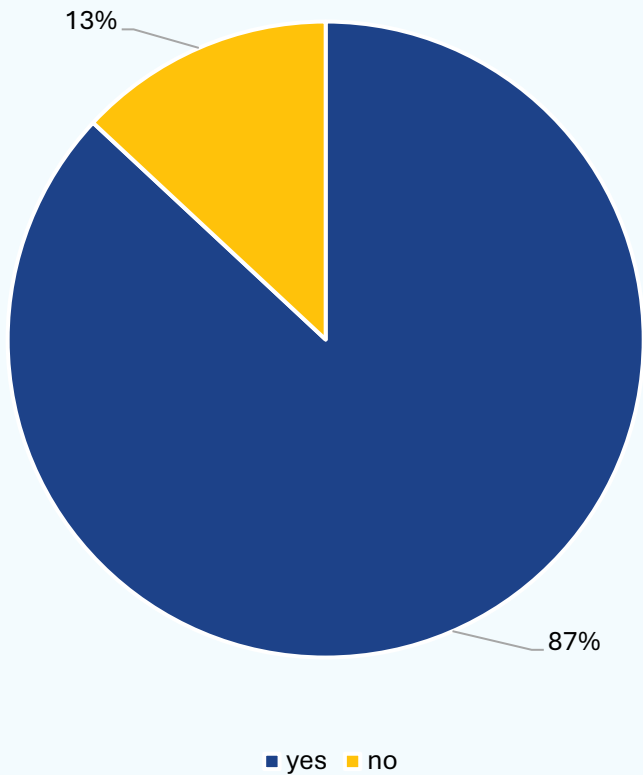
Other notable points:

Various respondents provided a range of examples of what is already being done in Cambridge, demonstrating opportunities to expand or partner with these existing projects. These examples covered topics from protecting nature to localising food production and rewilding/local nature recovery efforts.

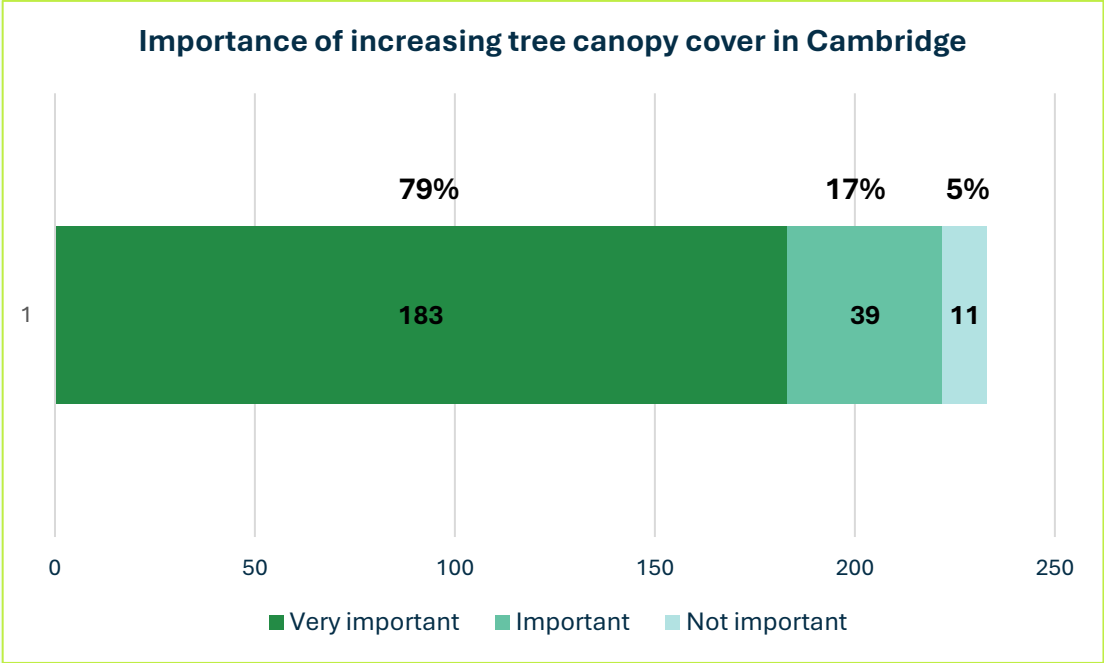
Question 24: Would you like to answer five additional questions to help shape some other areas of the council's work, such as the development of a heat network and the Urban Forest strategy?

From this question onwards, those who indicated that they would like to answer further questions to shape other areas of the council’s work were analysed.

Intent to answer further questions



Question 25: How important do you think it is to increase tree canopy cover in Cambridge as part of climate change adaption?



As shown in the graph on the left, **96% of participants thought tree canopy cover was important overall**, with **183 responding very important** to question 25. This indicates the importance of increasing tree canopy cover in Cambridge as part of climate change adaptation.

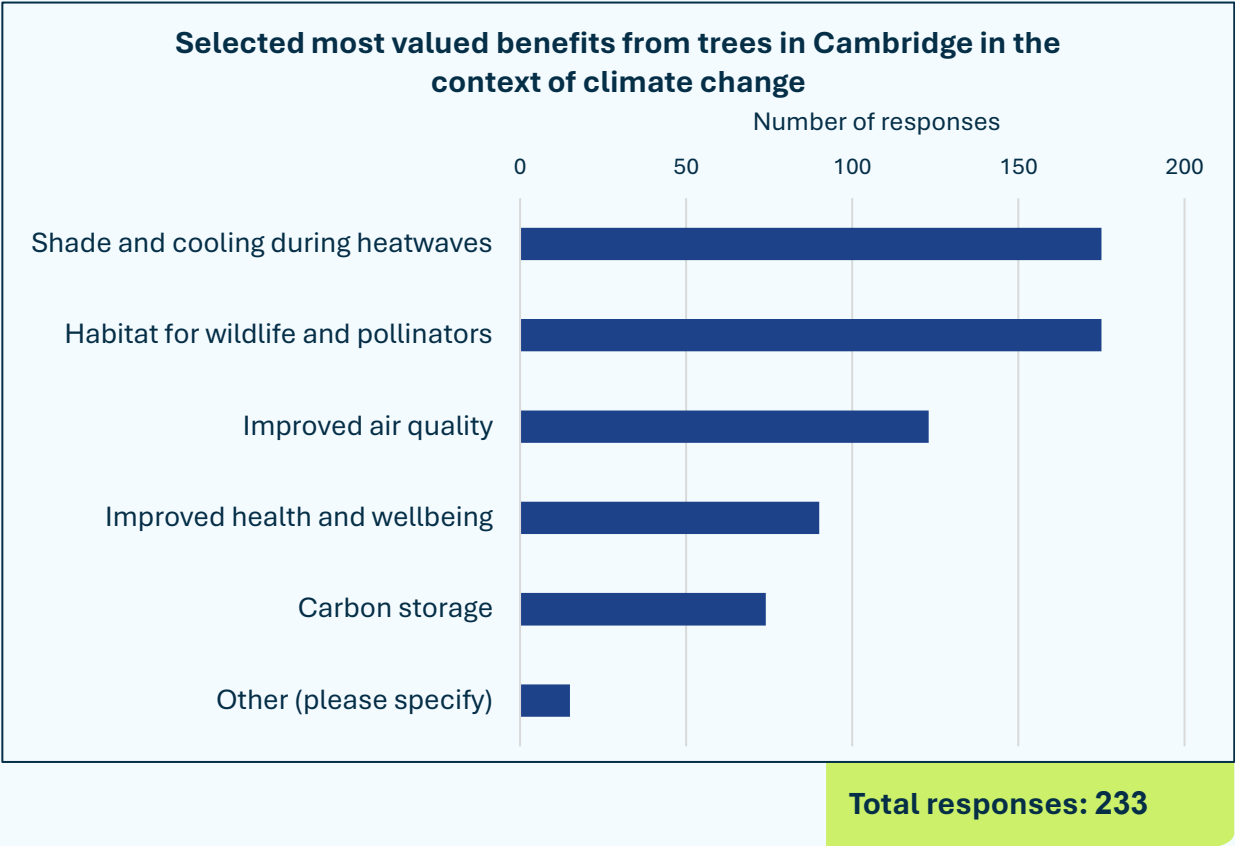
Total responses: 233

Question 26: What benefits do you most value from trees in Cambridge in the context of climate change?

Respondents were asked to choose up to three options from the list provided. As shown in the graph on the right, the two benefits that were selected as the most valued, most often (175 responses on both) were shading and cooling during heatwaves, and habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

Where respondents selected other, the following themes arose in the responses:

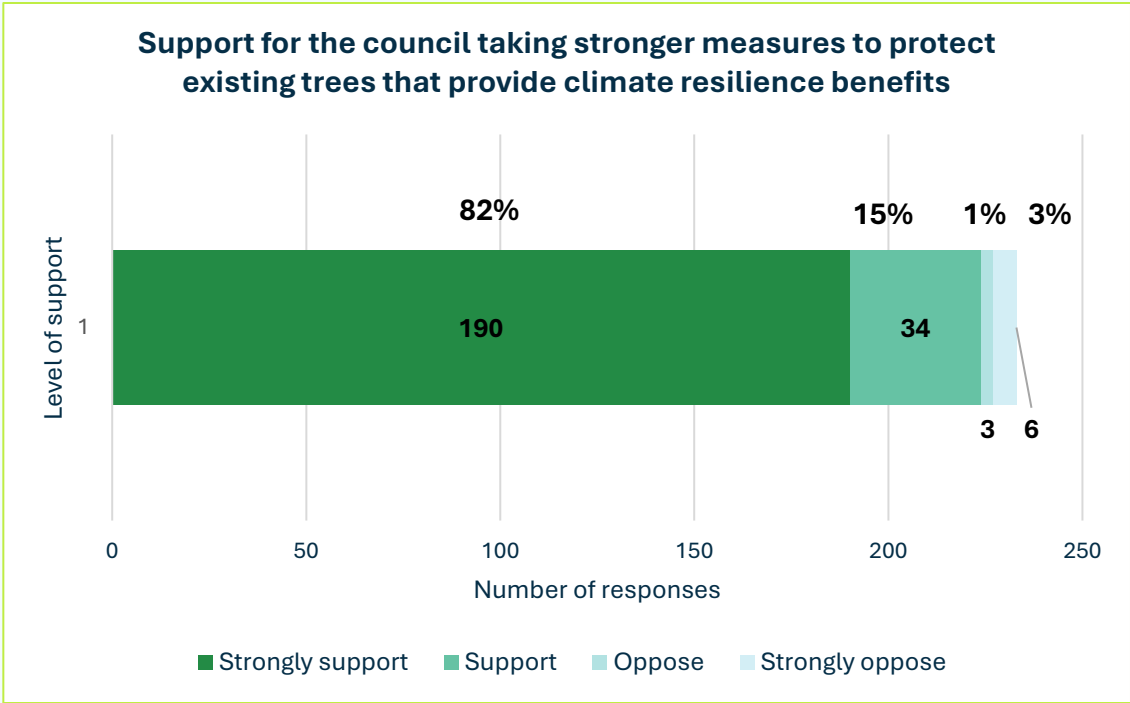
- **Context of climate change** – responses expanded on what was provided in the options, such as a means of shade and cooling during heatwaves and reducing stormwater in drains and watercourses
- **Aesthetics** – there was a strong sentiment highlighting the value of trees, regardless of climate change, valued as a beautiful part of nature
- **Placemaking** – there were also responses highlighting the importance of trees in creating a sense of place and holding the history of place, a value that is not necessarily in relation to the context of climate change
- **Miscellaneous** – while a few voices were challenging the association of the value of trees to the context of climate change, there were critical questions on the ongoing phenomenon of trees being cut down in Cambridge.



Additional suggestions: 11

Question 27: How supportive are you of the council taking stronger measures to protect existing trees that provide climate resilience benefits?

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Responses to this question show **96% of participants showing overall support** for the council taking stronger measures to protect existing trees that provide climate resilience benefits, with **190 respondents strongly supporting** this idea.

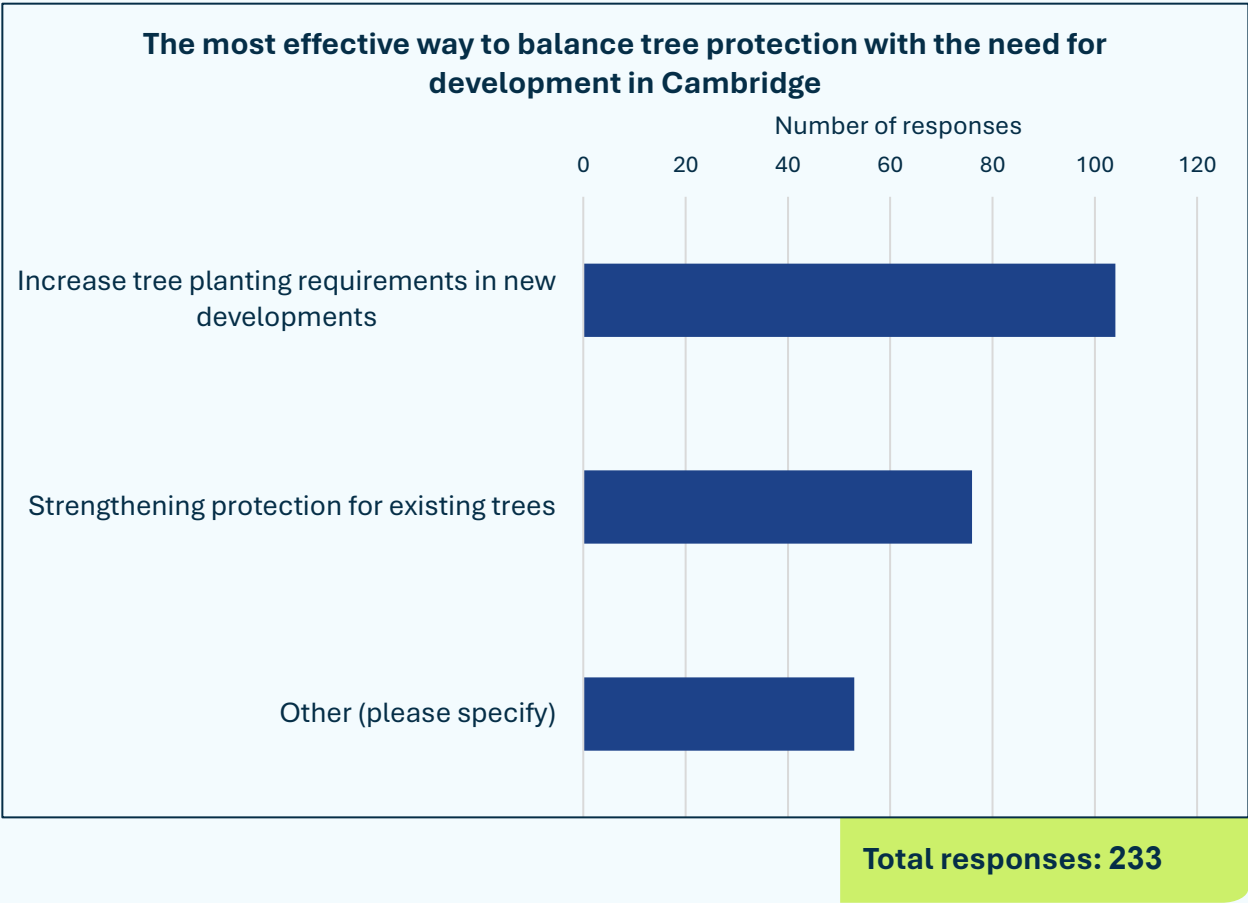
Total responses: 233

Question 28: What do you think is the most effective way to balance tree protection with the need for development in Cambridge in the context of climate change?

Respondents were asked to select one option out of the three listed. As shown in the graph on the right, the most effective way to balance tree protection with the need for development in the context of climate change for Cambridge has been identified by **104** participants as the **increase tree planting requirements in new developments**.

Where respondents selected other, the following themes arose in the responses:

- **Balancing act of both** – a common response centred on the need for both development and protecting trees based on circumstances and impact
- **Reducing the need for development** – there were a handful of responses voicing that there has been enough development or that there is no need for further development in Cambridge
- **Strategic planting** – many responses reflected a support for planting more mature trees, highlighting a need for strategic planting
- **Planning policy and restrictions** – some voices suggested ideas of restrictions through planning policy implementation and planning application review processes to increase tree planting and protect existing trees
- **Supporting new development** – there were some voices suggesting new development should be prioritised.



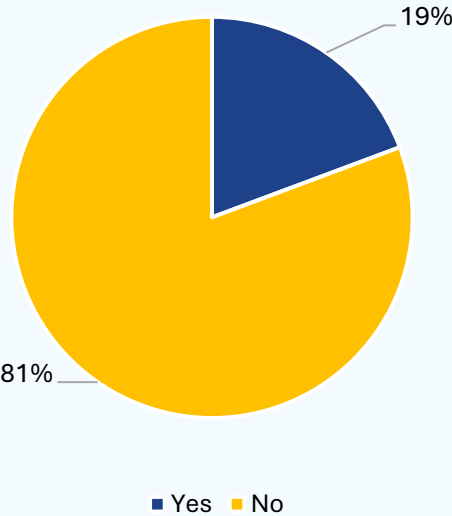
Additional suggestions: 50

Question 29: Are you aware of the Government's work on heat network zoning?

The diagram below shows that there is a larger number of respondents that are currently unaware of the Government's work on heat network zoning.

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Awareness of the Government's work on heat network zoning

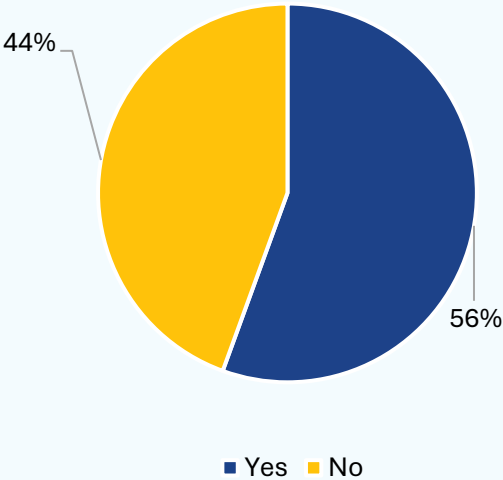


Total responses: 233

Question 30: If a heat network zone were to be implemented in Cambridge, do you feel that connecting to a heat network would enable you to decarbonise your property (home or building) more easily?

Of those who responded to question 30, there were higher responses indicating that individuals would feel they would be enabled to decarbonise their property more easily if a heat network zone were implemented in Cambridge for them to connect to.

Heat network zones would enable participants to decarbonise their property

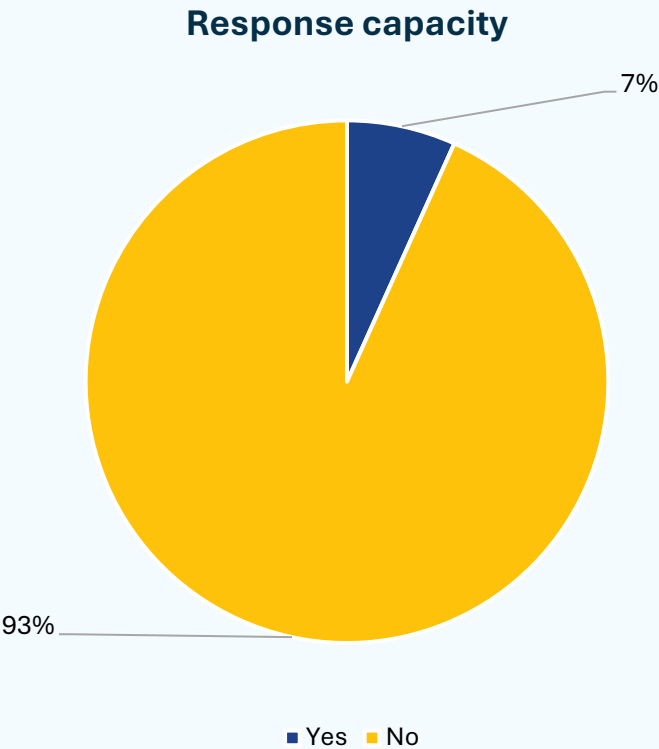


Total responses: 45

Question 31: To help route you to the relevant next part of the survey, are you responding to this survey in the capacity of a business, public sector organisation, or community organisation?

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Most of the respondents completing this survey indicated that they were not responding in the capacity of a business, public sector organisation, or community organisation.



Total responses: 267

Call for evidence

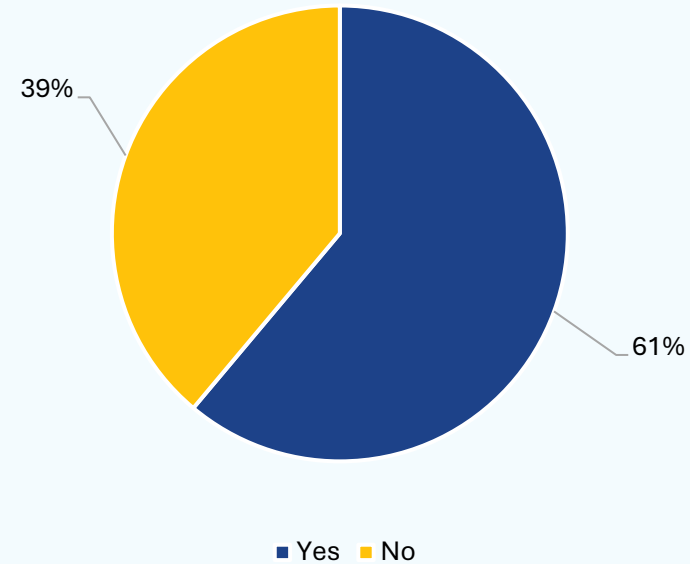
Question 32: Would you like to be involved in developing a city-wide climate plan?

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Of the 18 people who responded to question 32, 11 indicated a desire to be involved in developing a city-wide climate action plan.

Total responses: 18

Desire for involvement in developing a city-wide climate plan



Call for evidence

Question 33: Tell us more about what your organisation (business, public sector or community organisation) will be doing to address climate change and enhance nature in Cambridge

Analysis

Eleven respondents, made up of businesses, public sector organisations and community organisations responded to this section of questions and indicated interest in working together to develop Cambridge City Council’s climate plan. Their stated interests included community engagement, sustainable transport, biodiversity, sustainable food (production, technology/innovation, awareness raising) and carbon reduction.

Many **pathways for action** were represented in responses. Several organisations focus on practical action, such as organising community events, conducting tree surveys and holding thematic workshops to encourage sustainable behaviours. A small number of businesses responded (three self-identified), and their contributions included carbon accounting services, agricultural innovation and creating

climate networks to support other businesses.

One recurring theme was the importance of **working together**, across communities, private and public sectors, to achieve climate and nature goals.

What these organisations are already doing to address climate change and enhance nature in Cambridge

Some of the organisations that responded to this question detailed the work they already do to address climate change and enhance nature in Cambridge. Some operate in a campaigning capacity to engage with the community and promote actions that address climate change and nature around various themes including sustainable food, safe and sustainable travel, and investing in decarbonised business/investment portfolios. A few other organisations play an active role in providing support and networks,

whether its for innovation, climate resilient agricultural practices, or increasing the engagement between the wider community and local authorities to enable climate action and nature enhancement. Finally, one organisation detailed that it takes action to address issues on behalf of a wider community, such as traffic management and enhancing biodiversity.

Further considerations

The following themes, frequently found in sustainability and nature strategies, were not mentioned in survey responses. However, given the small sample size to this part of the engagement survey, this list is provided only to prompt the council’s consideration as they design their forthcoming strategy and engagement plan.

- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Water scarcity
- Just transition
- Green skills and jobs.

Organisations that responded to this portion of the survey

Name of organisation
Clay Farm Allotment Society
PEM
Mothers CAN Cambridge
North Newton Residents Association
Cambridgeshire Families for Active Travel
Viridian Seeds
Hope Against Poverty CIC
Barclay Eagle Labs
Cambridgeshire Climate Leaders
The Great Collaboration
Cambridge University Hospitals

Note: one respondent provided two organisations in their response

Business and organisational response summaries

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05

Private companies

There were four responses from Cambridge participants responding to the Greater Cambridge and Cambridge City Council survey in the capacity of a private company or a private company alongside another identity (such as being a resident). Two of the respondents did not provide many qualitative responses, and therefore, most of their responses are reflected in the greater quantitative analysis. These two private companies also noted that climate change will not have a significant impact on their business.

Overall, the main concerns on the impact of climate change were the effects of **extreme heat and weather events impacting plant growth and unpredictable seasons**. One company is already taking action by sowing wildflower seeds in the garden.

In the qualitative questions (numbers 21-23), all four private companies responded. This section provided participants an opportunity to provide further feedback on what additional considerations the Council could make for the strategy. The responses diverged, but the following suggestions were made:

- Visual communication, such as billboards, to encourage residents to take climate action
- Provide nature and environment education to the public, specifically, young people, to promote sustainable living
- Congestion charges
- Taxing tourists
- Making the planning department more responsive to public feedback
- Not wasting money on the GCP (Greater Cambridge Partnership)
- Improving public transportation
- Addressing a concern of recycling ending up in a landfill

There was one comment reflecting the challenge of being restricted from taking action on the buildings they operate in, as they are owned by a separate entity.

Finally, two private companies provided further feedback on the Cambridge City Council survey regarding trees. Both emphasised the need for stronger protection of trees and requirements for tree planting in new developments as the most effective way to balance tree protection and the need for development growth.

Organisations

There were ten responses from Cambridge participants that identified they were responding to the Greater Cambridge and Cambridge City Council surveys in the capacity of an organisation or an organisation alongside another identity (such as being a resident). Note that in this case, an organisation included any public sector organisation, community/voluntary organisation, and a representative group. The response rates for qualitative questions or questions where the participant selected other (and were given the option to specify) were inconsistent, where some questions received only one response from these entities, while others received responses from all organisations.

Main concerns on the impact of climate change

Six out of ten participants emphasised the impacts of extreme heat and weather events on comfort, plant and agricultural crop survival, rising food costs, and infrastructure/building damage. Five out of ten participants also stressed the impacts of water insecurity as an added element to the risks of continued crop failure and rising food prices. Four out of ten participants highlighted the loss of biodiversity as an added impact from climate change, with some concerned over the reduction in bird sightings over the years and biodiversity lost to travel infrastructure development.

Actions already being taken

Eight of the ten organisations provided a response on actions they already take:

- Two organisations are reducing travel emissions either by reducing the need for deliveries or reducing air travel for holidays.
- Two organisations are investing in decarbonised supply chains by monitoring their procurement process or switching to green banks.
- Two organisations are engaging with schools and communities through events.
- Two organisations are increasing biodiversity through gardening.

There was one organisation that noted they were unable to respond since they were representing a larger group.

Motivation for action

Fewer organisations responded to this question, but the greatest motivator for climate action was considerations for the current and future of Cambridge, human and natural life. To achieve this, two organisations emphasised the need for stronger political leadership to support the challenges of financial and human resources to take action. One organisation also emphasised the need for flexibility to build partnerships.

Where else participants would look for guidance to take action

Two organisations identified technical/academic sources for further guidance: Cambridge University and technical specialists. One organisation highlighted best practices from local and national organisations as a resource.

Organisations

Continued

Feedback for further consideration for the Cambridge City Council's Climate Change Strategy

Five organisations did not provide further feedback either because they had nothing further to add, referenced a previous question, or chose not to respond.

Common suggestions from the respondents who did answer included:

- Improved transport systems with greater connectivity and frequency (2 responses)
- Planning as a key objective (2 responses)
- Opposing offsetting if it means purchasing carbon credits or would like further discussions on the topic (2 responses)
- Reduce car usage and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. (2 responses)

Other suggestions included:

- Including renewable energy development as an objective
- Supply chain and finance approach
- Permission for residents to grow wildflowers on public land
- Lifting listed building restrictions
- Supporting the community and engaging with local businesses such as methods to reduce water consumption.

Feedback on the additional questions on trees

Only two organisations responded to further questions on the Cambridge City Council survey regarding trees. The organisations emphasised a need to improve the management regime for new trees and coordinate with local nature recovery on where trees are planted and protected.

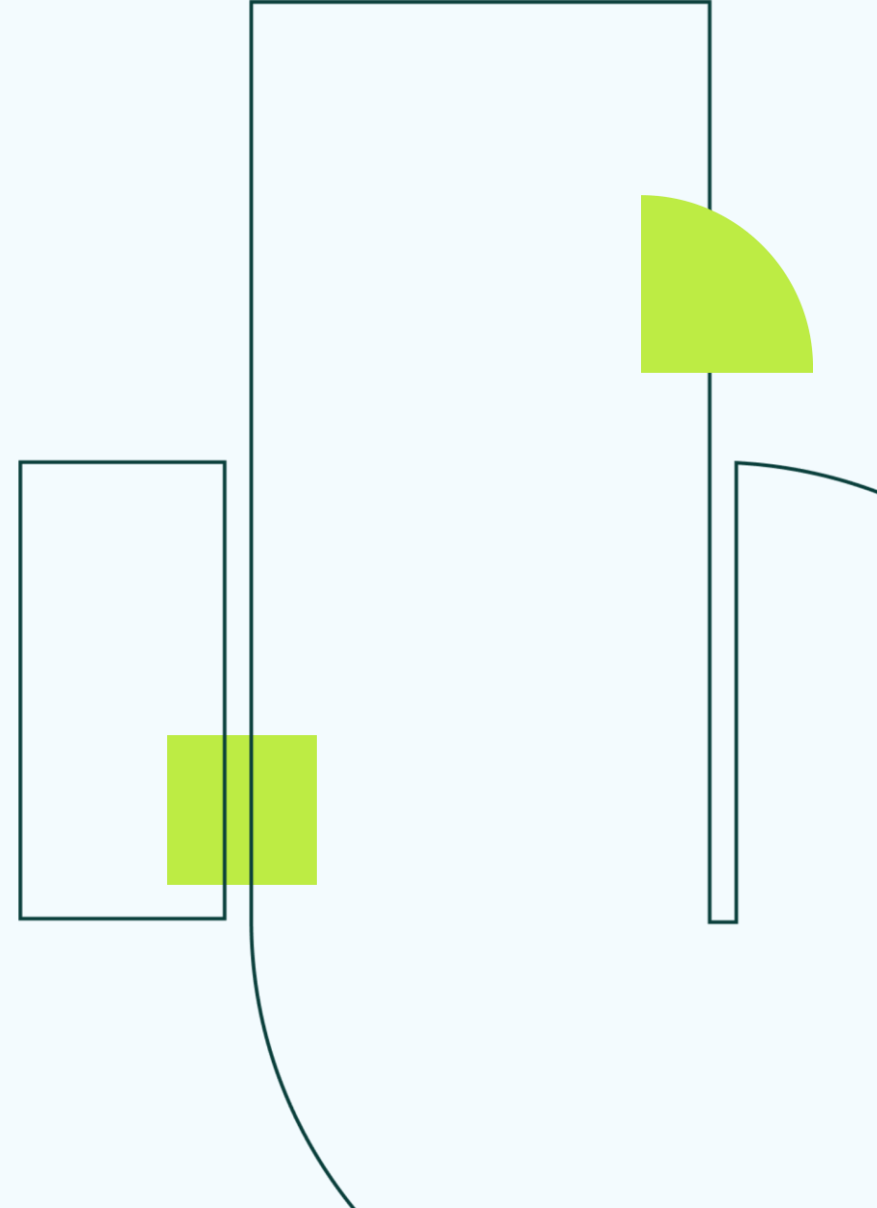
Next steps

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06

Next steps

The feedback from this consultation will be considered and incorporated into developing the full version of the new Cambridge City Council Climate Change Strategy 2026-2031, ensuring the council captures the priorities of local people, businesses and community groups.



Appendices

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1. Engagement survey questions
2. Engagement survey responses

07



Climate and nature strategies - Consultation open

Instructions

- Write as **clearly** as you can— these forms might be scanned
- Write your answers in the same language as this form

About you

1. What is your postcode of residence?

2. In which capacity are you responding to this survey?

Please select all relevant options.

If you are answering in a specific capacity but also fall under another category which is not listed, please select 'Other' and specify.

Additionally, if you are responding as an elected member or behalf of a parish/town council, or if you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, please select 'Other' and specify the name of your organisation, group, or parish/town council.

Please note, Greater Cambridge includes both the city of Cambridge and the surrounding district of South Cambridgeshire.

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> A member of the public who visits Greater Cambridge for work, study or leisure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An elected representative | <input type="checkbox"/> On behalf of a parish council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private company (less than 10 employees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Private company (more than 10, but less than 250, employees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private company (250 or more employees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community or voluntary organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education or research organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A representative group representing multiple members | <input type="checkbox"/> An individual from outside Greater Cambridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An organisation based outside of Greater Cambridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If 'Other', please specify

3. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of it? (optional)
-

Part 1a: General awareness and understanding

4. How concerned are you about the impacts of climate change in Greater Cambridge?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Very concerned
☐ Somewhat concerned
☐ Not concerned

5. What do you see as the most urgent climate-related and nature-related challenges in Greater Cambridge?

**Choose between 1 and 3 options*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity loss / loss of nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water scarcity | <input type="checkbox"/> Sea level rise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing inequalities | <input type="checkbox"/> Disruption to travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damage to infrastructure (e.g. roads, railways, power lines) | <input type="checkbox"/> Disruption to business / economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disruption to supply chains and logistics | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial impacts (e.g., increased energy demand for cooling, unpredictable prices for goods) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impact to health | <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme weather events (please specify) |

If 'Extreme weather events (please specify)', please specify

6. Have you, your community, or your business already experienced impacts as a result of climate change?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Part 1a: General awareness and understanding

7. Please specify what the impact was and if you have taken any action as a result of this.

Part 1a: General awareness and understanding

8. How do you think climate change will affect you, your community or your business in the next five years?

Part 1b: Support and engagement

9. Are you currently taking action to address climate change and protect nature in Greater Cambridge (e.g., doing things to reduce carbon emissions or ensuring you are prepared for the impacts of climate change)?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Part 1b: Support and engagement

10. Please select which steps you have already taken, and which steps you would or would not consider taking?

For each row, mark one circle with a cross to indicate your preference.

	Already done/doing	Would consider doing	Would not consider
Regularly switching off lights and appliances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping the thermostat set no higher than 21 degrees Celsius	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buying energy efficient appliances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Draught proofing windows and doors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Loft insulation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cavity wall insulation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External wall insulation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Replacing gas heating with renewable heating systems (e.g. heat pumps)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generating renewable electricity (e.g. solar PV, solar thermal systems)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buying more seasonal or locally produced food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing consumption of meat and dairy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repairing clothes, electrical items or other goods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swapping, donating or selling unwanted goods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling household waste (paper, glass, cans, plastic etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Separating garden waste for collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Separating food waste for collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Composting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced car use through active travel (i.e., walking or cycling)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchased or leased an electric vehicle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced car use through use of public transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. If you are taking steps which are not mentioned above, please provide more details.
(optional)

Part 1b: Support and engagement

12. What motivates you to improve nature and take action on climate change?

Select all that apply.

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The climate crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting local wildlife and habitats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saving money on energy and bills | <input type="checkbox"/> Improving my health and wellbeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being part of a community effort | <input type="checkbox"/> Concern for future generations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Setting a good example for others | <input type="checkbox"/> To develop my business and improve business performance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To make my business resilient | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting customer/shareholder/investor expectations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To attract/retain employees | <input type="checkbox"/> To access green finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

13. What barriers do you face to taking action on climate change and improving nature in Greater Cambridge?

Select all that apply.

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High upfront cost of low-carbon options | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited access to finance or funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of time or capacity to make changes | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of information or clear guidance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty managing or measuring business/organisation's carbon emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Return on investment is too low or takes too long to realise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuitable housing or property constraints e.g., listed buildings, lack of space | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not own property (house/flat/office) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty accessing public transport or walking and cycling options | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaware of / unable to find community initiatives or support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling that individual actions won't make much of a difference | <input type="checkbox"/> Other priorities at this time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reputational risk / greenwashing if get it wrong | <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertainty about future government policy or regulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

14. What type of support would be most helpful for you as an individual, organisation, or business to aid emissions reduction and climate resilience?

Select all that apply.

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant funding | <input type="checkbox"/> Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Finance / Green Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance and resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to expert advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

15. If you were looking for guidance on action to reduce emissions (including home energy efficiency measures), increase your resilience, or support nature recovery, where would you look for information or advice?

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/neighbours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examples in my community | <input type="checkbox"/> A trusted contractor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local environmental groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organisations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

Section 2: Strategy feedback

Thank you for completing the survey so far.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have aligned on objectives and themes of their respective strategies. However, due to the difference in geographies and contexts that the local authorities operate in, each organisation has different priorities and actions which sit under each objective. You will have the opportunity to feedback on both strategies.

16. Do you wish to provide further feedback on Cambridge City Council's strategy?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 2: Support for the strategy

Cambridge City Council is developing a new Climate Change Strategy for Cambridge which builds on the council's current strategy and achievements to date and shows our continued commitment to working towards net zero carbon emissions for both the council and the city as a whole.

The Draft Strategy Outline sets out how we plan to reduce emissions, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and enhance nature, while making sure the transition is fair and benefits everyone. It is shaped around seven key objectives and will look to achieve these objectives through a range of actions and projects.

Taking action on climate change will not only cut carbon but also bring many wider benefits — from lower energy bills and cleaner air to more comfortable homes and buildings, greener neighbourhoods, and stronger local economies.

Contact

Cambridge City Council Climate Change Officers: sustainablecity@cambridge.gov.uk

17. To what extent do you support Cambridge City Council's vision for its new Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031)?

Our vision is for a city where people and nature enjoy a clean river and clean air in species-rich and connected green spaces. We also want to play our part in slowing/preventing/minimising climate change, and supporting our communities to adapt to the changing climate.

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

Section 2: Strategic objectives

Cambridge City Council's new Climate Change Strategy will be based around seven objectives which the council will be working towards through the implementation of the strategy.

18. Rate your level of support for each of the objectives in the Climate Change Strategy.

For each row, mark one circle with a cross to indicate your preference.

	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Transport: Reducing the need for fossil fuel-powered travel and encouraging the use of low- and zero-carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy & Retrofit: Improving energy efficiency and climate resilience of homes and buildings across Cambridge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature & Water: Enhancing nature, increasing tree canopy cover, and safeguarding water to help Cambridge adapt to the impacts of climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable Food: Increasing access to local, low-impact, seasonal food and reducing food waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waste Minimisation: Reducing waste and supporting a circular economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supply Chain & Finance: Reducing emissions and maximising the social and environmental value of procurement and partnerships across the city	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Support & Behaviour Change (ensuring a just transition): Providing accessible and inclusive support to communities and residents to empower and	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

enable low-carbon behaviour
change

19. If you have any further comments on key objectives, please add them here. (optional)

Section 2: Strategic objectives

20. We've introduced some new areas of focus in this Climate Change Strategy. Please tell us how supportive you are of the council taking these areas of work forward over the next five years and share any feedback you may have.

Please see page 5 of the Draft Strategy Outline for more information on areas of focus.

For each row, mark one circle with a cross to indicate your preference.

	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Developing a collaborative city-wide plan for climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consideration of offsetting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working with suppliers to measure and reduce emissions (Council Scope 3 emissions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting community energy projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting and applying research and innovation on climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing emissions from Commercial Properties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Do you think that there is anything within Cambridge City Council's control or influence, that has not been covered within objectives and action areas of the strategy but should be?

22. Is there anything else that you think Cambridge City Council could do within its control or influence, to support you to take action on climate change?

23. If you have any further comments on, or ideas for, the Climate Change Strategy to add that you feel have not been covered within the survey, please provide them here. (optional)

Section 2: Strategy feedback

24. Would you like to answer five additional questions to help shape some other areas of the council's work, such as the development of a heat network and the Urban Forest strategy?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 2: Urban Forest Strategy

To help shape the council's next Urban Forest Strategy, we are seeking your feedback on the council's work with trees across the city, so we can ensure they continue to play a vital role in helping Cambridge adapt to climate change.

25. How important do you think it is to increase tree canopy cover in Cambridge as part of climate change adaption?

For example, providing shade, cooling, flood mitigation?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Very important
☐ Important
☐ Not important

26. What benefits do you most value from trees in Cambridge in the context of climate change?

**Choose between 1 and 3 options*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shade and cooling during heatwaves | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved air quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for wildlife and pollinators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved health and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

27. How supportive are you of the council taking stronger measures to protect existing trees that provide climate resilience benefits?

For example, providing shade, carbon storage, biodiversity.

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly Oppose

28. What do you think is the most effective way to balance tree protection with the need for development in Cambridge in the context of climate change?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Strengthening protection for existing trees
- ☐ Increase tree planting requirements in new developments
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

Section 2: Heat networks

To help shape the council's work on the development of a district heat network, please answer the following questions.

29. Are you aware of the Government's work on heat network zoning?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 2: Heat networks

30. If a heat network zone were to be implemented in Cambridge, do you feel that connecting to a heat network would enable you to decarbonise your property (home or building) more easily?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 2: Call for information

31. To help route you to the relevant next part of the survey, are you responding to this survey in the capacity of a business, public sector organisation, or community organisation?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 2: Call for information

We are developing a city-wide plan which will to help build a more united approach to addressing climate change in Cambridge, reflect the depth and breadth of climate and nature action taking place across the city and provide a shared framework for scaling impact.

To help us build this we would like to understand more about what businesses, public sector and community organisations are planning to do to tackle climate change and enhance nature in Cambridge, and the commitments that have been made to this.

If you are an organisation or business, we would be very grateful if you could complete the next stage of the survey. If you are completing this survey as an individual, please do not complete this section.

32. Would you like to be involved in developing a city-wide climate plan?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 2: Call for information

33. Please tell us more about what your organisation (business, public sector or community organisation) will be doing to address climate change and enhance nature in Cambridge.

Please describe your future projects or initiatives, to help us to build a broader picture of action on climate change across the city. Please also describe what outcomes or changes your organisation is hoping to achieve or deliver through these initiatives.

- 34. Please upload any relevant documentation or links here which would provide information on your plans and commitments for addressing climate change and/or enhancing nature, such as a Climate Change or Sustainability Strategy. (optional)**

This field cannot be completed on paper. Please use the online version of this form instead.

- 35. Please provide the most appropriate email address to contact you or your organisation to ensure you are included in future communications and events about the city-wide plan.**

If you'd prefer to discuss the city-wide plan further before sharing any documentation or commitments, please state here and someone from the team will be in touch to follow up with you.

Section 3: Strategy feedback

- 36. Do you wish to provide further feedback on South Cambridgeshire District Council's strategy?**

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 3: Strategic priorities

The new South Cambridgeshire District Council **Climate and Nature Strategy 2026-2030** will replace the pre-existing Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Strategies, recognising the link between our natural environment and our climate. It will look at how we can both mitigate and adapt to climate change. This strategy sets out the approach and key areas of priority for South Cambridgeshire as we work towards an environmentally thriving, net zero district, resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Contact

South Cambridgeshire District Council Climate & Environment Team:

climateandenvironment@scambs.gov.uk

37. Please rank the following key strategic themes selected as the focus for the Climate and Nature strategy in order of importance.

1 being the most important and 7 being the least important.

Please write a number from 1 (most preferred) and 7 (least preferred) in each box. Use each number exactly once.

- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Energy & Retrofit
- ☐ Nature & Water
- ☐ Sustainable Food
- ☐ Waste Minimisation
- ☐ Community Support & Behaviour
- ☐ Business, Supply Chain, & Finance

38. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the key strategic challenges facing South Cambridgeshire have been fairly represented in the strategy?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

39. If you have further comments on the key strategic challenges, or you would like to suggest other challenges not listed above, please add them here. (optional)

40. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the key strategic opportunities have been fairly represented in the strategy?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

41. If you have further comments on the key strategic opportunities, or you would like to suggest other opportunities not listed above, please add them here. (optional)

42. The strategy is framed around the internationally recognised United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that actions taken on climate and nature recovery maximise co-benefits for communities. Co-benefits are positive outcomes that result from another action. Please rank the goals in as you would like to be prioritised as co-benefits for South Cambridgeshire or believe they are important in South Cambridgeshire. (optional)

Please write a number from 1 (most preferred) and 17 (least preferred) in each box. Use each number exactly once.

- ☐ No Poverty
- ☐ Zero Hunger
- ☐ Good Health and Well-being
- ☐ Quality Education
- ☐ Gender Equality
- ☐ Clean Water and Sanitation
- ☐ Affordable and Clean Energy
- ☐ Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ☐ Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- ☐ Reduced Inequalities
- ☐ Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ☐ Responsible Consumption and Production
- ☐ Climate Action
- ☐ Life Below Water
- ☐ Life On Land
- ☐ Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- ☐ Partnerships for the Goals

43. Please provide any further comments you wish to make on the Sustainable Development Goals or co-benefits of action on climate and nature. (optional)

Section 3: Support and engagement

44. Do you think that there is anything within South Cambridgeshire's control or influence, that has not been covered within the objectives and action areas of the strategy but should be?

45. Is there anything else that you think that South Cambridgeshire's District Council could do within its control or influence to support you to take action on climate change?

46. The successful implementation of the Climate and Nature Strategy will require involvement from communities, residents and businesses from across the district. Please provide any further comments on how you think the strategy can be successfully implemented.

47. If you have any further comments on, or ideas for, the Climate and Nature Strategy that you feel have not been covered within the survey, please provide them here.

Authors:

Julia Evans Asano, Net Zero Policy Analyst

Jess Daly, Principal Consultant

Reviewer:

Jo Mortensen, Associate Director





REPORT TITLE: Cambridge City Homelessness Review

To: Services, Climate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Todd-Jones, Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness

Report by: Samantha Shimmon, Assistant Director for Housing and Health

Tel: 07743 180011 Email: samantha.shimmon@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected: All

Director Approval: Director Sam Scharf confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	Purpose and reason for the report
1.1	To comment on the review that has been conducted on Homelessness services delivered by Cambridge City Council and the Homelessness system as a whole across the city. To provide feedback and help officers and cabinet shape next steps and a Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy.
1.2	<i>There is an exempt annex attached to this report that is NOT FOR PUBLICATION by reason of paragraph three of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest test has been applied to the information contained within this exempt annex and it is considered that the need to retain the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.</i>
2.	Background and key issues
2.1	Cambridge City Council procured a comprehensive, independent review of the entire homelessness system in Cambridge, covering:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council policies and operational practice • Partnership working across health, voluntary sector, criminal justice, housing and social care • Funding flows and commissioning approaches • Prevention, temporary accommodation, rough sleeping and long-term resettlement <p>Cambridge faces specific pressures in relation to Homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high private rented sector costs • Hidden pockets of deprivation • A large and active voluntary and community sector • Rising complexity of need among people experiencing homelessness <p>The Council is seeking to modernise and improve the effectiveness of prevention, temporary accommodation use, partnership working and funding models, and to move more activity “upstream” before homelessness occurs.</p> <p>The review forms phase one of the project, with phase two being to develop a new Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy 2026-28 and provide support to implement the actions.</p> <p>PPL was the successful organisation to complete the review and upon successful completion of stage one it is intended they would continue onto stage two.</p>
3.	Corporate plan
3.1	<p><i>Explain how the decision links to the Councils Corporate Plan</i></p> <p>Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</p> <p>This review and subsequent strategy links to two of the Council’s objectives in the Corporate Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling poverty and inequality and helping people in the greatest need • Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness
4.	Consultation, engagement and communication
4.1	<p>There have been no consultations as part of this review. However, it has been developed with the voice of lived experience. PPL worked with an organisation called Groundswell who interviewed 20 people with current or recent experience of homelessness and/or rough sleeping.</p>

5.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
5.1	<p>The review forms phase one of the procurement, with phase two only being commissioned to the same provider if we are satisfied with the outcome and recommendations from phase one.</p> <p>Some areas for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to focus on to ensure we are satisfied with the outcome of the review are and shaping next steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the evidence support a “system reset”? • Temporary Accommodation – is there a clear path away from B&B use? • Prevention – Is this genuinely upstream or just “earlier crisis work”? • Funding and Commissioning – does this reduce risk and cost over time?
6.	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
6.1	An EQIA has not been completed for the review. One will be completed as part of phase two.
7.	Appendices
7.1	<i>Confidential Appendix: Draft Homelessness Review</i>
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Samantha Shimmon, Assistant Director: Housing and Health

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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