

Denbighshire County Council's Draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy

Public Consultation Response Summary

November - December 2020

DCC's Draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy Public Consultation Response Summary

Foreword

Thank you very much for your time and contributions during our public consultation on the Council's draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy that we ran during November and December last year.

We were excited to hear from you following the public engagement sessions we ran at the beginning of 2020 on the Council's Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration.

Your feedback will help us improve the draft DCC Climate and Ecological Change Strategy ensuring we start on the best possible footing for the Council to achieve our 2030 net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals.

We recognise that the world looks quite different compared to when we first engaged with you back in January/February 2020 and the Council, along with our communities, continue to feel the significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic. However, we remain committed to our goals on tackling Climate and Ecological Change and look forward to working with our communities to achieve them.



Cllr Brian Jones

*Lead Member for Waste,
Transport and the
Environment*



Cllr Graham Timms

*Chair of the Climate and
Ecological Emergency
Working Group*



Cllr Tony Thomas

*Lead Member for Housing
and Communities*

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About Denbighshire County Council's Draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019 which committed the Council to become net carbon zero by 2030 and improve biodiversity.

We ran a public engagement event in January and February 2020 asking for the public's feedback on the Council's net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals and their ideas on how the Council can achieve them by 2030.

Building on the public's ideas we have worked with Members and Officers from across the Council to develop the Council's Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 – 2029/30).

The document explains what we mean by the goals net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council, how the Council is currently performing on both, what we hope 2030 will look like for the Council having achieved our goals and the changes and actions we hope to deliver over the next 9 years.

Various formats of the draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy were produced. You can read the strategy document by clicking the links below:

- [Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Ecological Change Strategy \(2021/22-2029/30\)](#)
- [Youth friendly version](#)
- [Easy read version](#)

We have also produced a summary of our Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive goals in the format of an infographic. You can see these by clicking the links below:

- [Net Carbon Zero infographic summary](#)
- [Ecologically Positive infographic summary](#)

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About the Public Consultation

The public consultation on DCC's draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy was launched on 12th November and ran until 7th December (26 days).

The consultation was promoted heavily through press releases, social media posts, direct emails to mailing groups and on the front page of DCC's main website and consultation website.

What we asked

We asked responders to read the draft strategy and answer the following questions:

1. Do you think DCC should adopt the strategy?
2. What do you like about the strategy?
3. What do you not like about the strategy?
4. Any other comments?

How you contributed

The public gave their contributions in a number of ways:

- During a virtual public zoom meeting that was held on the 23rd November
- By completing the online feedback form
- During a virtual engagement meeting with Denbighshire Secondary School's School Councils
- During a virtual engagement meeting with the Climate Change Sub Group of the TCC (Together Creating Communities).

The number of responses received

We had 108 responses to the public consultation.

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92% of respondents classed themselves as Denbighshire residents. 19% of respondents classed themselves as DCC employees. 64% of respondents classed themselves as members of a Denbighshire based organisation/ community group.

The age split of respondents were as follows:

Age group	% of total respondents
Under 18	9
18 - 30	5
31 - 55	45
56 - 65	20
Over 65	12
Not specified	9
Total	100

What you told us

Question 1- Do you think DCC should adopt the strategy?

For this question of the public consultation, respondents were asked to click yes or no.

88% of respondents answered 'yes'- that DCC should adopt the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy.

12% of respondents answered 'no'- that DCC should not adopt the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy.

Out of the 12% that answered 'no'- 40% of respondents stated in their comments that whilst they commend the Council in its work in this area, the strategy and want the Council to continue its work in tackling climate and ecological change/climate emergency, they answered 'no' because they do not think the strategy isn't ambitious enough highlighting the following areas for Council consideration:

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- For the council to actively intervene in reducing emissions across the geographical space of Denbighshire including homes, industry/business and travel and the deployment of renewable energy.
- For the council to actively intervene in increasing sequestration across the geographical space of Denbighshire including land not owned by DCC and DCC's tenanted agricultural estate.
- For the council to actively intervene in improving biodiversity across the geographical space of Denbighshire including land not owned by DCC and DCC's tenanted agricultural estate.
- For the council to divest all investments in fossil fuel based industries, including those held in Clwyd Pension Fund.

Question 2- What do you like about the strategy?

For this question of the public consultation respondents were asked to type in a free text box.

We have conducted textual analysis on the statements received from respondents in order to be able to identify key words/statements, group similar words/statements and count how frequently they were expressed.

Appendix A provides you with the list of key words/statements and how frequently they were expressed for question 2.

The top 3 most frequently expressed words/statements on what respondents like about the strategy are as follows:

1. Tree planting
2. Actions
3. Change in the Council's Constitution

A word cloud has been created to provide a visual summary of the responses received. The bigger the word appears, the more frequently it was expressed amongst respondents.

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Image 1 - Word cloud showing what respondents like about the strategy

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Question 3- What do you not like about the strategy?

For this question of the public consultation respondents were asked to type in a free text box.

We have conducted textual analysis on the statements received from respondents in order to be able to identify key words/statements, group similar words/statements and count how frequently they were expressed.

Appendix B provides you with the list of key words/statements and how frequently they were expressed for question 3.

The top 3 most frequently expressed words/statements on what respondents like about the strategy are as follows:

1. Council scope only
- 2=. Doesn't involve communities enough
- 2=. Not enough about active travel

The word cloud has been created to provide a visual summary of the responses received. The bigger the word appears, the more frequently it was expressed amongst respondents.

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Question 4- Any other comments?

For this question of the public consultation respondents were asked to type in a free text box.

The list below is a summary of the comments provided in this question:

- General comments in support of the strategy and expressions of delight the council is acting on these emergencies.
- Would like to see the council being bold in this agenda. Acting quickly. To lead by example and share lessons learnt and advise/educate the wider public where possible.
- Concern around linking climate change with ecological positivity causing confusion.
- Concern around how realistic the target is and resources to deliver.
- Encouraged to see the plan to completed carbon literacy training within the authority.
- Many keen to see changes to planning policies to support the plan.
- Concerns raised regarding recycling. That the council is not recycling enough and with regards changing the current recycling scheme. Keen to avoid increased costs and ensure recycling potential is maximised.
- Would like to see the council (and residents) make more use of composting from its green waste and bio-fertilisers.
- Would like to see EV infrastructure improved to encourage EV vehicle use and educate the public about these to dispel concerns.
- Active travel should be encouraged and incentivised if possible.
- Comments regarding renewable energy. Would like to see this encouraged within the county (by planning etc.), for DCC to be bold and experiment with new technologies.
- Feedback from schools also stated they would like to be renewable energy champions and pupils stated they would like to see solar panels at all schools.

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- Views regarding working from home and the desire not shut to all buildings. Suggestions to keep council buildings open which are easily accessible sustainably.
- Would like to see the council working with the community and volunteers to deliver the agenda together.
- Would like to see the wider area involved in reducing carbon emissions.
- Would like to see the council encouraging and helping residents to be more energy efficient in their homes.
- Concern around tree planting and whether this is enough in terms of carbon sequestration requirements. Would like to see more tree planting and increase of wild areas and help for pollinators.
- Would like to see county farms and schools involved in the tree planting goals etc. to help with carbon sequestration.

How we are using the feedback received

The feedback we received during the public consultation will be used to improve the draft Climate and Ecological Change Strategy into the final version of the document. Changes that will be made include:

- Adding additional supporting strategies.
- Adding a section at the start of the strategy about the changing climate- the impacts being felt now and in the future.
- Provide information regarding interim targets between now and 2030 for how much carbon we want to reduce, carbon sequestration we want to increase and species richness changes we expect to see.
- Making it clearer where the Council can use its influence to bring about carbon reduction, increased carbon sequestration and improved biodiversity across the county of Denbighshire.
- Adding actions to the policy changes and project lists.

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- Providing more information about how the Council's progress in achieving Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive will be monitored each year.
- Add further information to the section explaining how we will share our learning with others.

What happens next

The final strategy will be considered at a meeting of Cabinet with the recommendation to recommend adoption of the strategy by Full Council. The final strategy will then be considered at a meeting of Full Council with the recommendation to adopt the strategy. At both these meetings Members of Cabinet and of Full Council will be asked to vote on whether to adopt the strategy or not. These meetings are scheduled for February 2021.

Once in place our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy will guide the Council in its work to reduce carbon emissions, increase carbon sequestration and improve biodiversity to achieve its goals of becoming a Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive Council by 2030.

We recognise that work may not initially be able to progress as quickly as originally hoped because of the significant impact upon the Council of the coronavirus pandemic. However, we remain committed to our goals and look forward to working with our communities to achieve them.

How to keep in touch

If you submitted feedback online and agreed to receiving targeted information and updates on this agenda as we move forward, you will have been added to the Council's Climate and Ecological Change email mailing list. This email mailing list will be used as a way of communicating updates, information and notifying about opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this agenda.

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A set of new webpages went live in November 2020 on the Council's website with information about climate and ecological change and the Council's ongoing action in tackling it. You can browse the set of webpages here: www.denbighshire.gov.uk/climate-change.

Discussions are soon to arrive on the County Conversation Portal. Discussions are message boards. We'll pin up a message about a topic and you can post your replies, and reply to other people. We are kicking off Discussions with a series of topics relating to Climate and Ecological change to continue the conversation with you on this important agenda. You'll need to sign into your Y Panel account. You should see a 'Discussions' option near the top of your desktop or mobile web browser. Once you've selected it, you can view and join in on any active Discussion. You can access the County Conversation Portal and sign in or register for your Y Panel here: <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk>.

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Appendices

Appendix A – List of key words and how frequently they were expressed for Question 2- What do you like about the strategy?

STATEMENT ON “WHAT DO YOU LIKE”	COUNT
Tree-planting	9
Actions	8
Change-to-constitution	7
Acting-on-climate-emergency	6
Addition-to-job-descriptions	6
Commitment	6
Public-engagement	6
Carbon-Literacy-training	5
Clear	5
Step-by-step approach	5
Protecting-wildlife	4
Schools-benefit	4
Asset-management-strategy-change	3
Covers-many-areas	3
Enhancing-biodiversity	3
Natural-flood-management	3
Open-to-future-opportunities	3
Other-strategies	3

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU LIKE"	COUNT
Staff-engagement	3
Targets	3
Wildflower-creation	3
Accessible-formats	2
Achievable	2
Better-lighting	2
Better-use-of-land	2
Changes-to-procurement	2
Cross-Council	2
E-newsletter	2
Flexible	2
Forward-thinking	2
Holistic	2
Nature-recovery	2
Net-Carbon-Zero	2
Positive	2
Procurement-changes	2
Reads-well	2
Recycling	2
Reduced-verge-cutting	2
Reducing-travel	2

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU LIKE"	COUNT
Training-for-schools	2
Tree-nursery	2
Worthwhile	2
2030-target-date	1
Addressing-the-issue	1
Allotments	1
Annual-reporting	1
Behaviour-change	1
Buy-in	1
Changes-to-LDP	1
Changes-to-planning-policy	1
Changing-business-case-templates	1
Clarity	1
Comforted	1
Commendable	1
Communication	1
Community-benefits	1
Community-growing	1
Comprehensive	1
Concise	1
Considered	1

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU LIKE"	COUNT
Councillor-training	1
Deliverable	1
Detailed	1
Easy-to-understand	1
Eco-leisure	1
Eco-tourism	1
Essential-work	1
Excellent	1
Fast-track	1
Genuine	1
Good-way-forward	1
Helpful	1
Hope	1
Immediate-change	1
Impressive	1
Improving	1
Increasing-forestland	1
It-exists!	1
Larger-than-sum-of-parts	1
Localised	1
Maintaining-grassland	1

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU LIKE"	COUNT
Meaningful	1
Optimistic	1
Over-arching	1
Phased-approach	1
Plans	1
Policy-changes	1
Process-changes	1
Progressive	1
Projects	1
Promotion-LDP-environmental-policies	1
Quantified	1
Reducing-paper	1
Repair-reuse-centres	1
Reversing-the-damage	1
Review-21 st -century-school-redundant-site-policy	1
School-green-space	1
School-wild-areas	1
Scope	1
Securing-sustainable-future	1
Setting-an-example	1
Species-diversity	1

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU LIKE"	COUNT
Species-rich-grassland	1
Specific	1
Starting-point	1
Strategic	1
Targeted	1
Top-down	1
True-cost	1
Vision	1
Welcomed	1
Whole-life-costing	1
Working-from-home	1
Working-with-third-sector	1

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Appendix B- List of key words and how frequently they were expressed for Question 3- What do you not like about the strategy?

STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE"	COUNT
Council-scope-only	15
Doesn't-involve-communities-enough	9
Not-enough-about-active-travel	9
Cost	5
Doesn't-involve-businesses-enough	5
Not-ambitious-enough	5
Not-using-all-influence	5
Lacks-urgency	4
Not-enough-focus-on-renewables	4
Going-paperless-in-schools	3
Not-detailed-enough	3
Not-enough-work-with-schools	3
Not-making-ecobuild-option-mandatory	3
Change-too-quick	2
Doesn't-include-county-wide-travel	2
Doesn't-include-risk-of-not-acting	2
Insufficient-monitoring	2
Lacks-clarity	2
No-grants-for-communities	2

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE"	COUNT
No-interim-targets	2
No-pension-fossil-fuels-divestment	2
No-section-on-climate-impact	2
Not-enough-carbon-literacy-training	2
Not-enough-focus-on-food	2
Not-enough-on-need-to-make-difficult-decisions	2
Not-radical-enough	2
Social-housing-not-included	2
Supply-chain-emissions-separate	2
Working-from-home	2
Bland	1
Buying-land	1
Carbon-absorption-measurement	1
Doesn't-include-agricultural-estate	1
Doesn't-include-licensing	1
Lacks-innovation	1
Nappy-recycling	1
Needs-more-C,T&CC-involvement	1
No-grants-for-farmers	1
No-HWRC-in-Llangollen	1
No-link-to-apprenticeships	1

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE"	COUNT
No-link-to-public health	1
No-reference-to-NWEAB	1
No-reference-to-peat bogs	1
Not- enough-on-school-recycling	1
Not-enough-communication	1
Not-enough-focus-on-hydrogen-fuel	1
Not-enough-focus-on-rewilding	1
Not-enough-mention-about-wellbeing	1
Not-enough-on-lobbying	1
Not-enough-on-recycling-in-schools	1
Not-enough-tree-planting	1
Not-enough-work-with-Towns	1
Not-focused-on-providing-jobs	1
Not-measurable	1
Offsetting	1
Residential-housing-not-included	1
Ridiculous	1
Scaremongering	1
Staff-home-based-EV-charging	1
Too-long	1
Too-many-figures	1

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STATEMENT ON "WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE"	COUNT
Too-much-tree-planting	1
Two-goals-in-one-strategy	1
Unrealistic	1