

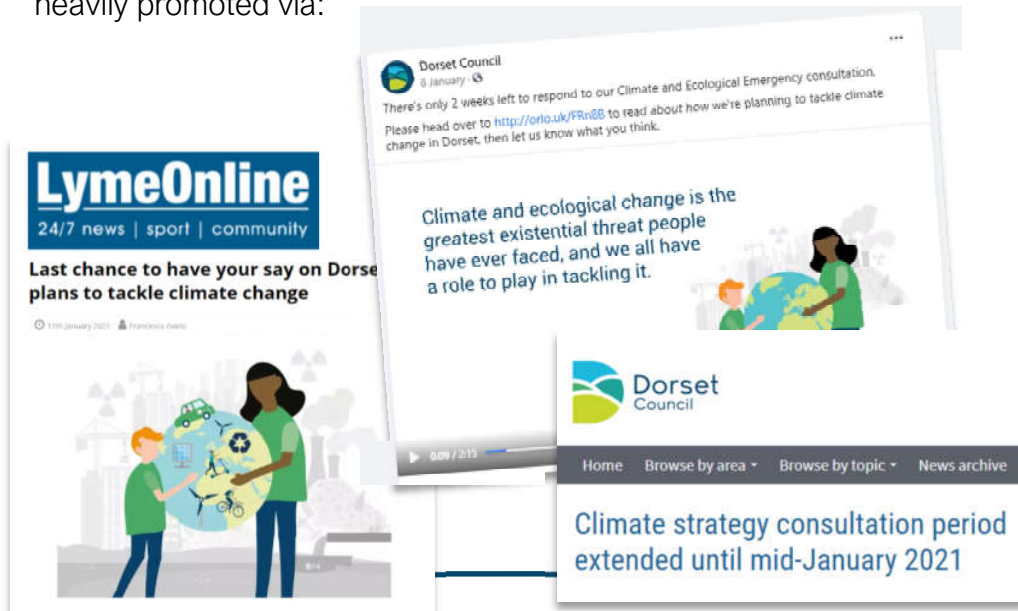
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

After being approved at Cabinet in October 20, a public consultation exercise on this strategy and action plan started in October 2020 and ran until 20th January 2021.

The consultation took the form of an on-line survey and consisted of qualitative questions to find out how strongly residents agreed or disagreed with each element of the strategy and action plan.

The survey covered all the main sections of the strategy, including our approach, carbon targets, areas for action (and associated detailed action plans) and the actions related to governance, finance, communications, and monitoring and reporting. Additional open text boxes were available for each section for people to add any other comments.

The survey was open to all through Dorset Council's website, and was heavily promoted via:



Responses

The full survey received **1,519 overall responses**.

These responses came from members of the public (89.5%), organisations (3.5%), businesses (1.1%), Parish Councils (2.6%), elected members (1.9%) and others (1.4%).

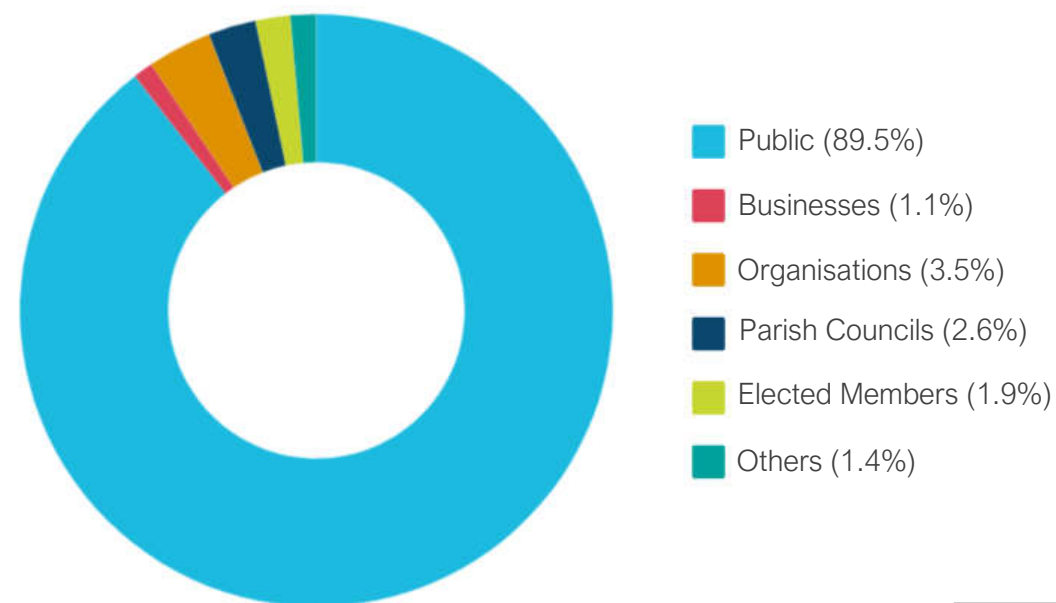


Figure 4?

In total the text comments (some of which were substantial) ran to **over 12,000 comments**.

How did we analyse the responses?

The answers to the quantitative questions in the survey were analysed to calculate the level of **Net Agreement** for each question.

Net agreement adds together all agrees and then subtracts all disagrees. A positive outcome indicates overall agreement and vice versa.

So for example if 80% agreed and 20% disagreed that would result in a 60% positive net agreement...



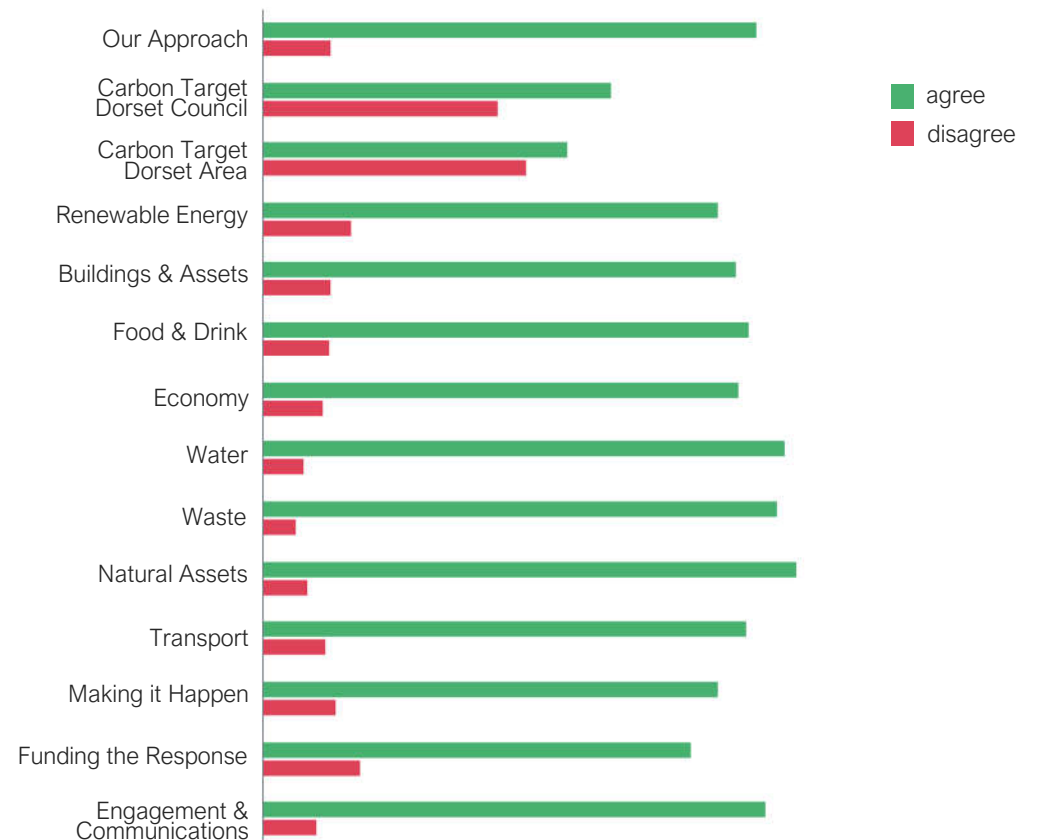
For each open text question, the comments were studied and “coded” depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments were tabulated based on the amount of times those individual issues were raised. This is a standard method for identifying the most commonly occurring issues for each section of the strategy and action plan.

A tolerance of 5% or above of comments received for that question was used to identify and select topics that should be considered for further analysis. These topics were then considered against what is already covered in the Strategy and Action Plan and what merits inclusion in the final document.

Main findings

Overall, the results indicated a **very high level of positive net agreement** with most sections of the strategy.

In most cases positive net agreement was very high with an average of 58.5% positive net agreement. The two areas where this was lower were the Dorset Council target for carbon neutral Council by 2040 and Dorset County Carbon Neutral target by 2050, which had positive Net Agreement scores of 17.1% and 6.1% respectively.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION



The **12,000 qualitative text comments** were very wide in detail, depth and issue, many supporting, restating or further clarifying actions already set out in the strategy and action plan.

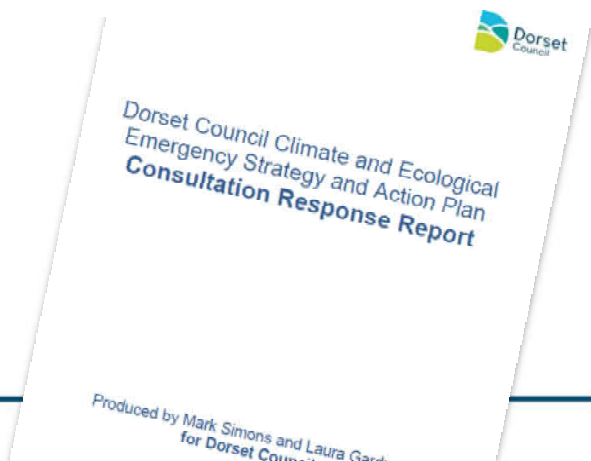
There was overall strong support for the strategy and action plan, further supporting the quantitative results.

There were a number of very similar responses suggesting a shared approach from organisations. The most common critical comments were highlighting the need for the strategy to have a stronger tone and language, be more ambitious, assertive and to have more urgency. Many seeking the Council to put in place and enforce policies to support a rapid shift to a zero carbon Dorset, such as zero carbon standards for new housing.

Particular attention was drawn to the need for the carbon neutral targets to be sooner than 2040 and 2050.

There was a trend of around 10% of respondents disagreeing with the strategy, action plan and targets from a climate change denial point of view.

View the **Consultation Response Report** for a full analysis of the responses to this consultation here...



What did we do with this information?

The results of the consultation were presented and discussed at the Climate and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel on 25th February 2021.

The very high level of **Positive Net Agreement** indicates that significant changes are not required to the strategy and action plan. However, from the analysis of the 12,000 text box responses, opportunities have been identified to further improve the strategy and action plan as a result.

Changes have since been made to incorporate some of the key issues raised, and the consultation responses will continue to shape future action.

Some responses were received separate to the consultation. These responses will be considered independently against the detail of the plan, and further work will be carried out to explore the points raised. Examples of these would be the responses by the Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Dorset Local Nature Partnership.

Full results of the public consultation will also be published on the Council's Website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

This strategy and action plan will be a living document which will evolve over time as actions progress, technology advances and government support strengthens.