OBC – 10 year strategies

Detailed feedback

Nearly 500 participants provided valuable insight and feedback about the 10 year strategies.

Of these, 4 respondents represented community groups or organisations.

There were 402 comments in total.

Focus group feedback is reported separately.

Our Big Conversation 10 Year Strategies

Your Age:

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	2	2%
Under 16	0	0%
16-24	3	3%
25-39	26	23%
40-55	31	28%
56-59	4	4%
60-64	16	14%
65+	29	26%
Total	111	

Your Gender:

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	5	4%
Male	53	45%
Female	58	49%
Non-binary/Gender Variant	2	2%
Total	118	

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	7	3%
Yes	107	46%
No	3	1%
Total	117	

What is your ethnic group?

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	9	8%
White	107	91%
Mixed/multiple	0	0%
Asian	2	2%
Black/Black British	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	118	

Sexual Orientation:

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	15	13%
Bisexual	5	4%
Gay or Lesbian	6	5%
Heterosexual/straight	84	71%
Other	8	7%
Total	118	

Our Big Conversation 10 Year Strategies

Religion or Belief:

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	10	9.17%
Buddhist	2	1.83%
Christian	33	30.28%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Jewish	1	0.92%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
No religion	50	45.87%
Other	13	11.93%
Total	109	

Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Yes	22	19.64%
No	90	80.36%
Total	118	

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

Answer Choices	Responses	%
Prefer not to say	8	7.21%
Yes	27	24.32%
No	76	68.47%
Total	111	

If you answered "Yes" above, do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

Answer Choices	Responses	%
A lot	3	2.70%
A little	18	16.22%
Not at all	23	20.72%
Total	44	

Separate feedback was provided from 20 stakeholders specifically about the Economic Strategy

2,000 participants contributed to the attitudinal survey which informed the development of the 10 year strategies.

Summary of comments

55% of comments (226) were about the Climate Change Strategy, followed by all the 10 year Strategies (26%), the Economic Strategy (9%) and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (8%).

Strategy	Action	communications	consultation	data	engagement	planning	process	strategy	targets	Grand Total
10 year strategies	67	2	9		9			18		105
climate change	142	5	2	10	16	2	3	28	17	226
economy	26	1		2			1	6		37
health and wellbeing	22			1				11		34
Grand Total	**257**	**8**	**11**	**13**	**25**	**2**	**4**	**63**	**17**	**402**

Of the 402 comments, 358 (89%) were constructive and provided a steer, a recommended action or suggested how to improve clarity.

Participants provided a great deal of detail and we are grateful for their support:

"I spent a sad day of my holiday reading and annotating the document and these are my specific page-by-page comments. Apologies if it all sounds critical, but this is on the basis of a life spent trying to do sustainable buildings and recent years in many conversations with various people in the council about climate change response. I genuinely hope it's helpful."

Thank you

General comments

Consultation:

There were 11 comments specifically about the consultation and a request that future consultations involve more resident engagement and discussion.

"I applaud the ambition for ongoing public engagement, hopefully in a more meaningful way than these very limited and sometimes ambiguous closed questions."

Engagement:

There were 25 comments specifically about future engagement and the desire of residents, businesses and community groups to continue to be involved, engaged and help build and maintain momentum over the decade ahead.

"What ever your considered and informed strategies, please be aware that many of us are willing, determined, to go further, engage and act with even greater urgency. What most of us need is a trusted source of effective, available, local actions that we can respond to, and a powerful sense that we are all part of a whole community endeavour."

Ambition:

There were 38 comments that were wholly unsupportive of the strategies. These comments highlighted either the lack of action plans (although this was also provided as a constructive comment – see later), actions don't match reality or that the ambitions are not ambitious enough.

"I'd prefer an ambitious set of strategies that are difficult to meet than these unambitious strategies that seem to have been created in order to demonstrate that they can easily be achieved."

The majority of comments (89%) were constructive and the main themes are provided over the next few pages,. Note. The constructive comments were supportive of the intention behind the 10 year strategies.

Feedback about the strategies

The majority of comments were related to specific detail that is being worked through or differing opinions about whether the strategies go far enough. Comments were in the main individual and it was not clear from the survey whether they represented the views of many or one.

The comments themselves provide a clear steer about subjects that need further clarification.

Common throughout was the need to recognise the interrelated co-benefits between each strategy (and supporting strategies such as transport or housing) and ensure a balanced approach to delivery.

"I think the strategies would have been better linked together: green jobs, healthy people, sustainable environment. "

"Absolutely shocking that none of the strategies contain a plan for dealing with housing availability and affordability, a key constraint to all of the outcomes".

"York needs to be bigger. The country grew by 6% over the past ten years, and York by 2.6%, We are in danger of being left behind."

10 year strategies
- access to activities if on low incomes
- No action plan
- align with physical activity strategy
- Note the available budget
- impact on Local Plan
- improve access for disabled people
- interrelated co-benefits in each
- missing Local Plan or transport plan
- more ambitious
- not a strategy
- over focus on economic growth not sustainability

Economic strategy
- growth expectations of assured autonomy
- interrelated co-benefits in each strategy
- join up with inequalities gaps
- promote benefits of active travel
- too capitalist

"Unlimited economic growth is in irreconcilable conflict with climate change, hence why economic activity needs to be limited by the carrying capacity of local and global eco systems"

Climate change Strategy
- bolder more radical
- care about bikes not cars
- case studies - include council actions or note when not
- climate impact on green space used for carbon capture
- community involvement
- consumption needs reducing
- emissions targets need clarifying
- encourage biodiversity
- exiles the poor
- include Mandate for Change reference
- lobby with others
- not a strategy
- over estimating ambition
- relationship with BEIS ?
- retrofit/constructive jobs
- role of Climate Commission
- scope 3 emissions
- standardised materials to reduce consumption
- too slow
- Typos (inc. pg 14 heat wave temperature)

Health and wellbeing Strategy
- affordable healthy food
- air pollution impact / clean air benefits
- climate impact
- Involve the disabled community
- Include healthy weight
- Promote personal responsibility
- recognise socially excluded
- Recognise uncontrollable factors influence health

Climate Change Strategy – recommended actions

There were 142 recommended actions, of which 16% (23) requested an Action Plan explaining how the targets would be met. 17 separate comments challenged or requested clarity about the targets set in the strategy. Transport, green space and new developments are areas of concern.

Recommended Action	No of Comments	Council action
no action plan	23	Published draft action plan
improve active travel	15	Developing local transport strategy
improve transport infrastructure	9	Developing local transport strategy
improve/protect green space	8	Part of action plan
improve local food supply chain	7	Part of action plan
scope 3 emissions	7	Needs further exploration about what's possible
improve public transport	4	Developing local transport strategy
new building development standards	4	Part of action plan
improve EV infrastructure	3	Developing local transport strategy
inconsistencies	3	Needs further exploration
food waste	2	Awaiting guidance from government
learn from other cities	2	Agreed
lobby with other councils/community/region	2	Agreed
reduce cost to residents	2	Part of action plan

"We need to help households with lower incomes to reduce their carbon emissions. Building improvements are expensive, and most can't afford it. Landlords can help the cost-of-living crisis by improving their properties to require less heating which will lower energy bills for their tenants."

"Reading the environment document feels like a very long list of promises without much of a plan to implement a lot of what is said. While its hard to disagree with 'our air should be cleaner' 10 years seems an awfully short amount of time to achieve a lot of these goals, especially when there doesn't seem to be concrete plans for a lot of them."

Economic Strategy – recommended actions

There were 26 recommended actions, with the majority individual ideas like a 4-day week, more information about options and training for young people and improving the local food chain.

Recommended Action	No of Comments	Council action
inclusive growth	3	
more green retrofit / EV jobs	3	
improve local food supply chain	2	
interrelated co-benefits in each	2	
gender equality / join up inequalities gap	2	

"I feel like the strategies could be a touch more joined up. For instance in your health and wellbeing strategies you talk about inequality gaps or health inequalities. Could your economic strategy not also pick up on these issues to a greater extent, in terms of working to increase access, opportunities and support for marginalised groups in the workforce? For instance, I've volunteered in a programme offering support for carers, and in the course of that I've heard about how flexibility working arrangements, the ability to engage in job sharing, etc, could help carers who wish to also work outside the home, while still balancing the need to care for a loved one or relative. ."

"On page 13 you have said: 'pioneer green construction and retrofit…' this is a very important idea to tackling the large housing based emissions reality of badly insulated housing and commercial space.."

20 stakeholders/businesses were invited to provide comments direct and these have been incorporated into the strategy development.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy – recommended actions

There were 22 recommended actions, with the majority individual ideas increasing play areas, recognising uncontrollable factors and promoting personal responsibility. Those that were most repeated tended to focus on the impact of climate action on health and wellbeing (see below).

Recommended Action	No of Comments	Council action
improve active travel / promote active travel	3	
air pollution impact	2	
healthy weight	2	
improve/protect green space	2	
climate impact/ environmental factors missing	2	

"In terms of the Health Strategy, the health benefits of regular active travel- especially cycling- as reported by Biobank (on a study of commuters) and Gary Fuller of KCL, WHO and the RCP need to be included e.g lower BMI, lower CVD, reduced risk of certain types of cancer, reduced diabetes and higher overall LE. The overall reduction in road deaths during the lockdown, including in the UK reflects reduced car travel and connects climate and health strategies. Cities such as Copenhagen have reduced cycling deaths in absolute terms whilst increasing cycling, a pattern reflected across Denmark in recent decades and in the reduction in cycling deaths in London since the 90s notwithstanding its greater usage.."

"I appreciate that some reference is made to Air Quality in the Climate Strategy, but I am extremely concerned that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy does not have any focus directly on improving Air Quality as an Individuals and Population Health issue. – In fact, much of the Health Strategy focusses on individual rather than population. There are estimated 40,000 unnecessary deaths in the UK every year from poor Air Quality . Health conditions resulting from poor Air Quality rank by number and severity in the top 10 killers. Cost to Health Service is enormous."

The Health and Wellbeing Board have been invited to approve the Health and Wellbeing Strategy on 14 November 2022, following this the Board will work with residents to develop an action plan.

OBC – attitudinal survey

Key Differences by Demographic

Under 40s are more likely than older age ranges to:

Climate Change

- Agree strongly that City of York Council should employ carbon offsetting, 35%
- Have not yet but plan in future to make improvements to their home, 44%, and reduce their amount of waste, 18%, to reduce their carbon footprint
- Say cost (68%), lack of infrastructure (39%) and lack of time (18%) are barriers to taking action to reduce their carbon footprint
- Be extremely/very concerned about flooding (76%) and loss of biodiversity, 73%

Economic situation and skills

- Say "I am worse off financially than I was 12 months ago" (46%) and "I could handle a major unexpected expense" (29%) describe them not very/not at all well
- Feel optimistic about the career prospects of their family, 49%
- Work part-time because appropriate full-time work was not available, 25%
- Be interested in starting their own business, 26%
- Say flexibility - being able to fit the course around other commitments (87%), professional accreditation (78%), a guaranteed job or employment opportunity (76%) and no financial cost to self (73%) are very/quite important when choosing a training course

Transport

- Cycle, 58%, walk, 41%, or take the bus, 38%, to their usual place of work/study
- Travel in a petrol/diesel/hybrid car (as a passenger), 76% or walk, 66%, to entertainment
- Walk to parks and open spaces, 95%, compared to over 60s
- Make less than a fifth of their journeys by car, 39%. However, they are also more likely to expect to drive more in the next five years, 25%
- Prefer to walk when shopping for small items, 62%, or visiting friends/relatives locally, 49%
- Say walking routes meet their needs, 77%
- Plan to help ease congestion by hiring an e-bike/e-scooter, 14%
- Say cost (37%) and no regular bus service (34%) are barriers to taking sustainable transport

Demographics

- Be working full-time, 71%, unemployed, 6%, or a student (and not working), 6%

N.B. All percentages include "don't know" responses

Our Big Conversation attitudinal survey – Key differences by age

Respondents aged 40-59 are more likely to:

Climate Change

- *No significant differences compared to older or younger age groups*

Economic situation and skills

- Be shopping online more than before the pandemic, 72%
- Disagree they feel optimistic about the career prospects of their family, 25%
- Work part-time to improve work/life balance, 51%, or to make time for caring responsibilities, 38%

Transport

- Cycle to parks and open spaces, 81%
- Not used a bus in the last year, 46%
- Say they would prefer to travel by bike to work, 35%, to visit friends/family locally, 31%, when shopping for small items, 26%, or for leisure or entertainment trips, 22%
- Say cycling routes meet their needs, 42%
- Help ease congestion by turning off their car when stationary in traffic, 66%, or travelling by bike, 54%

Demographics

- Be working part-time, 17%, or be a business owner / self-employed, 13%

Respondents aged 60+ are more likely to:

Climate Change

- Feel that "delivered at best value" is an important objective for the Climate Change Strategy, 36%
- Have already made improvements to their home, 65%, to reduce their carbon footprint
- Cite not knowing how / lack of information, 25%, as a barrier to taking action to reduce their carbon footprint

Economic situation and skills

- Not have access to the internet at home, but can access it elsewhere, 4%
- Say "I could handle a major unexpected expense" describes them well, 82%, but have a neutral response to the statement "I am worse off financially than I was 12 months ago", 47%

Transport

- Cycle, 75%, take the bus, 58%, a taxi, 37%, or the train, 22%, to services
- Say they would prefer to travel by car to visit friends/relatives locally, 34%, and by bus for leisure or entertainment trips, 24%
- Say bus routes meet their needs, 55%
- Have helped ease congestion by taking public transport, 65%, or switching to an electric/ hybrid vehicle, 11%, but 24% have no plans to walk for more of their trips

Demographics

- Be retired, 79%

N.B. All percentages include "don't know" responses

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Our Big Conversation attitudinal survey – Key differences by gender

Females are significantly more likely than males to:	Males are significantly more likely than females to:
Climate Change	**Climate Change**
• Agree with the ambition for York to become a zero carbon city by 2030, 86% • Agree City of York Council should employ carbon offsetting, 60% • Have already made changes to their purchasing habits to reduce their carbon footprint, 74%	• Disagree City of York Council should employ carbon offsetting, 26% • Feel that "delivered at best value" is an important objective for the Climate Change Strategy, 37% • Have no plans to change their purchasing habits to reduce their carbon footprint, 18%
Economic situation and skills	**Economic situation and skills**
• Say "I could handle a major unexpected expense" **does not** describe them well, 22% • Say a guaranteed job or employment opportunity is very/quite important when choosing a training course, 68%, while flexibility - being able to fit the course around other commitments - is very important, 53%	• Say "I could handle a major unexpected expense" describes them well, 77% • Expect to work from home the same amount as before the pandemic, 21% • Have not undertaken any form of work related training for more than 5 years, 33%
Transport	**Transport**
• Say they have not cycled in the last year, 50% • Prefer to walk when shopping for small items, 58%, or going to work, 34% • Say the road networks meet their needs very/quite well, 53% • Have helped ease congestion by reducing the number of trips they take, 82%, but have not and do not plan to hire an e-bike/e-scooter, 92%, or cycle, 50% • Say well lit walking routes at night, 80%, more frequent bus services, 70%, a more extensive bus network, 69%, cheaper bus fares, 60%, and flexible multi-bus service ticketing, 53% would effectively encourage sustainable travel	• Expect to use their car less over the next five years, 41% • Have cycled daily/several times a week in the last year, 41% • Prefer to use a bike, 24%, or car, 16% when shopping for small items • Say that electric vehicle charging points do not meet their needs, 18% • Have helped ease congestion by turning off their car when stationary in traffic, 64%, travelling by bike, 52%, or switching to an electric/ hybrid vehicle, 11%. However, 21% have no plans to reduce the number of trips they take • Feel the Groves low traffic neighbourhood trial has improved their experience of the city centre, 22%
Demographics	**Demographics**
• Be working part-time, 17%, and have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more, 28%	• Be aged 65+(40%) and retired (43%)

N.B. All percentages include "don't know" responses