

Appendix A - OPC DRAFT STRATEGY



PUBLIC CONSULTATION: SUMMARY PAPER

INTRODUCTION

The Council has conducted broad and detailed consultation and engagement on the draft One Planet Cardiff (OPC) Strategy. This paper summarises the key outcomes of the consultation exercise in support of the interim consultation update Cabinet Report (May 2021).

Following the launch of the Draft OPC Strategy in October, the Council facilitated a number of different consultation exercises including:

- An online consultation questionnaire aimed at the general public;
- An online questionnaire aimed at local businesses and organisations;
- A bespoke survey of young people, designed and analysed by Cardiff's Youth Council, and
- An Environmental Scrutiny exercise where key experts and stakeholders were invited to give their views on the draft strategy.

This report provides an overarching analysis of this consultation exercise and highlights the key themes, common issues and recommendations that emerged. Almost 2,000 individual responses were received and analysed. The more significant issues that were observed are summarised below:

- The scale of the climate emergency response needs to be resourced appropriately both in terms of staff, resource and implementation funding;
- Consultation, engagement, leadership and partnership will be crucial throughout the implementation period to 2030 and beyond;
- The strategy will need to consider and deploy a range of different techniques to effectively involve and coordinate public and stakeholder groups;
- An OPC leadership board with clear project governance and committed resources is needed to steer the work over the long term;
- Any final action plan needs to identify the projects that can be realistically delivered and needs to include a timetable, cost and prioritisation based on carbon reduction in addition to wider social, economic and environmental benefits;
- Public behaviour change is the biggest challenge in delivering the OPC Strategy and a section should be dedicated stating that the public has an essential role in this. A behaviour change plan needs to be well resourced, and continually in collaboration with partners, over the next 9 years, reviewed and evaluated by people with expertise.

Respondents were also asked to give feedback on the action area themes that were proposed in the Draft OPC strategy and to give a sense of how the ideas proposed in the draft should be prioritised. The following gives a broad summary of these responses:

One Planet Cardiff themes

Built Environment –	A call to consider the carbon footprint of buildings; improve energy efficiency; and to align the OPC work closer with the Local Development Plan (LDP).
Energy –	The roll out of more renewable energy projects is backed widely as well as a demand that buildings need to use renewable energy/tariffs; concerns regarding use of incineration for energy; consideration needed for the approach to boiler replacement.
Food –	A call for more allotment and growing provision citywide; need more regionalised food plans; suggestion to engage schools to grow food.
Green Inf & Biod –	A widespread demand for more trees and green spaces across the city; suggestion that the strategy doesn't address the biodiversity emergency; calls for Cardiff to become a National Park City; a request for more information on the 'Urban Tree Farm'.
Transport –	Support for the active travel infrastructure to be improved, in particular in less affluent areas; progress the outer and inner city connections; develop a city centre that is more pedestrian/cycle friendly; requests for improved, cheaper more integrated public transport; improvements to the city's EV infrastructure; low traffic neighbourhoods are backed; the young people want more action on flights and there is disappointment that Cardiff Airport doesn't feature in the strategy.
Waste –	Removal of single-use plastics requested by the public and young people; calls for a reduction in waste and littering; a deposit return scheme is proposed as a way of reducing litter; and a call for more communications regarding residents' recycling and waste disposal.
Water –	The public backs the action of increasing green infrastructure as a means of reducing flooding risk; strong support for new developments to include sustainable drainage systems and to build on schemes like Greener Grangetown; calls to reduce domestic water consumption, including a suggestion to set a target of future average consumption; demand for Cardiff to become a Refill City; a call for the water section to build on existing projects, expand into behaviour change and better use of technology/retrofitting.

A positive outcome of the consultation process is that it has confirmed the key themes in the One Planet Cardiff strategy including leadership, governance, partnership and programme priorities. The details of the response have been noted and are being considered in the development of the final Strategy and project prioritisation process, alongside other factors such as predicted carbon impact and potential contribution to other economic and social goals of the joint Climate Emergency and City Recovery effort.

NEXT STEPS

This is an interim report and the main issues and recommendation arising from all the consultation responses will be considered in the review and development of the final Strategy. These will also inform the project prioritisation process, alongside other factors such as predicted carbon impact and potential contribution to other economic and social goals of the joint Climate Emergency and City Recovery effort.

Summary Analysis

METHODOLOGY

The following detailed analysis reports were used in order to summarise the main outcomes of the three consultations:

- One Planet Cardiff– Consultations on the draft strategy with the public and local businesses (January 2021)
- Report on the Cardiff Youth Council Response to the One Planet Cardiff Draft Strategy

The methodology used specifically for the individual surveys involved in the consultations is outlined within the reports themselves.

In addition, written responses were submitted from organisations and individuals, as well as an Environment Scrutiny Report dated 1st December 2020. A summary of these written responses has been collated into a spreadsheet, with the responses grouped under the key themes of the Strategy and other main cross cutting topics.

The main considerations for the development of the final OPC Strategy have been collated considering the responses from all three surveys and all the written responses. These are listed in this report under the key themes and main cross cutting topics.

THE SEVEN KEY THEMES FROM THE DRAFT OPC STRATEGY

Ranked per consultation:

Public survey	Young people survey	Business/organisations survey
1: Energy	1: Energy	1: Energy
2: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity	2: Built Environment	2: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity
3: Transport	3: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity	3: Transport
4: Built Environment	4: Food	4: Built Environment
5: Waste	5: Waste	5: Food
6: Water	6: Transport	6: Water
7: Food	7: Water	7: Waste

Summary of headlines per theme:

‘Built Environment’

- Demand for all new developments to be built to a low carbon standard is strongly supported by the various surveys. One written submission suggests that all new homes and commercial buildings should be passivhaus standard.
- Call from a number of organisations (in written responses) for a carbon emissions assessment to be undertaken for new builds; the Environment Scrutiny Committee thinks this could be part of future planning applications with the onus on a developer to go on to meet the target.
- Improving buildings’ energy efficiency is widely backed by the public and young people; installing more energy efficiency measures/renewables at Council buildings is backed as a mechanism to achieve that.

- The concept of creating 15minute/20minute neighbourhoods was put forward in the consultations.
- Three written submissions call for more details around re-using or updating existing buildings, since it is believed too many are torn down too soon.
- Calls for the OPC strategy to align closer with Cardiff Council's LDP with the Environment Scrutiny Committee stating specifically that it would like the LDP to better illustrate the value of green spaces in the city and protect the green infrastructure, especially trees.

'Energy'

- Strong public support for the proposed Council action that all new developments (not Council built) to use renewable energy and heat.
- The public and young people show widespread support for the roll-out of city-wide renewable energy schemes.
- The Cardiff Youth Council sub group identified potential additional energy projects such as creating electricity through the existing barrage; floating solar farms (sea); wind farms; and sewage into energy.
- Two organisations' written submission express concern regarding the use of incineration as a means of producing energy, and as such, concerns relating to the heat network because it will lock the Council into a long term contract with Viridor.
- Widespread request for renewable energy/tariffs to be used for all Council buildings
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee believes that when taking decisions on the replacement of gas boilers, the Council and its partner organisations ensure that hybrid boilers, and other complementary energy sources, are at the forefront of decisions made.

'Food'

- A widespread call for more allotments and food growing provision across the city and the potential for produce from the allotments to be made available to the public.
- The public survey suggested that more local markets selling local produce would help residents live a more low carbon lifestyle.
- Three written statements advise that the city food plans needs to have a more regional approach. The Environment Scrutiny Committee says the food section of the strategy needs to work beyond the boundaries of Cardiff and collaborate with other agencies such as NUF, Natural Resources Cardiff and other neighbouring local authorities.
- One organisation's submission states that the Council should engage schools to grow some of their own food.

'Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity'

- A big demand from the public and young people for an increase in tree cover and the development of green spaces across the city. The Environment Scrutiny Committee says that NRW can help with that.
- The young people add that more rewilding is needed.
- The public also backed the proposed action "*review how land is valued to account for biodiversity and carbon capture alongside traditional land price factors*".
- One organisation's written statement states that the strategy fails to address the importance of the biodiversity emergency.
- Three written responses note that they would like Cardiff to become a National Park City.
- Four written responses call for more "pocket parks" / "green corridors".
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee think more detail is required on how, where and when the 'Urban Tree Farm' will be developed.

‘Transport’

- The most popular Council action backed by the public is for the Council to improve active travel infrastructure, specifically the action to *“Build 5 segregated cycleways across the city, connected to a cycle loop around the city centre to form a fully segregated cycle network.”*
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee supports the roll out of cycling and walking infrastructure, particularly in less affluent areas. It also thinks that this infrastructure, in general, could lock the increase in active travel brought about by Covid19.
- The public also back an improvement in the links between outer and inner Cardiff, suggesting that better connections could be used for commuting.
- Significant support to transform the city centre to be more cycle and pedestrian friendly and improve air quality.
- Public requests for improved/cheaper public transport, including suggestions of streamlined ticketing and integrated transport (i.e. similar to that operated in France).
- Public and business survey results as well as written submissions call for improvements in EV infrastructure.
- One written submission wants a clear plan for buses to become zero emissions by 2025 and electrified transport options for ‘last mile’ freight delivery.
- Low traffic neighbourhoods are backed, including by the Environment Scrutiny Committee, as part of car use reduction.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee suggests liaising with Sustrans to raise the profile of e-cargo bikes.
- Young people have identified actions focused on ‘flights’ (reduce those with low numbers; stop business flights; tax frequent flyers) and two organisations are disappointed that Cardiff airport is missing from the strategy.

‘Waste’

- Reduction of single use plastics widely backed by young people, while the public ranked the removal of single-use plastics from Council venues as the priority action from the proposed list.
- Calls for a reduction in waste and littering by the public and young people; proper bins and stricter fines are possible actions to help this.
- Two written submissions call for a target of zero municipal waste by 2030.
- Three organisations’ written submissions suggest a deposit return scheme is set up as a means of reducing litter
- One organisation is keen to highlight that eradicating plastics must be caveated, since they are vital to some people with disabilities.
- Increase in communications around residents recycling/waste rules is an action supported by the public. One organisation submitted that they would like to see at least 70% recycling of household waste by 2030.
- Two organisations’ submissions call for an end in approval of incinerators.

‘Water’

- Increase the amount of green infrastructure across the city to reduce flood risk is the proposed Council action backed the most by the public.
- There is also strong public support for new developments to include sustainable drainage systems. The Environment Scrutiny Committee wants the Council to work with NRW and Dwr Cymru on

more sustainable urban drainage schemes like Greener Grangetown, as part of a 'Blue Green Strategy.'

- Call for more to be done to reduce household water consumption, including a request from the Environment Scrutiny Committee for a future average consumption per head/house target and actions to reach it. Other organisation submissions also call for more of a commitment in the reduction of domestic water use; smart meters are highlighted as one tool to help.
- Two organisations' submissions request that Cardiff becomes a Refill City; i.e. access to free drinking water across the city.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee wants to see a stronger link between climate change and flooding, drought and sea level rise, as well as personal water use.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee wants the 'Water' section of the strategy to build on projects like Greener Grangetown and expand into behaviour change, better use of technology and improved retrofitting.

CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS

Summary of headlines per theme:

'Regulation & Policy'

- The final strategy to provide clearer linkages to the Wellbeing of Future Generations legislation and the supporting wellbeing objectives.

'Strategy comment'

- The public survey confirms that climate change is of considerable concern to Cardiff residents, and responses from some organisations state that the Strategy lacks ambition and does not recognise the scale and urgency of the response and that biodiversity warrants higher importance. One organisation also stressed that the concept of an ecological ceiling is not discussed in depth.
- There were questions from two organisations around what emissions will be covered (scope 1,2 and/or 3), carbon budgets and complying with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for Cities and/or international policies to keep global temperature increases to below 2degC.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee recommend that a target and plan should be set for each theme.

'Resource'

- The Council needs to resource the scale of the Climate Emergency appropriately and increase the number of full time dedicated staff working on delivery of the OPC action plan i.e. in comparison with the number of people working on projects such as the City Deal and Cardiff Indoor Arena.
- The action plan needs to be sustainably financed.
- Identify how the use of private finance/municipal investment schemes will be used.
- Identify how divested pension fund investments be targeted locally.
- Allocate a OPC finance officer to identify funding streams and support funding applications.
- The OPC action plan to utilise young people, including students to play a vital role in delivering behaviour change and supporting other practical projects.

'Prioritisation'

- Both the public and business consultation ranked reduce energy consumption/reliance on fossil fuels as most important and the theme of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity as second.
- The CYC survey focused specifically on climate change education, renewable energy research more green spaces/planting/local produce and incentivising green vehicles.
- The final action plan needs to identify the projects that can be delivered within existing resources within a 9 year window. They need to include a timetable, cost and prioritisation based on the overall carbon reduction that they will have. But a measurement on partner organisations current carbon emissions based on the GHG protocol is required to do this.

'Governance'

- The Environment Scrutiny Committee recommend that a OPC Leadership Board be established with Council and key partner representatives. This board needs to have clear project governance with committed resources, timescales and accountability for specific tasks.
- A request for a Citizen's Assembly or similar deliberative democracy/co-production approach to monitor and evaluate the OPC objectives.
- A request for named climate change and nature Cabinet Members and senior officers.

- A request to identify who has overall responsibility of the OPC Strategy.

‘Partnership’

- Continued involvement of the Cardiff Youth Council member on the OPC Board.
- How the Council will work with neighbouring local authorities on regional carbon reduction issues i.e. transport.
- How to identify, involve, support and co-ordinate public stakeholder groups (such as The Church in Wales) to progress the carbon neutral city goal.

‘Behaviour change’

- The Environment Scrutiny Committee stated that public behaviour change is the biggest challenge in delivering the aims of the OPC Strategy and a section should be dedicated to this stating that the public has an essential role in this.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee stated that a behaviour change plan needs to be well resourced and in collaboration with partners continually over the next 9 years in a published and assessed plan that is reviewed by people with expertise.
- A suggestion that there are crowd sourcing ideas at all levels and asking what people can do, rather than telling them what they should do. Need an emphasis on citizens leading.
- A request for a commitment by Cardiff Council, and other public bodies, to become Carbon Literate Organisations.

‘Education’

- The consultation with young people has identified ‘education’ as a key missing part of the strategy and calls for plans and procedures to be included for OPC and climate change related education.
- The public survey and results of the young people consultation have identified that as well as working with schools, educating all ages is essential.

‘Engagement’

- The Environment Scrutiny Committee suggested that the Council considers creating a ‘Local Climate Forum’ similar to the one in operation in Leeds. This could provide a voice for local residents and act as an ongoing consultation tool for the Council and its stakeholder partners.
- The Strategy does not indicate how the Council will work to engage citizens and stakeholders to help change behaviour.
- Concern about the lack of a transformational approach to public engagement when many people are ignorant and/or disinterested.

‘Carbon offsetting’

- There were interesting and detailed proposals for a low carbon offset scheme to support visible and carbon beneficial local projects, including tree planting.

‘Economy’

- The public would like to see more support for local markets and businesses.
- Members of the Cardiff Youth Council sub group, involved in the consultation work, identified green jobs as a missing item from the OPC strategy.

- The Environment Scrutiny Committee states that the retrofit of properties is a huge opportunity to kick start the green economy, particularly around local supply chain.
- One written submission calls for a line to be drawn in terms of what compromises the city is prepared to make in terms of economic development, whilst another says the Council must decide which kind of economy it wants to support.

‘Planning’

- One written submission stated that along with a range of other environmental groups working in Cardiff, that they believe the current planning system disregards citizens’ views and issues around biodiversity and nature.
- One organisation’s submission claims that addressing the huge inconsistencies between OPC and the planning system will be critical to the success of the programme. They believe the planning department does not take into account the wider environmental impact of developments, in contradiction to the OPC strategy’s aims and objectives.
- A suggestion was made by one organisation that the introduction of planning citizens’ panels, involved in every stage of the planning process, would be worthwhile.

‘Procurement’

- The Environment Scrutiny Committee outlined a need for procurement to focus on the local economy to progress carbon reduction and support businesses and social enterprises through this carbon reduction journey.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee encouraged Cardiff Council to become a deforestation free Council and encourage other sectors to do this – or maybe even a Sustainable Palm Oil City.

‘Reference to COVID19’

- Over 70% of the public who responded to the survey said they plan on keeping the lifestyle changes made during the COVID19 pandemic, once it is over.
- 14 of 22 businesses/organisations who took part in the survey stated that their experiences during the pandemic had a positive impact on their sustainability.
- One submission stated that we don’t know the long term impacts of the new ways of living and as such, asks how will the Council adapt our models accordingly.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee recommends that the direct and long term consequences of the Covid crisis are built into the revised document to reflect how people are more likely to travel and work in future.
- The Environment Scrutiny Committee says that Cardiff Council and its partners need to develop a sensible hybrid approach to home working, acknowledging that staff need to be together at crucial times, but respecting the obvious benefits of home working. The Council and its partners need to create and implement new home working policies reflecting the better post Covid working environment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. One Planet Cardiff – Consultations on the draft strategy with the public and local businesses (Cardiff Research Centre, January 2021)
2. Report on CYC Response to the One Planet Cardiff Draft Strategy (Cardiff Youth Council & Active Involvement Team, March 2021)

3. Excel spreadsheet: summary of all written responses
4. Environmental Scrutiny Report (December 2020)