

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Subject:	Results from the Big Portsmouth Survey
Date of meeting:	24 th November 2022
Report by:	Kristina Downey: Principal Strategy Advisor- Carbon and Climate
Wards affected:	No specific impact on individual wards

1. Requested by

- 1.1 Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Green Recovery

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide data insight and next steps following the Big Portsmouth Survey.

3. Information Requested

- 3.1 This survey was open from August to October 2022 and allowed Portsmouth residents to provide their opinions on wide-ranging local subjects. Within this survey, engagement around Portsmouth's local response to climate change was sought through seven questions (see below).
- 3.2 In September 2022, PCC's Cabinet approved and adopted a new Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy details the strategic priority areas for PCC's work within Portsmouth, which includes 'Engagement and Partnerships'. This area is noted as being critical to the successful development and implementation of future climate change actions.
- 3.3 The full results, methodology and data analyst insights are attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 **Question 1. Overall, how concerned are you about climate change**
- 84% of respondents claimed to be concerned about climate change, with over half the sample (51%) stating they were 'very concerned'
 - Characteristics such as youth, being female and greater household incomes were likely to be more concerned
- 3.5 **Question 2. How much, do you think climate change is currently affecting Portsmouth?**
- 82% of respondents feel climate change is affecting Portsmouth, with a third of the sample (34%) stating it was affecting Portsmouth 'a great deal'

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- Characteristics such as youth, being female and greater household incomes were likely to state a greater level of climate change impact in Portsmouth.
- 3.6 The high level of climate change concern and perception of effects to Portsmouth shows previous engagement has been reasonably successful in communicating and increasing broad awareness. The results suggest that future engagement work could be targeted towards lower income households and older residents, particularly where synergies in other challenges arise, such as fuel poverty and health and wellbeing.
- 3.7 **Question 3. The UK Government, many Councils, and organisations across the country, including Portsmouth City Council, have committed to achieving 'net zero'. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about this commitment?**
- 45% of respondents stated they knew 'hardly anything' or 'hadn't heard about it'
 - Lower levels of awareness were somewhat related to characteristics of lower household income, youth, ethnic minorities and identifying as female
- 3.8 Although general awareness of climate change was high, more specific awareness of 'net zero' commitments was less. The results suggest we need to increase our broad engagement around net zero, and look to engage schools and education providers for more targeted engagement.
- 3.9 **Question 4. Portsmouth City Council is developing a new Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Action Plans. Which areas do you think Portsmouth City Council should focus on the most?**
- This was a multi-choice answer, and 70% of all respondents selected 'consumption and waste' and 'travel and transport'
 - 80% of 25-35 year olds think the focus should be given to travel and transport.
- 3.10 Current data suggests the greatest contributor to city-wide emissions is from travel and transport. This survey data will be used to engage other teams in PCC to support prioritisation of city-wide work that will result in carbon reductions. PCC is also a major purchaser of goods and services within the city, and further engagement will be held with internal procurement teams to support carbon reduction.
- 3.11 **Question 5. Do you think Portsmouth City Council are currently doing enough to address climate change?**
- 46% of respondents stated PCC 'need to do much more'
 - 21% of respondents stated they 'don't know and need more information'

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- 3.12 A significant proportion of residents feel we need to do much more to reduce carbon, as well as needing more information on our climate change actions. Whilst both responses may be related (i.e., they aren't aware of our actions so feel we need to do more), this evidence will be used to increase our prioritisation of decarbonisation within our local authority service provision.
- 3.13 **Question 6. What prevents you, if anything, from improving the energy efficiency of your home?**
- This was a multi-choice answer, but 51% stated 'upfront costs'
 - 20% stated that they 'don't know what options are available or what's suitable'
- 3.14 This data demonstrates existing known gaps in affordability and funding for improving home energy efficiency. We will use this information to continue to lobby central government to widen their criteria in existing funding streams. A significant proportion of residents who may be in a position to increase their home energy efficiency, but do not know their options, provides us with evidence that we need to increase our engagement in this area.
- 3.15 **Question 7. Portsmouth City Council offers a free service for home energy advice, home visits, interest-free loans and energy efficiency upgrades. Are you aware of the Switched On Portsmouth?**
- 58% of respondents claimed to not be aware of Switched On Portsmouth. Half of these requested more information about the scheme
 - Of the 34% of respondents that claimed to be aware of the scheme but had not interacted with the scheme, 12% 'haven't' got round to it'. Other reasons included 'the cost of making the changes'
- 3.16 This data suggests that despite significant engagement around Switched On Portsmouth, there is evidence the communication campaign needs to be re-evaluated to ensure it is reaching a wider audience. Separately, the energy services team has undertaken more detailed market research, specific to Switched On Portsmouth, to further understand where efforts can be best applied to further the reach and understanding of the service.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 This data not only provides an invaluable insight as to the concerns of our residents but will also help guide the development and prioritisation of actions to address the climate change crisis.
- 4.2 Areas of enhanced broad engagement together with the need for more targeted engagement to specific groups of Portsmouth residents have been highlighted. As a result, engagement with PCC communication and marketing teams will be undertaken.

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- 4.3 Residents have highlighted areas they want to see us prioritise. As a result, engagement with PCC teams will be undertaken to support prioritisation of decarbonisation in delivery of our local authority responsibilities.

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Signed by:
Paddy May
Corporate Strategy Manager

Appendices: Resident Research**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location