

## Appendix 3

### Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan Consultation Results

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This report outlines the results of the public consultation on the Draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (TCEAP).

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 141 responses were received via an in-depth survey
- Mainly individuals responded
- 48.9% of respondents strongly disagreed/disagreed with the main objectives of the TCEAP and 46.8% strongly agreed/agreed. Those disagreeing stated a range of reasons. The most popular were:
  - Climate change is not caused by humans, it is only a natural process/it's not a climate emergency/it's all a hoax/science is flawed
  - Climate Change is really about controlling peoples' freedoms and pushing globalist agendas like the World Economic Forum's Agenda 2030
  - Concerned that it will lead to restrictions in people's ability to travel freely and that there was no support for 15 minute cities/20 minute neighbourhoods.
- More respondents seriously agreed/agreed with the proposed actions to achieve the TCEAP's 10 objectives than seriously disagreed/disagreed (See question 6 -15 below).
- Question 16 asked for additional actions that should be included in the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan to meet any of the 10 objectives. A range of comments and actions were stated. The most popular were:
  - We do not need an Action Plan as climate change is a natural process only and that we are not in a climate emergency/crisis and that mainstream climate change science is flawed/Hoax
  - Concern about how to fund the transition including concerns over who will pay for it and the cost to Torbay's residents, businesses and the wider economy
  - Concern that the Action Plan will lead to restrictions in people's ability to travel freely in Torbay/wider. There were references to not supporting the introduction of a 15-minute city and 20-minute neighbourhoods
  - Better engagement with communities (and existing groups).
- Question 23 asked '*Overall, do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?*'. *The results showed that:*
  - 44.7% strongly supported, supported or yes
  - 44.7% strongly do not support, do not support or no
  - 10.6 % Not sure
- A quick poll asked '*Do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?*' *The results showed that 74.6% (44 people) did not support the Action Plan. 25.4% (15 people) did support the Action Plan.*

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 In 2022 the Torbay Climate Partnership (TCP) agreed to develop a draft Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan (TCEAP) and to consult on it with the general public. More details on the Partnership can be found [here](#). The Action Plan was developed through a series of climate conversations with young people, residents, businesses and stakeholders and included half day workshops on a range of climate related topics in May and June 2022. Around 240 residents and businesses were involved. The results of these events have been fed into shaping the draft Action Plan. More details on the Climate Conversations can be found [here](#).
- 2.2 In December 2022 a draft Action Plan was approved by the Partnership and also the Council, through a record of officer decision by the Divisional Director - Planning, Housing & Climate Emergency Place Directorate. The draft is available [here](#).
- 2.3 A public consultation was held between 14 December 2022 and 22 January 2023. This was then extended up to 3 February 2023.
- 2.4 The Consultation sought the public's views on the draft TCEAP. It was hosted on the Council's website through their Engagement HQ platform. However, this was a consultation on behalf of the Torbay Climate Partnership, of which the Torbay Council is a partner.
- 2.5 Between December 2022– February 2023 a number of public drop-in sessions were held to promote the live consultation, including local events at libraries and local leisure centres. The Consultation was also heavily promoted across Torbay Council and the wider TCP's local networks and through social media and other formats such as local newsletters.
- 2.6 The actual consultation included a detailed, in-depth survey and a quick poll.

## **3.0 Results**

- 3.1 This section summaries the results of both the in-depth survey and quick poll.
- 3.2 The in-depth survey and quick poll in total received 200 responses:
  - 141 responses from the in-depth consultation survey
  - 59 responses from the quick poll
- 3.3 The website where the consultation was hosted received a total of 1.2k visitors with a maximum of 107 visits per day.

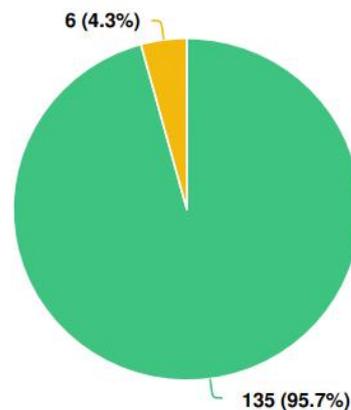
### **In-depth Survey**

- 3.4 Just under 30 questions made up the detailed in-depth survey.

This section of the report focuses on the responses to each question asked in the detailed survey.
- 3.5 Question 1 asked *'Are you sharing your views as an individual or on behalf of an*

Organisation?'. The results showed that the vast majority of responses (95.7%) were made by individuals and not by organisations, see figure 1.

**Q1 | Are you sharing your views as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**



**Question options**

● Individual ● Organisation

Figure 1. Are you sharing your views as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- 3.6 Question 2 led on from question 1 and asked for the name of the organisation they were responding on behalf of. The 6 organisations that responded included local charities, business, educational organisations and national bodies.
- 3.6 Question 3 encountered an error that was not picked up until after the survey closed. Question 3 asked '*How concerned are you about the climate emergency and the impacts of climate change in Torbay*'. The results showed that 71.4% (5 people) were either very concerned or fairly concerned. Please note only 7 people answered this question due to the error with the survey. This error resulted in only people answering this question on behalf of their organisation being able to respond. Therefore, the results of this question will not be used to inform any future amendments to the Action Plan.
- 3.7 Question 4 asked '*Do you agree with the main objectives of the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan*? The results showed that 48.9% of responses either strongly disagreed or disagreed and 46.8% strongly agreed or agreed. 4.3% did not know. See figure 2 for the full results.

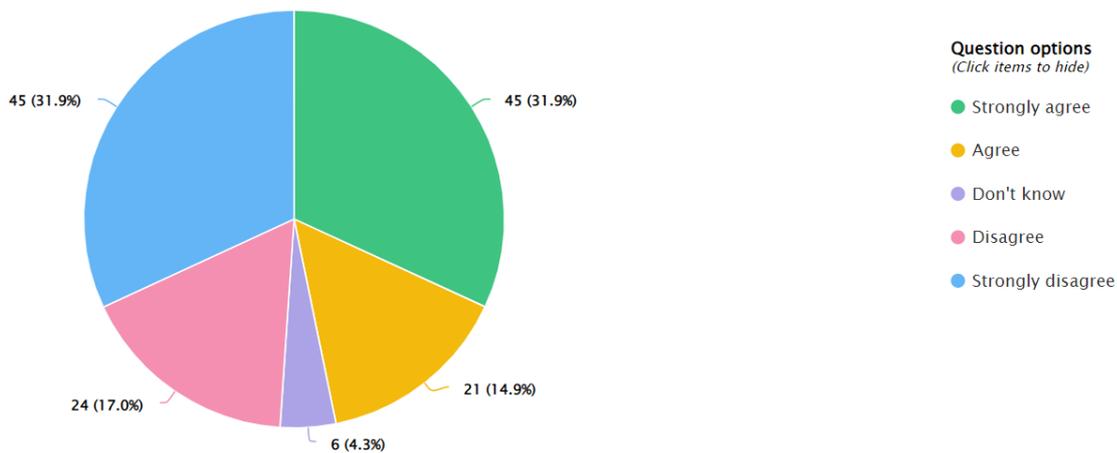


Figure 2. Do you agree with the main objectives of the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?

- 3.8 Questions 5 asked that if you did not agree with the objectives of the TCEAP, to specify which key objective had been missed from the plan. A range of responses were received, many of which were more general about the whole action plan than specific to the objectives missed. Analysis<sup>1</sup> of the responses showed the most common concerns with TCEAP's objectives (and wider Action Plan) were:
- We do not need an Action Plan as climate change is a natural process only and that we are not in a climate emergency/crisis and that mainstream climate change science is flawed/it is all a hoax. For example *"climate change is due to variations in Earth's orbit and suns power not carbon"* and *"There is no climate emergency"*
  - That the climate change agenda is really about controlling and removing peoples' freedoms. This included some concerns raised that tackling climate change locally is actually the World Economic Forum pushing its globalist agendas across the UK, especially Agenda 2030. For example *"This question details a globalist agenda pushed by the World Economic Forum which is being steadily implemented across the UK under the mendacious pretence of climate change. Climate change is a pseudoscientific fraud and these measures have nothing to do with saving the planet, or health, its about loss of freedom and intended totalitarian control"*
  - Concern that the Action Plan will lead to restrictions in peoples' ability to travel freely in Torbay and wider. There were references to not supporting the introduction of a 15-minute city (*which is not referenced in the Action Plan*) and 20-minute neighbourhoods (which is referenced as 'Carry out a 20-minute neighbourhoods Audit' and is not about restricting movement but increasing personal choice to travel and auditing availability of local facilities. See [here](#) for the Council's statement on this. For example, *"I dont want to be restricted by where I can travel"* and *"15 min cities will not be tolerated especially the way you're trying to dress it up!"*

<sup>1</sup> Thematic analysis of the responses was carried out. A series of general themes to categorise responses were developed. Each response(s) was then recorded against the most appropriate category. This allowed common themes of responses to be easily identified.

- Concern about how to fund the transition including concerns over who will pay for it and the cost to Torbay's residents, businesses and the wider economy. For example, "*You claim you will support residents and businesses. But in reality, you can/will do little to help the everyday person, and they will be stuck footing the expensive bill to make alterations to buildings and lifestyle that you will be forcing upon them*"

3.9 Question 6 – 15 asked responders to state if they agree/disagree/unsure with the proposed actions to achieve the 10 objectives in the TCEAP. Each set of actions to meet a specific objective were asked separately.

3.10 The results are shown below in Table 1. It shows that more respondents strongly agreed/agreed with the actions to meet the TCEAP's 10 objectives than strongly disagreed/disagreed. This could be read as contrary to the results in 3.8 suggesting the overall objective is not supported but individual elements and actions are more supported. The three most supported actions to achieve the objectives were *Avoiding waste (73.1%)*, *Maximising carbon storage in the natural environment (70.2%)* and *build a climate resilient Torbay (58.2%)*. There were also quite a few respondents that stated that they did not know about the actions to achieve the objectives:

- 1) Transition our power sector to renewables
- 2) Maximise carbon storage in the environment
- 3) Support businesses to transition to carbon neutral

Objective	Don't agree with the actions to meet the objective (strongly disagree and disagree combined)	Agree with the actions to meet the objective (strongly agree and agree combined)	Unsure responders (don't know)
1. High take-up of energy-efficiency measures, renewable energy and low-carbon heating technologies in all homes and business premises	43.3%	52.4%	4.3%
2. Carbon neutral new buildings	42.6%	54.6%	2.8%
3. Reduce the need to travel and shift to sustainable transport options	46.8%	48.2%	5.0%
4. Use technology to reduce emissions from vehicles	46.1%	51.1%	2.8%
5. Avoid waste	19.9%	73.1%	7.1%
6. Maximise carbon storage in the environment	15.6%	70.2%	14.2%
7. Transition our power sector to renewables	27.7%	53.2%	19.1%

8.Support businesses to transition to carbon neutral	38.3%	48.2%	13.5%
9.Build a climate resilient Torbay	29.8%	58.2%	12.1%
10. Communicate action to tackle climate change locally	42.6%	48.2%	9.2%

Table 1. Summary of results for Q6 -15

3.11 Question 16 asked where respondents disagree and/or have other or additional suggestions for any proposed actions to meet the TCEAP’s 10 objectives to provide the details. Analysis<sup>2</sup> of the responses showed there was a great variety of responses. Like with Q5, general comments on the overall TCEAP were given. The most popular responses included:

- We do not need an action plan as climate change is a natural process only and that we are not in a climate emergency/crisis and that mainstream climate change science is flawed/it is a hoax. For example, *“I would need proof of what these carbon emissions actually are... scientific studies have shown it to be minimal - to me this seems like a lot of expense. Climate change is normal, but again no evidence to suggest any immediate emergency. There is in fact plenty of fossil fuel with no evidence to suggest it has impact “.*
- Concern about how to fund the transition including concerns over who will pay for it and the cost to Torbay’s residents, businesses and the wider economy. For example, *“Suggested actions around energy efficient measures are not sufficient to achieve the required reduction. Significant investment is required to facilitate as government projects through ECO4 will not be sufficient. Additional action or scale should be increased” and “My concerns with all the others are the council will waste vast amounts for money for very little saving. You are already putting up council tax etc, and that’s without any of these new ideas being budgeted in. Concentrate spending existing funds efficiently so local’s can see an ongoing improvement in the areas we live”.*
- Concern that the Action Plan will lead to restrictions in people’s ability to travel freely in Torbay/wider. There were references to not supporting the introduction of a 15-minute city and 20-minute neighbourhoods. For example, *“No action should be taken to restrict movement of cars or people” and “I’m very, very concerned that you are trying to limit my life by limiting my ability to travel. I don’t think the council has the right to tell me how much I can travel. Walking and cycling are not appropriate for people who are less mobile. Nor are they appropriate for anyone in winter. I’m concerned less mobile people will become very isolated which is very dangerous for their health and well*

<sup>2</sup> Thematic analysis of the responses was carried out. A series of general themes to categorise responses were developed. Each response(s) was then recorded against the most appropriate category. This allowed common themes of responses to be easily identified.

*being. I'm concerned younger people will increasingly not leave their house which is incredibly bad for their social development and mental well being. I'm concerned I won't be able to visit my friends across Torbay which is not acceptable."*

- Better engagement with communities (and existing groups). For example, *"To progress an agenda of cultural change, develop ongoing and strategic engagement with communities and statutory partners to embed climate change awareness and strategies in all future policies. Full engagement with social media should be undertaken to inform and involve all communities, both themed and place based."* And *"Visit schools the next generation to get their ideas. They're the ones that are trying to do something about it"*
- Various general Issues including, not needed, no need to transition away from fossil fuels and the need for transparent open public discussions. For example, *"Ensure that choice and a bottom-up approach are genuinely implemented and not some dictatorial governance that has not got the best interests of the people at heart "* and *"Realism and transparency of objectives"*
- The need for cheaper, cleaner and accessible for all public transport. For example, *"I agree in principle with what you are trying to achieve however stopping people driving to where they need to go will cause so many issues and so much stress. With reduced fares and better infrastructure people will naturally travel using public transport, they should not be forced to do so!!!"*
- Better business support (including in older building, covering single use plastic) For example *"It will be important to help businesses understand the benefits to them of taking these actions - in terms of reducing their costs in the longer term, enhancing their reputations with their customers, future proofing their business against both direct climate change impacts and the inevitable, but unknown, economic and societal challenges"*
- Concern with how deliverable some of the actions. For example, *"I mentioned in my previous comment the effect it would have on our economy. We simply can't afford the proposed changes"* and *"Totally carbon neutral new buildings may be difficult to achieve"*
- Better and stronger planning system is required. For example, *"If you want energy efficient homes and to reduce flooding, stop building on floodplains and assess the environment before building a box home. Have south facing houses with glass fronts/porches to help heat the home. Use natural insulating materials and circular heating systems so not heat is wasted and is cycled back into the home rather than out the side of the house"* and *"Permit solar panels on all roofs throughout Torbay including conservation areas. Listed buildings, excepted, where discretion would be required"*.

3.12 Question 17 asked that if you represented a local organisation, can you help the Torbay Climate Partnership to deliver any of the actions specifically. 19 responders (13.5%) stated they could help and 122 (86.5%) stated that they could not help.

3.13 Question 18 asked that if in the previous question you could deliver one

of the actions in the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan, to please identify which of the action(s) you can deliver. The results showed that of the 19 responses, the top three themes of support offered were in:

- 1) communicating action across Torbay, including to young people
- 2) expertise to increase the uptake of energy efficiency and low carbon heat in homes and buildings
- 3) avoiding waste, including setting up a repair café.

3.14 Questions 19 asked if respondents would take the time to find out more about what they can do. The results showed that 36% of responders did not intend to find out more about what they can do. However, 28.7% already felt that they knew what to do and 24.6% would find out more. See figure 3 below.

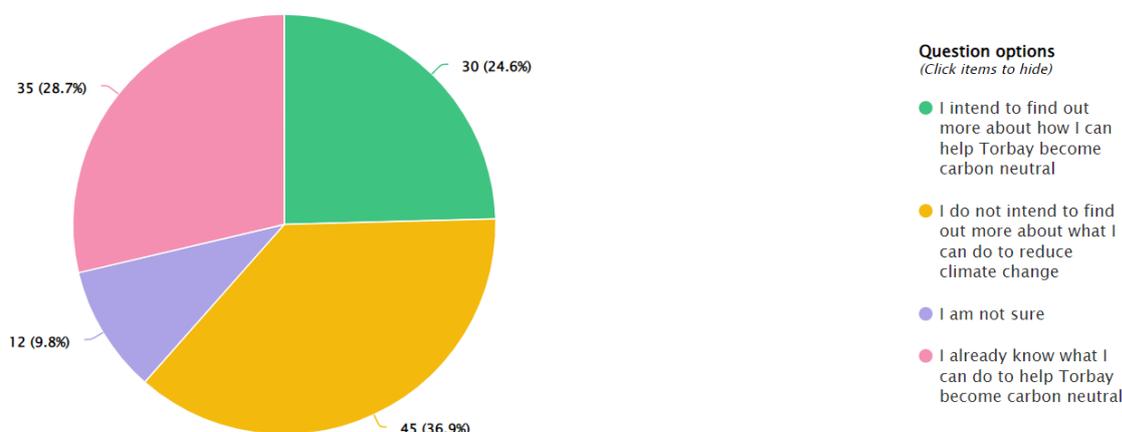


Figure 3. Will you take the time to find out how to help Torbay become carbon neutral

3.15 Question 20 asked if there were any additional partners that could assist in the delivery of the TCEAP. A summary of the results is below:

- MET Office
- Various – nature-based charities/orgs i.e., Devon Wildlife Trust, Surfers Against Sewage
- Time to Wake Up Devon (others opposed to climate change)
- Western Power/ Wales and West Utilities
- Local interest groups – WI (Womens Institute), Faith Groups
- Libraires Unlimited
- Schools
- Play Torbay
- Neighbourhood Planning Forums
- Rotary Club
- Torbay Furniture Shop
- Climate experts including universities and researchers
- Other responses stated that no partners are needed as it is not a climate emergency, and this Action Plan is not needed.

3.16 Question 21 asked for any additional suggestions for encouraging more residents and businesses to take action on climate change. The results showed that over half of responders did not have any further suggestions, however, 46% did.

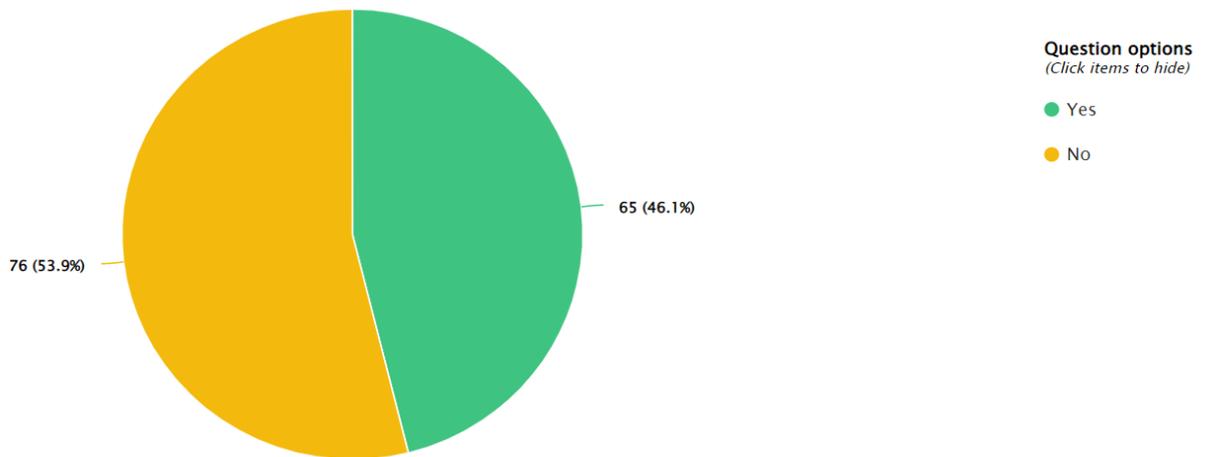


Figure 4. Do you have any additional suggestions for how we can encourage more Torbay residents and businesses to take action on climate change?

3.17 Question 22 asked for suggestion on how to encourage more Torbay residents and businesses to take action on climate change. Analysis of the results showed a wide range of responses. The most common responses included:

- Greater targeted communication campaigns (suggestions included specific groups such as young people, schools and colleges, families, streets, Torbay’s Community Partnerships, lectures / training and businesses). For Example, *“More involvement with Community Partnerships”* and *“Create a fun way for children to think more environmentally friendly, ‘Beat the street’ worked well a few years back, encouraging family’s to walk to school instead of taking cars. More projects like this are needed”*
- Wide array of both positive and negative general suggestions including creating a centre for excellence, using shock imagery, removing fuel grants, start running the area properly. For example, *“Set up a centre of excellence to demonstrate the renewable technology available to help educate the public on energy, clean air and inspire children or young professionals”* and *“start running the area properly before you start down this ridiculous path”*
- Stop this work we do not need an Action Plan as climate change is a natural process only and that we are not in a climate emergency/crisis and that mainstream climate change science is flawed/Hoax. For example *“Continue with discussions to show scientifically that “climate change” is a hoax perpetrated by the WEF and is NOT HAPPENING”*.
- Need for greater transparency in communication and send information on this (TCEAP survey) to all residents for example *“Yes you need to get more public opinion. And leaflet all residents”*.
- Better public transport system. For example, *“Make public transport cheaper! Force the big companies to lower there prices for train and bus tickets, else people will just use there cars”*
- Support to reduce waste  
For Example, *“involve supermarkets. Packaging, food waste, community cafes, using leftovers - and bringing some of the artisan and modern life Torbay style ethos of the cities to Torbay could be welcome.”*

3.18 Question 23 asked ‘Overall, do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?’. The results showed that:

- 44.7% strongly supported, supported or yes

- 44.7% strongly do not support, do not support or no
- 10.6 % Not sure

Therefore, as many respondents supported the TCEAP as did not support the TCEAP.

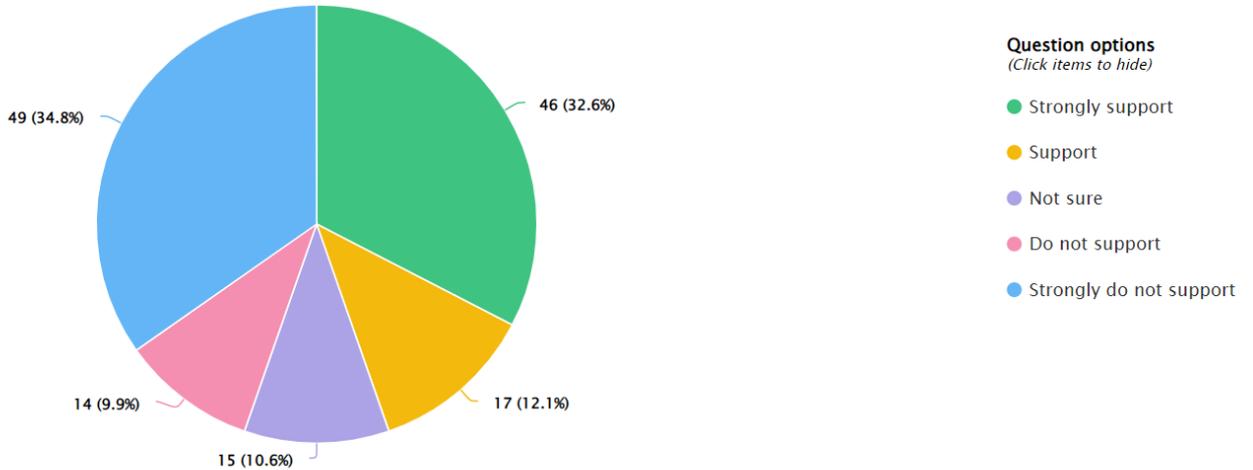


Fig 5 Overall, do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?

3.19 Question 24 asked how you would like to be kept up to date on the TCEAP. 77 responders would like to be kept informed by the One Torbay Newsletter, 65 by the website/webpage, 60 by social media and 32 by other means.

The following section provides information on the people that responded to this consultation.

3.20 Question 25 asked how you best describe yourself. 61 of respondents stated Female, 58 Male, 11 preferred not to say and 3 stated Other.

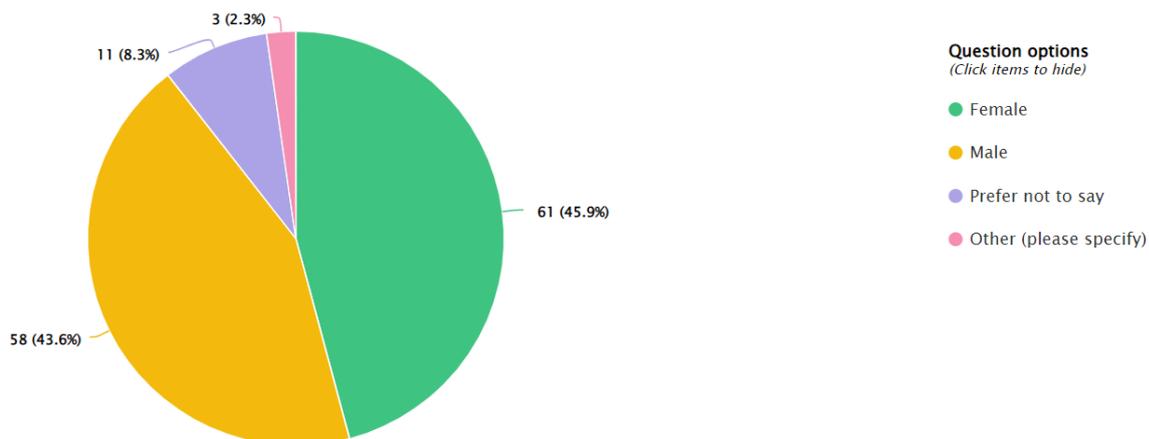


Figure 6. How do you best describe yourself?

3.21 Question 26 asked the age of all responders. Over half (54.7%) of all respondents were between 45 – 64. 17.2% were between 65-74 and 14.8% between 34- 44. The full results are below in Figure 7.

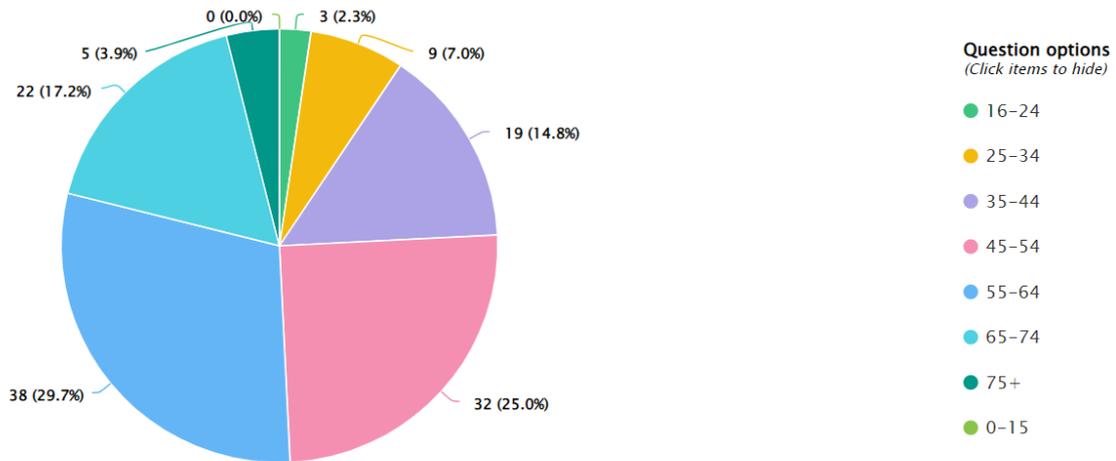


Figure 7. Which age grouping applies to you?

3.22 Question 27 asked ‘Do you consider yourself disabled in any way?’ 86.8% of respondents did not consider themselves disabled in any way. 13.2% did consider themselves disabled in some way.

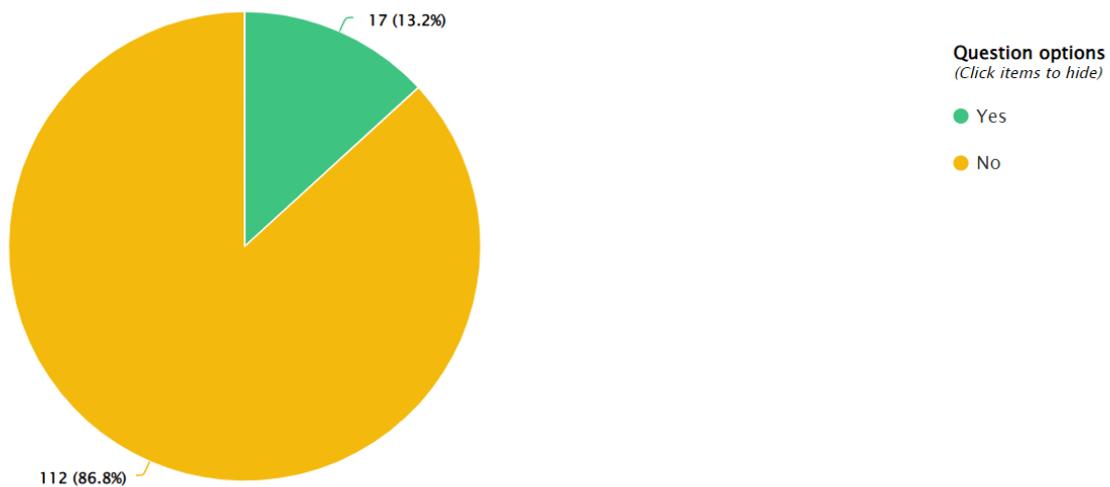


Figure 8. Do you consider yourself disabled in any way?

3.23 Question 28 ask ‘If you considered yourself to be disabled, please tell us how it affects you?’ 90% of responders stated it affected their mobility (55%) or in another way (35%). 10% stated it affects my hearing.

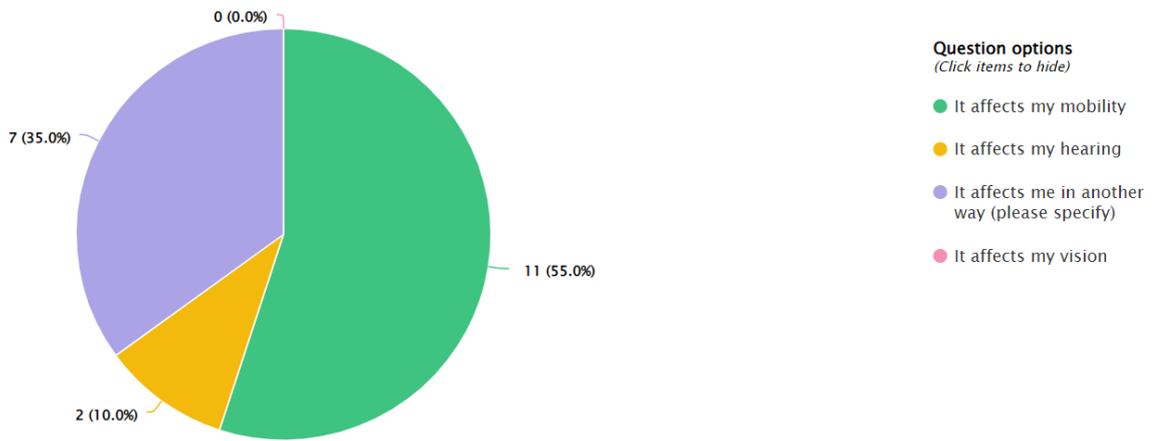


Figure 9. *If you considered yourself to be disabled, please tell us how it affects you?*

3.24 Question 29 asked ‘*How would you describe your ethnic origin?*’ the results showed that over 90% of responders stated white. See figure 10 below for the full results.

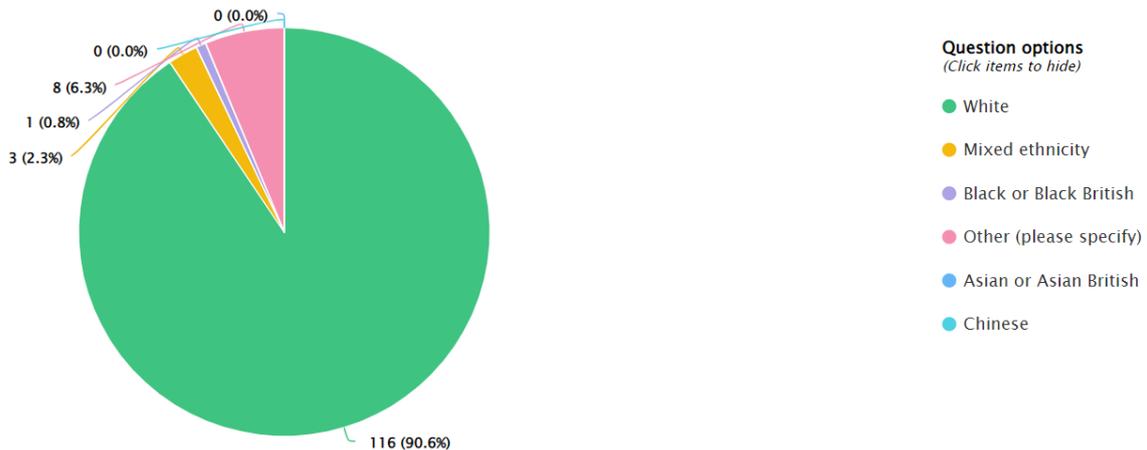


Figure 10. *How would you describe your ethnic origin?*

### Quick Poll

3.25 In addition to the detailed survey above, a quick poll was made available on the same website. In total 59 people filled out this quick poll. The poll asked ‘*Do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan?*’. The results showed that 74.6% (44 people) who responded did not support the Action Plan. 25.4% (15 people) did support the Action Plan.

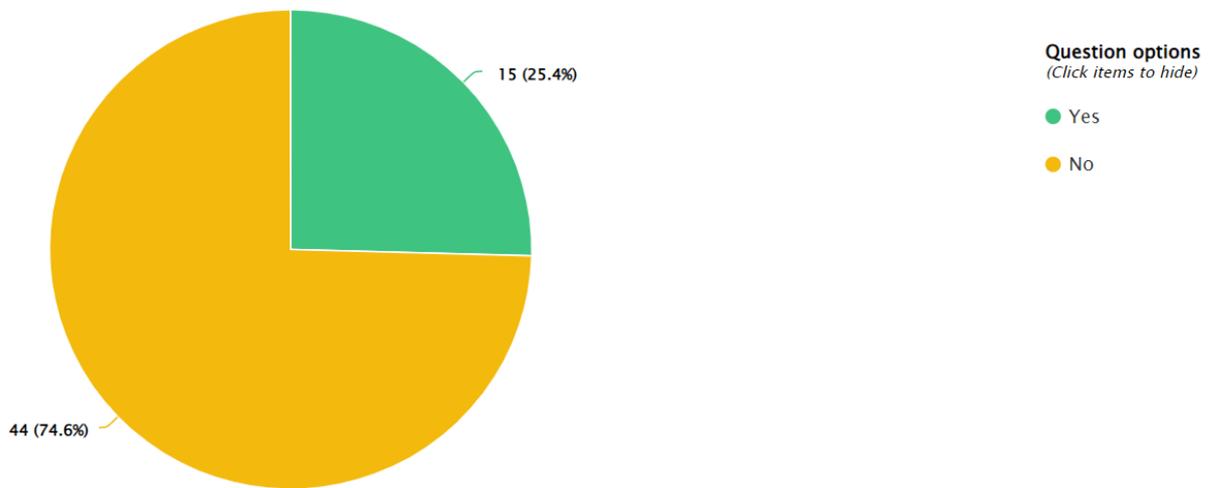


Figure 11. Do you support the Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan? (Quick Poll only)