

## **Appendix 2- The initial findings of the public consultation on the drafted Year 3 Updated Climate and Ecological Change (2021-2030) document**

The findings below include the submissions made via the online consultation on the County Consultation Portal, plus feedback received separately via the Member Area Groups (MAG), plus feedback received directly to the Climate Change team on the 4 consultation questions:

1. Do you want Denbighshire County Council to adopt the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/202 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?
2. What do you LIKE about the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?
3. What do you NOT LIKE about the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?
4. Any other comments?

*(Please note: at time of Performance Scrutiny Paper submission Elwy MAG and Denbigh MAG had not had their feedback sessions. Contributions from these MAGs will be added to consultation findings at the end of May)*

### **Question 1: Do you want Denbighshire County Council to adopt the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/202 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?**

Response to this question outlined in table below and percentage given of the total responses received. Majority of respondents agreed that they did wish the Council to adopt the document.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Yes	295	88%
No	41	12%

<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	
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**Question 2: What do you LIKE about the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?**

Responses to this question was via an open comments box. Key themes and contributions to this question analysed as follows:

- Scope of Strategy to include territorial emissions: Page 13 / 14 - You state you will broaden the Strategy so its scope is wider - across the county and at all levels. This is extremely welcome and something that we have been asking for since our first contact with DCC in 2019. In our view this is an essential development and also a massive challenge which we recognise and would want to support.
- Page 48 - Can we please also have a pie chart for territorial emissions in 2021 / 22? This would be very useful.
- Increase plant based food in schools: Page 44 – Your intention to explore the increased provision of plant based / vegan / low carbon food options provided by the schools’ catering service, is extremely welcome. Will you be joining Larder Cymru, as other north Wales councils have, to support local food in schools and other catering provided by the Council?
- Green space in new social housing: The proposal to incorporate allotments and space for nature in all new social housing developments is very welcome - page 69. Why can’t this be the case for all developments - private housing and buildings of any sort - that a % of space is allocated for allotments and space for nature?
- Greener Denbighshire Board: This is very welcome, together with your intention to take a 12 month review paper to Full Council each year. This sounds like it will be far more effective and transparent than the previous corporate monitoring arrangements in place. We need much more transparency from the council on these urgent matters. It has been almost impossible for several years to find out where the Strategy has been monitored and by whom.

- Broadened strategy scope - DCC are to be commended that this revised strategy includes more of an outward focus. This is a huge shift and very welcome indeed. I also read (in the minutes of the working group dated 28th Feb), that suggested items from the Climate Score Cards had been acted upon - I'm pleased to hear this.
- Investment in the improved energy efficiency of the buildings, lighting and vehicles owned and managed by Denbighshire could have a good financial return on the investment and so I would be pleased to think that such programmes are going ahead, with the reduced emissions as a useful benefit.
- A reduction in summer cutting of green space also is worthwhile if it reduces overall management costs and does not impact road safety, for example, on highways verges.
- Realistic and easy to understand
- Effort to incorporate area wide goals and work with landowners
- Effort to include increased low carbon energy solutions e.g. hydrogen bin lorry trials
- Liked the actions separated by years
- Like the informative tables and measurable goals
- Action to decarbonise the Clwyd Pension fund
- Action to explore increased provision of low carbon food options
- Action to incorporate allotments and space for nature across council owned land and social housing
- Good transparency of the delivery of the strategy through regular reviews

**Question 3: What do you NOT LIKE about the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?**

Responses to this question was via an open comments box. Key themes and contributions to this question analysed as follows:

- The title - We have commented previously that the term “Climate and Ecological Change” sounds like something benign. Also “ecological change” is not a term used by anyone else that we know of. We would prefer substituting “Change” for “Emergency”, but if you want something simpler and less

threatening / worrying, you might call it : “Denbighshire’s Climate and Nature Strategy” Or even “Greener Denbighshire - Our Climate and Nature Strategy”

- The length: - 95 pages is a very daunting read for members of the public who want to be informed about what Denbighshire is doing about climate breakdown and biodiversity loss, and hopefully get involved and engaged. We can appreciate it is in the style of most Council documents, and may be what Councillors and staff want / need for their work. The infographics are too brief to give a real idea to the public of what is being done. It is vital that a user-friendly, public-facing version of this strategy is produced and made available, which is a lot shorter and easier to read for the average person. A young person’s version, possibly made in collaboration with schools / youth clubs, would also be excellent.
- The pie charts should be drawn with a consistent colour scheme.
- Chart 7 on page 30 is at best confusing and possibly wrongly worded. Please elucidate.
- The review timescale: This strategy review has taken over a year to complete. As the review cycle is three years, taking one third of it up in a review seems completely disproportionate and does not indicate that the Council is responding to an emergency.
- Supply chain emissions: Pages 22 / 34 Supply chain emissions are said to be increasing against a low target of 35%. In fact, you say that supply chain emissions have actually increased by 50%. Please can you explain this anomaly? There is very little information and analysis of what makes up your supply chain. Vehicles and construction are mentioned but little else. Are school meals included? Or procured by individual schools? Is Social care included? We are concerned that there is little indication of how you are going to reverse this worrying trend, apart from training and awareness of staff. We were under the impression that carbon literacy training had already been in place for all key roles for managers and Councillors.
- Expectations of suppliers: Page 39 - You say you will request Carbon Reduction Plans on all tenders above a value to be agreed, stating it is already mandatory for all contracts above £5m. We think that some level of action on carbon reduction should be expected of all contractors. If this

becomes a standard expectation, it could help with your campaign to reduce territorial emissions across the county.

- Carbon emissions reductions are low: Page 20 - we would like to see an urgent response to this.
- Consultation - The Strategy mentions over 100 suggestions made for changes to the policy and process (page 38). We would like to see your list of all the ideas / suggestions made and a list of those adopted.
- Consultation - On pages 68/69 you are mainly talking about reviewing suggestions made in 2020. This is very confusing. What about all of the suggestions made as part of your review in 2023? Could these appear in an appendix? Or could you at least list the ones that have been incorporated into the Strategy?
- Numbers of us took part in an online survey last year, and then spent an evening in Denbigh Town Hall with you in November. Where is the output from this? Did the consultants not produce anything that could be shared with the public? That exercise in itself was disappointing on so many levels, and we would be willing to discuss our experiences with you if you are interested in a better experience for the public next time.
- Carbon sequestration is clearly a key part of the Strategy. The table on page 49 seems to contain very important information, but is not at all clear to the average person. This needs a plain language explanation to be of any use to the public.
- Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group: We are concerned that the working group for this strategy only meets infrequently and we can find no planned meeting since November 2023. Additionally, because it is not a Public Committee, there is little to no opportunity for members of the public to monitor or contribute to their work. This does not seem to reflect the importance and urgency of the crises we face and the need for transparency to foster public trust and morale.
- Targets and budgets: How will DCC achieve their targets for 2030 when the UK government recently announced that they would slow down their efforts to tackle climate change?
- Protection of hedgerows:

It is essential that hedgerows and the protection of 'wild' habitats, e.g. gorse and shrub areas, are legally protected as soon as possible. When is this going to be achieved? Can it be expanded to private house owners?

- Climate Emergency UK – UK Scorecards: We would like to recommend use of this organisation, Council Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK ([councilclimatescorecards.uk](http://councilclimatescorecards.uk)), as they monitor and report on best practice across the UK.
- Concern about financial cost
- Needs more input from residents and relevant organisations
- More biodiversity in urban areas
- A challenge to do enough, global issue
- Lack of specific inclusion of nature spaces and allotment space in developments
- More renewable energy in urban areas needed
- More County Councillor involvement
- Low carbon reduction to date empathises the magnitude of the challenge

#### **Question 4: Any other comments?**

Responses to this question was via an open comments box. Key themes and contributions to this question analysed as follows:

- Praise for taking the climate and ecological emergency seriously
- Important for the council to act quickly
- Hope for Wales to be first Race to Zero nation
- Request to support local farmers with this ambition
- Ensure the progress is clearly outlined with challenges and shortfalls made clear (addressed with additional graphs in the appendix) – target and known pathways explained
- To prioritise actions in the strategy to make these actions SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound)
- Ensure the Climate Scorecards are utilised and used to inform and direct action
- Suggestion to ensure the pie chart colours are consistent