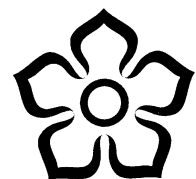




**Leicester's Young People's
Climate Assembly
Monday 27 January 2020:
Results Report**



Leicester
City Council

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Contact Details

Amy Peace, Graduate Project Officer, Leicester City Council

Email: amy.peace@leicester.gov.uk

Tel: +44 (0)116 454 4543

Twitter/Instagram/YouTube: EcoschoolsLCC

Facebook: EnvEducationLeicester

Headline Findings

- Using a 'Climate Assembly' approach allowed the council to engage in detail with a diverse group of local school students.
- Participants identified that many of the proposed actions offered potential benefits for health, wellbeing and community engagement.
- The impacts of the costs of actions and changes in personal behaviour were among the most significant concerns with the proposals.
- There was generally a good level of support for most actions, taking into account the concerns and barriers raised.
- Some of the highest priorities were; improved education about climate change, replacement of petrol or diesel vehicles to ultra-low emission vehicles and the design, manufacture and selling of products that use sustainable materials.
- Overall, there was a very high level of support among participants for Leicester to take urgent action on the climate emergency.
- Participants were also very strongly supportive of using a similar 'People's Assembly' approach to look at other important issues in Leicester in the future.

Assembly Results

The main questions the Assembly sought to answer about the overall vision and the actions were:

- Which aspects of the vision, and which of the suggested actions did the participants agree with or think would have further benefits for the city?
- Was there anything participants disagreed with?
- Were there any concerns about the impact the visions and actions would have on people's lives, and ideas on how these concerns should be addressed?
- What barriers might there be to implementing the vision and actions, and ideas on how these could be overcome?
- What was the level of support for the actions?
- Was there anything missing from the vision and actions that should be added?

Through the event, we were particularly keen to identify barriers and potential negative impacts of the proposals, to prevent any actions we take from unfairly impacting on any people, groups and organisations. Students were also encouraged to think about possible solutions that would have an impact.

This report is a summary of the main findings from the day. All of the comments and ideas received from the Assembly are being used to help develop our new strategy for responding to the Climate Emergency, along with our action plans for 2020-21 and beyond.

Our action plan will be launched in June 2020, and will be available on our webpages at: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/environment-and-sustainability/climate-emergency/>



The following sections present the results for each theme discussed.

At Home, At Work and At School

Vision
<p>More highly insulated homes</p> <p>Heat pumps and no gas heating or hot water</p> <p>Renewable energy sources like solar panels</p> <p>Kept cool without air conditioning</p> <p>Heat networks for neighbourhoods</p> <p>Less water use and water butts</p> <p>No gas heating or hot water</p> <p>Solar PV panels and battery storage</p> <p>Equipment and processes energy and resource efficient</p> <p>Produce low carbon goods and services</p> <p>Items / materials from sustainable sources</p> <p>Highly insulated buildings</p>
Possible Actions
The council could improve insulation in its council housing stock, and housing associations could do the same in theirs.
The council could fit heat pumps and solar PV panels to its council housing stock, and housing associations could do the same.
Homeowners and private landlords could install more insulation in the houses they own to reduce heating demand.
Homeowners and private landlords could install solar PV panels on houses they own to generate green electricity.
Homeowners could choose water-saving fittings and appliances when replacing these items and install water butts.
Heating installers could prepare for the phase-out of gas by moving into low carbon systems (including heat pumps and renewables).
The council could improve the energy efficiency of the business premises they own and rent out.
More could be invested in energy efficiency in the council and other public sector organisations buildings, including renewable energy systems.
The council could apply for more funding to support local businesses and organisations to help them increase their energy efficiency.
Employers could replace gas heating with low carbon heating, connect to district heating, improve insulation and install solar PV panels.
The government could make a national plan for insulation and low carbon heating in homes including helping house-owners and occupiers.
Organisations could design, manufacture and sell products that use sustainable materials, and are designed to be re-used and repaired.
The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership could integrate the climate emergency into strategies, direct national funding and lobby government for more support.
Individual staff could encourage their employers to take action on the climate emergency, e.g. through incentives and behaviour change.
Support and funding could be provided by the government for low carbon heating and other measures in businesses and organisations.

Was there anything participants particularly agreed with or thought would have further benefits?

The largest support from both the focus group and the wider assembly was for the action that organisations could design, manufacture and sell products that use sustainable materials, and are designed to be re-used and repaired. The next most supported action was that the government could make a national plan for insulation and low carbon heating in homes including helping house-owners and occupiers. However, there was discussion that all measures would need to be pursued to create the greatest possible impact.

Was there anything participants disagreed with?

The action point for homeowners and private landlords to install more insulation in the houses they own to reduce heating demand received zero votes and was only one of two to do so. This action was also one of the lowest ranked actions in the focus group. The cost implications of this were seen to be the cause of low support. It was also mentioned that the council should be careful about being seen to tell people how to live their lives.

Were there any concerns about the impact the vision and actions would have on people’s lives, and ideas on how these should be overcome?

The amount of money required to achieve the actions was seen as the largest barrier especially for those on a low income, as well as a concern that rented accommodation would become more expensive to cover the measures.

What barriers might there be to implementing the vision and actions?

The cost of measures was seen to be the main barrier.

What was the level of support for the actions?

Three of the actions featured in the top 10 voted actions overall. These were; the government could make a national plan for fitting insulation and low carbon heating in homes (including helping house-owners and occupiers during the changeover) (51), organisations could design, manufacture and sell products that use sustainable materials, and are designed to be re-used and repaired (39) and the council could improve insulation in its council housing stock, and housing associations could do the same in their housing (37).

Number of votes	Action Point Number	Action Point Description
51	E05	Organisations could design, manufacture and sell products that use sustainable materials, and are designed to be re-used and repaired.
39	H08	The government could make a national plan for fitting insulation and low carbon heating in homes (including helping house-owners and occupiers during the changeover).
37	H01	The Council could improve insulation in its council housing stock, and housing associations could do the same in their housing.

Number of votes	Action Point Number	Action Point Description
25	E04	Employers could replace gas heating with low carbon alternatives such as heat pumps or by connecting to district heating networks. They could also improve building insulation and install solar PV panels.
16	E01	The council could improve the energy efficiency of the business premises they own and rent out.
14	E06	The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) could integrate the climate emergency into their strategies, direct national funding to the climate emergency, and lobby government for more support.
12	H05	Homeowners and private landlords could install heat pumps to replace gas powered heating.
11	H06	Homeowners could choose water-saving fittings and appliances when replacing these items and install water butts garden use.
9	E02	More could be invested in improving the energy efficiency of the council and other public sector organisations' own buildings. This could include investment in more renewable energy systems.
9	E08	Support and funding could be provided by the government to move to zero carbon heating, and improve other aspects of energy efficiency in businesses and organisations premises.
8	H02	The council could fit heat pumps and solar PV panels to its council housing stock, and housing associations could do the same in their housing.
8	E03	The council could apply for more funding to support local businesses and organisations (particularly SMEs) to help them increase the energy efficiency of their premises.
7	H04	Homeowners and private landlords could install solar PV panels on houses they own to generate green electricity.
6	H07	Heating installers could prepare for the phase-out of gas by moving into low carbon systems (including heat pumps and renewables).
6	E07	Individual staff could encourage their employers to take action on the climate emergency (for example through staff incentive schemes and behaviour change programmes).
0	H03	Homeowners and private landlords could install more insulation in the houses they own to reduce heating demand.

Was there anything missing from the vision and actions that should be added?

The lack of a specific target breaking down how limited resources should be used was noted as missing from the vision. It was discussed that a target is required to better understand the task ahead.

Other ideas suggested included:

- Investment in wind farms to increase energy generation.
- Reinstating favourable feed-in tariffs to incentivise use.
- Community resources sharing schemes.

Travel & Transport

Vision
More walking, cycling and public transport Walking, cycling and public transport Infrastructure Electric charging from renewables Facilities and services accessible without cars Car-sharing, car clubs and e-bike rental Ultra-low emission vehicles (where needed)
Possible Actions
The council could continue to invest in infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport and encouraging walking & cycling.
The council could consider an increase in the number of Park and Ride sites and convert more of the existing ones to use electric buses.
The council could look at further ways to reduce demand for private vehicle journeys (vehicle access to areas, and shared transport services).
More could be invested in replacing the council's vehicles with ultra-low emission ones.
Public transport providers could invest in ultra-low emission vehicles and improved services with smart ticketing and real-time information.
Instead of a petrol or diesel vehicle, individuals could buy an ultra-low emission vehicle. The council could install more public charging points.
Employers could replace their existing vehicles with ultra-low emission vehicles and install charging points for fleet & staff electric vehicles.
Employers could reduce carbon emissions from business travel and deliveries, and encourage commuting on foot, by bike or public transport
Individuals could walk, cycle or use public transport instead of using a car when possible
The government could increase the funding for walking, cycling, public transport and electric charging infrastructure

Was there anything participants particularly agreed with or thought would have further benefits?

Participants discussed that the impacts on health of increasing levels of walking and cycling were positive and also that the resulting improvement in air quality from reducing car use would further improve health in Leicester.

Participants noted the benefits from the proposals would be very positive overall within a school setting, citing improved mental health and motivation levels.

Was there anything participants disagreed with?

There were a number of comments opposing electric vehicles, in part because they are too expensive for less well-off residents. There was also concern about other negative impacts suggesting that they will still create congestion in the city.

Were there any concerns about the impact the vision and actions would have on people's lives, and ideas on how these should be overcome?

The main concern was around the impact of the cost of the changes on the less well-off. There were some comments about the inconvenience of walking and cycling in wet weather conditions.

What barriers might there be to implementing the vision and actions?

One of the main barriers identified was the cost to the council and others of implementing the proposals, and the need for Government support and funding. The cost to individuals such as bus prices and buying electric vehicles will also be an issue.

What was the level of support for the actions?

There were few objections to the actions; however the voting shows a some disagreement on the uses of electric vehicles. Individuals buying EVs was the most popular (55) but the actions for businesses and the council replacing fleet vehicles with EVs were the two least popular with 5 and 1 votes respectively.

The next two most selected actions were for the council to consider an increase in the number of Park and Ride sites and convert more of the existing ones to use electric buses (43) and to invest in walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure (33).

Number of votes	Action Point Number	Action Point Description
55	T05	Instead of a petrol or diesel vehicle, individuals could buy an ultra-low emission vehicle. The council could support this by installing more public charging points.
43	T02	The council could consider an increase in the number of Park and Ride sites and convert more of the existing ones to use electric buses.
33	T01	The council could continue to invest in infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport. It could also expand existing programmes to encourage people to walk and cycle.
21	T10	The government could increase the funding available to make improvements to walking, cycling, public transport and electric charging infrastructure
14	T06	Employers could set a policy to reduce carbon emissions from business travel and deliveries, and encourage staff to commute to work on foot, by bike or by using public transport
8	T03	The council could look at further ways to reduce demand for private vehicle journeys (this could mean changing vehicle access to areas, changing parking, and supporting shared transport services).
8	T08	Public transport providers could invest in ultra-low emission vehicles and new and improved services with smart ticketing and real-time information.
6	T09	Individuals could switch to walking, cycling or public transport instead of using a car for journeys whenever possible.
5	T07	Employers could replace their existing vehicles with 'ultra-low emission' alternatives and install charging points for fleet and staff electric vehicles.
1	T04	More could be invested in replacing the council's own vehicles with ultra-low emission vehicles.

Was the anything missing from the vision and actions that should be added?

One of the main areas discussed in the workshops was the need to change people's behaviours and attitudes.

Ideas to reduce car use were also suggested, such as car sharing, a car free city centre scheme and increased parking fees. Other ideas included a tram system in the city and bike hire scheme.

Incentive schemes were proposed including apps that reward walking and cycling and offers of discounted holidays in the UK to prevent flying or travelling long distances.

A number of suggestions were made around buses, especially reducing prices and having free travel for under 19's. Buses that run in the city could also be improved to both in terms of their reliability overall quality. On boards toilets were suggested as a possible improvement.

Other suggestions included:

- Limiting the number of cars a person can own.
- Investment in hydrogen fuel projects.
- A 20mph maximum speed limit in the city.

Our Choices as Consumers and Waste

Vision
Less air travel by people and businesses More demand for low carbon products Less meat and dairy, lower food miles Business produce less waste, reduce packaging, recycle more Council reduce, re-use, recycle more and promote waste services Homes produce less waste, repair, reuse and recycle more Informed about carbon impacts of consumption
Possible Actions
Schools could teach pupils about climate change and how this is affected by buying.
The council could ask its school meals service to offer more meat and dairy-free options, and to reduce the food miles of what it provides.
The council could lead by example with what it buys and see if its 'sustainable procurement guidance' needs updating.
Individuals could reduce their dietary impact by eating less meat, eggs and/or dairy produce, and food businesses could make this easier.
The council will need to produce a new Waste Strategy, following the UK Government's Waste and Resources Strategy. The government will need to support and fund this.
Individuals could find out more about the climate impacts of goods and services. The government could introduce a labelling system to show this.
Individuals could choose to fly less. They could buy less food that is transported here by plane.
Businesses and organisations could reduce the waste they generate. Waste that is produced could be sent to those able to use it.
Businesses and organisations could check their waste services provider correctly processes waste and recycles as much as possible.
People could recycle as much of their household waste as possible. The council could promote their household waste services more.

People could change buying habits to produce less waste by buying items that will last longer, have less packaging and can be easily re-used or recycled.

Things that people no longer want could be sold or donated and appliances, clothes and other things could be repaired instead of replaced.
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Was there anything participants particularly agreed with or thought would have further benefits?

Participants were very highly supportive of schools teaching pupils about climate change and about the impacts of consumption. Educating school pupils would also have further benefits if they feed information back to their parents. Participants were also keen on businesses and organisations ensuring that the provider of their waste services is correctly processing their waste and recycling as much as possible.

Was there anything participants disagreed with?

There was some disagreement over reducing meat and dairy consumption, with the action that the council's school meals service could offer more meat and dairy-free options the fourth most popular action (31) however individuals reducing their dietary impact by eating less meat, eggs and/or dairy produce was one of the least popular (4). Reasons for this may include a lack of knowledge about plant-based diets and it was also discussed that moral choices should not be forced on people, but options given instead.

Were there any concerns about the impact the vision and actions would have on people's lives, and ideas on how these should be overcome?

One of the main concerns was potential costs to consumers. A lot of the discussion focused around the issue of 'fast fashion'. The main themes arising from that were that fast fashion is more affordable for the most people, rather than sustainable items which are more expensive.

Other concerns included that flying is the only option for those with families in other countries. As a significant proportion of Leicester's citizens have family links overseas this was seen as detrimental to their way of life

What barriers might there be to implementing the vision and actions?

Social perceptions are seen to be a barrier to the actions when discussed in relation to the fashion industry. There is perceived to be a social stigma to buying second-hand clothes and using charity shops, which may result in bullying.

In large part, the discussion focused on those that should be held more accountable for their actions especially businesses responsibly processing waste. Students were also concerned that those employed in fast fashion industries around the world would feel the effect if everyone switched to more ethical brands.

As stated elsewhere, the cost of many actions was viewed as an issue by many.

Other barriers identified included:

- Poor sources of information on the environmental impact of items.

- Issues over quality of second-hand items.

What was the level of support for the actions?

There was a broad spread of support over the actions in these themes. The action chosen as the highest priority out of all actions was for schools to do more to educate pupils on climate change and the impacts of their consumption (55). The next most popular were for businesses and organisations to ensure that the provider of their waste services is correctly processing their waste and recycling as much as possible (31), and for the council to ask its school meals service to offer more meat and dairy-free options, and to reduce the food miles of what it provides (31).

Number of votes	Action Point Number	Action Point Description
55	C01	Schools could teach pupils about climate change and how this is affected by what we buy
41	W04	Businesses and organisations could ensure that the provider of their waste services is correctly processing their waste and recycling as much as possible.
31	C02	The council could ask its school meals service to offer more meat and dairy-free options, and to reduce the food miles of what it provides.
28	W01	The council will need to produce a new Waste Strategy. This will need to follow the publication of the UK Government's Waste and Resources Strategy. The government will need to provide support and funding for this.
14	W05	People could change buying habits to produce less waste. This could mean buying items that will last longer, have less packaging and can be easily re-used or recycled.
13	W02	People could make sure that as much of their household waste as possible is recycled through the council's household waste service. The council could promote this and the garden waste service more.
11	C05	Individuals could choose to fly less. They could also buy less food that is transported here by plane.
8	C06	Individuals could find out more about the climate impacts of goods and services. The government could introduce a labelling system to show products carbon footprint.
7	C07	The council could lead by example with what it buys. It could see if its 'sustainable procurement guidance' for staff and suppliers needs changing in light of the climate emergency.
6	W06	Things that people no longer want could be sold or donated, instead of thrown away. Gadgets, appliances, clothes and other things could be repaired instead of buying new things.
5	W03	Businesses and organisations could reduce the waste generated by their manufacturing, distribution and service delivery processes. Waste that is produced could be redistributed to other organisations that can use it.
4	C03	Individuals could reduce their dietary impact by eating less meat, eggs and/or dairy produce, and food businesses could make it easier for consumers to do this.
4	C04	Individuals could choose long-lasting products / get things repaired. The government could look for ways to support businesses to provide them.

Number of votes	Action Point Number	Action Point Description
0	W07	The government could look at how to support an increase in UK reprocessing capacity for recyclable waste materials and create stronger end markets for recyclable materials.

Was the anything missing from the vision and actions that should be added?

As the workshop focused on issues surrounding fashion there was much discussion about how to reduce impact. These range from washing clothes on a lower temperature, to upcycling and repurposing clothing. Students also identified that pressuring companies to change practices should be a priority, requesting more work with businesses to both support them to change, and to hold those not taking action to account.

Other ideas suggested included:

- Establishment of clothes swaps.
- Businesses to set up rental schemes for in-demand items.

Green Space & Trees

Vision
<p>New buildings carbon neutral, with solar PV panels</p> <p>No air conditioning in new buildings</p> <p>Low carbon, sustainable and recycled building materials</p> <p>Maintain and increase tree cover</p> <p>Development accessible by low carbon transport</p> <p>New buildings use less water and prevent flooding</p>
Possible Actions
The council and other public sector organisations could lead by example, making their own building projects as close as possible to being carbon neutral.
When selling land for development, the council could seek an agreement with developers for new buildings to be as low-carbon as possible.
The council and other owners of green spaces could plant more trees to help keep the city cooler during heatwaves, reduce flooding and absorb carbon emissions.
Businesses commissioning premises could specify high standards of energy efficiency, low carbon emissions, renewable energy and facilities for cycles and electric vehicles.
The council could make sure that the new Local Plan addresses the climate emergency.
The government needs to make sure that its proposed Future Homes Standard and changes to the Building Regulations will raise carbon-saving standards quickly enough.

Was there anything participants particularly agreed with or thought would have further benefits?

There was a strong support for all actions in this theme, with all six scoring highly. Once of the largest reasons for this support was the improvements in health that are

an additional benefit of having more green space and infrastructure, including improved air quality and better mental health.

Was there anything participants disagreed with?

There was concern about the expense and level of time required for maintenance of green spaces. A key discussion point was that it would take time to make a significant difference and that enforcement of changes may be required to make an impact.

Were there any concerns about the impact the vision and actions would have on people's lives, and ideas on how these should be overcome?

Perceived impacts were only seen to be positive by participants, including improved physical and mental health, absorption of CO2 and the creation of aesthetically pleasing spaces.

What barriers might there be to implementing the vision and actions?

The main barriers identified were the cost of the measures and the need to implement behavioural change without simply telling people what to do.

What was the level of support for the actions?

The most prioritised action, and the fifth most selected in the whole assembly, was for the council, NHS, schools and other public service providers to lead by example in their own building projects (42).

Also popular were the suggestions that council could make sure that the new Local Plan addresses the climate emergency (29) and that the council and other owners of green spaces could plant more trees to help keep the city cooler during heatwaves and safer from flooding as the climate changes (27).

Number of votes	Action Point Number	Action Point Description
42	L01	The council, NHS, schools and other public service providers could lead by example in their own building projects. They could allocate money to make them as close as possible to being carbon neutral.
29	L04	The council could make sure that the new Local Plan addresses the climate emergency.
27	L03	The council and other owners of green spaces could plant more trees to help keep the city cooler during heatwaves and safer from flooding as the climate changes. More trees would result in more carbon emissions being absorbed.
21	L02	When selling land for development, the council could seek an agreement with the developer for the new buildings to be as low-carbon as possible.
17	L05	Businesses commissioning new premises could specify high standards of energy efficiency, low carbon emissions, renewable energy and facilities for cycles and electric vehicles.
16	L06	The government needs to make sure that its proposed Future Homes Standard and changes to the Building Regulations will raise carbon-saving standards quickly enough.

Was there anything missing from the vision and actions that should be added?

One of the main areas where suggestions were made was around education and providing knowledge about how green spaces could be used and optimised so that residents are more respectful and behavioural change is promoted. Activities like community gardens and allotments should be encouraged.

There were many suggestions around trees, including that they should be planted on existing open space, protecting existing trees and ensuring that the right trees are planted in the right places.

Other ideas suggested included:

- More funding for planting in schools.
- Providing community talks about climate change and how we will need to adapt.

Feedback Forms

Student participants were asked to provide feedback at the end of the Assembly, and the results are shown below. There was a very high level of support on average (4.36 out of 5) for Leicester to take urgent action on the climate emergency, which was rated 'Extremely Important' by 64% of respondents. Participants also felt that taking urgent action was more important following the Assembly than before (4.30 out of 5).

There was high support for the Assembly approach (2.62 out of 3), with all respondents supporting using it to address other important local issues in the future.

Adult participants were also asked to provide feedback at the end of the Assembly, and the results are shown below. There was a very high level of support (4.88 out of 5) for Leicester to take urgent action on the climate emergency, which was rated 'Extremely Important' by 87.5% of respondents. Participants also felt that taking urgent action was more important following the Assembly than before (4.75 out of 5).

There was universal support among adult participants for the Assembly approach (3 out of 3), with all respondents supporting using it to address other important local issues in the future.

Talking Points and Cross-Cutting Comments

Talking Points Summary

A key part of the day was getting the participants to think about and voice how they would directly be affected by the climate emergency. Often the younger generation are overlooked for their opinions with regards to the climate emergency with adults suggesting that they are not well-informed, with the Assembly giving participants a

chance to prove this wrong. The first activity of the day took place after James Veness' keynote presentation and discussed the impacts on individual and on their school. Below are the key themes captured in order of prevalence.

How does this impact us as individuals?

Weather and Climate Change

Awareness of extreme weather impacts; flooding, temperature increase, drought, forest fires and the mechanisms of climate change i.e. deforestation.

Health

Awareness of lung disease related to high levels of pollution, new diseases evolving, effect on lifestyles, and impact of higher temperature levels.

Economy

Awareness of higher taxes, travel cost increase, how food production and therefore food insecurity, links into economy.

Food Insecurity

Awareness that increased drought will affect food production, increased population increases pressure on resources and need to switch to a lower carbon diet.

Fear

The language used is decidedly laced with fear with one group writing 'we're all going to die'. One group is concerned about 'inheriting a world that is a mess'.

Climate Justice

Awareness of increase in climate refugees and the extra pressure on resources. Two groups highlight the injustice for future generations.

Taking Action

Awareness that actions need to be taken from lower level behaviour change to systems change.

Anger

Three groups discuss the future generation inheriting a mess.

Biodiversity

Two groups mention the impact on biodiversity and nature

Hope

One group solely listed action that they could take which was a different take to all the other groups

How does this impact us as a school?

Behaviour Impacts

Most noted that there will be behavioural changes in school, through having to adapt to changing temperature and encouraging positive actions such as recycling, cutting down on resources and promoting vegetarianism.

Mitigation and Adaptation

There will need to be consideration for actions in school, perhaps a consideration of a climate adapted uniform and the fabric of the building being fit for purpose.

Curriculum

Four groups spoke of the need to raise awareness of climate change through the curriculum.

Economy

Cost of resources will impact on the school along with the cost of having climate change ready buildings.

Taking Action

Suggested actions include, promoting vegetarianism and reducing plastic waste by pressurising manufacturers to decrease production.

Attendance

Attendance could be affected through increased extreme weather events and how students get to school.

Carbon Emissions

Increase in population means more students which will mean an increase in emissions.

Weather

Awareness that extreme weather impacts (flooding, temperature increase) may affect attendance and running of the school.

Health

Awareness of increase health risks from pollution and increased chance of acid rain.

Climate Justice

One group highlights the lack of education for climate change refugees.

Was there anything participants particularly agreed with or thought would have further benefits?

Alongside the results detailed above, the most frequent comment across all areas was that more collaborative approach between individuals, councils and government is required. Participants also highlighted further benefits of many of the actions

including that more active travel, more green space and healthier diets could all improve health and wellbeing.

Was there anything participants disagreed with?

There were no outright objections to the actions, although two received zero votes. They were:

- Homeowners and private landlords could install more insulation in the houses they own to reduce heating demand.
- The government could look at how to support an increase in UK reprocessing capacity for recyclable waste materials and create stronger end markets for recyclable materials.

Were there any concerns about the impact the vision and actions would have on people's lives, and ideas on how these should be overcome?

Across all of the themes the greatest concerns were about the costs of the proposals, and the impacts they might have. This includes the cost of the actions for residents, especially the least well-off who are already vulnerable, as well as the costs to employers and to the council.

What barriers might there be to implement the vision and actions?

The most common barrier identified was the high cost of some actions along with the need for necessary behavioural change, which will need to be implemented without being seen to be telling people how to live their lives.

What was the level of support for the actions?

The most prioritised actions across the whole assembly were:

- Instead of a petrol or diesel vehicle, individuals could buy an ultra-low emission vehicle. The council could support this by installing more public charging points.
- Schools could teach pupils about climate change and how this is affected by what we buy.
- Organisations could design, manufacture and sell products that use sustainable materials, and are designed to be re-used and repaired.
- The council could consider an increase in the number of Park and Ride sites and convert more of the existing ones to use electric buses.
- The council, NHS, schools and other public service providers could lead by example in their own building projects. They could allocate money to make them as close as possible to being carbon neutral.

Was there anything missing from the vision and actions that should be added?

Popular areas where the most suggestions were made were around education and communication on both why and how action can be taken. A lot of focus was placed on achievable personal actions such as reassessing consumer choices and personal travel.

Background to Leicester's Young People's Climate Assembly

Leicester's Climate Emergency Conversation

Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and between November 2019 and February 2020, we ran Leicester's Climate Emergency Conversation. It gave people and organisations in Leicester their chance to have a say on our ideas for the council and the wider city to tackle the climate emergency, and to suggest ideas of their own.

The Conversation involved:

- Leicester's Climate Assembly- a one day event held on Saturday 18th January 2020 to engage directly with a representative sample of local residents.
- Young People's Climate Assembly - a one day event held on Monday 27th January 2020 to engage with local secondary school students.
- Online consultation through a questionnaire on the CitizenSpace platform and a discussion forum on the Dialogue platform.
- A Conversation Pack for local groups to hold their own discussion events.
- A series of one-to-one meetings with mainly larger local businesses and organisations.
- A series of workshops with primary schools around the consultation materials.

The findings from these activities are being used to help us develop Leicester's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Planning the Young People's Climate Assembly

Leicester is well known for its diversity, however some groups and communities in the city have historically been harder to engage on climate change issues. This issue is found in other places too. However, the nature of Leicester's school cohort resulted in a broad sample of Leicester's diversity.

To engage with a school-aged residents the council decided to develop a 'People's Assembly' format. This aimed to deliver many of the 'deliberative democracy' benefits of a 'Citizens' Assembly', in in-depth engagement with a cross section of the public, in keeping with the Leicester Citizen's Assembly approach held on Saturday 18 January 2020.

The event was organised by the council's Environmental Education Team, with support from other council departments who provided additional facilitators for the day.

The assembly was held on a Monday in the Attenborough Hall in the council's main city centre office building, which is easily accessible by public transport.

Participants were encouraged to use public transport to travel to the location. A complimentary buffet lunch was also provided on the day.

Inviting Participants

A call to secondary schools was put out in September 2019 with an original date of Wednesday 20 November 2019, however the uptake was quite low and therefore was rearranged for the January 2020 date. The rearrange date attracted a lot of interest and 14 schools were recruited.

Student Selection

Schools were asked to bring a selection of students and could also include students from the school council or eco-committee. Selection was made entirely by school staff. After consultation with the Equalities Team it was understood that the attending schools would represent the diversity of Leicester without using specific selection criteria.

On the Day

Prior to the Assembly, participants were sent a briefing pack. The pack contained a full summary with a timetable of the day.

Upon arrival, participants were asked to complete an equalities monitoring form. The form asked for demographic information including ethnicity, age, disability, gender, religion and home postcode.

Prior to the event, schools were assigned a table and a theme within the proposals; 'At Home, At Work and At School', 'Travel & Transport', 'Our Choice as Consumers and Waste', and 'Green Space & Trees'. The decision to pre-assign a table and theme for each school group were made with consideration of safeguarding as some school groups did not have sufficient capacity to monitor students across multiple themes in different locations.

The Assembly began with a welcome from Lee Jowett, Environmental Education Coordinator for Leicester City Council. An overview of the day and background information on the climate emergency and conversation were also provided.

The objectives for the day were outlined:

1. To develop a greater understanding of climate change and the implications for Leicester.
2. To create a collective vision of what Leicester will need to look like to be a carbon neutral city.
3. To consult and prioritise city-wide carbon savings and identify actions required to support those savings.

Councillor Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor for Environment and Transportation, provided background information on the climate emergency and the other activities in Leicester's Climate Emergency Conversation. Hanniya Kamran, Chair of the Young People's Council provided a summary of the youth perspective. Following

this, participants were asked for their initial reactions and opinions about the climate emergency.

James Veness, Energy Consultant for School Energy Efficiency gave a keynote speech about climate change and the current global situation covering topics such as population growth, temperature change and dietary impacts. After this, participants were asked to record how they felt the topics impacted them as individuals and how it would impact their school.

Then followed short focussed presentations by each of the guest speakers; Travel and Transport by Dave Clasby (Sustrans), Our Choice as Consumers by Claire Lerpiniere (De Montfort University), Green Space and Trees by Judy Ling Wong (Black Environment Network) and At home, At Work and At School by Richard Smith (Ashden).

The assembly then moved on to the consultation workshops for the four themes. Participants were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. Do you have any comments on the vision? Do you have any extra or different suggestions?
2. Do you have any comments on these actions? For example:
 - Which ones are most important?
 - Are there any that you don't support? If so, why?
 - Are there any that might not be possible? If so, what would need to happen to make them possible?
3. How do you think these actions might positively or negatively affect people in your group? What, if any, support do you think people will need?
4. Are there any other actions you would like to suggest?

Before lunch participants were invited to vote on all 46 actions using 10 sticky dots which could all be added to one action or distributed over up to ten

After lunch, participants returned to their theme to discuss possible solutions using the following framework:

- What do we need to do as individuals?
- What do we need to do as organisations?
- What do we need to do as the council?

At the end of the day participants were notified of the council's guidance about how to declare a climate emergency in schools. A summary of the day was also provided by the Young People's Council, along with an interactive feedback session.

Event Agenda

9.00	Arrival
9.30	Introduction
10.00	Keynote presentation
10.30	Break
10.45	Theme presentations
11.30	Consultation workshop
12.30	Lunch
13.00	Feedback from morning session
13.15	Solutions workshop
14.15	Summary of the day
14.30	Event finish

Analysis of Participants

Overall, the attempt to engage a representative group of school students was largely successful although there was an uneven split in gender with 67% of participants identifying as female. The reason for this is in large part due to a proportion of the schools being all-female.