

# **Environmental Action Plans Consultation**

**Consultation report and findings**

**February 2022**

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# Introduction

## Background

Environmental sustainability is a top priority for the Council, and the new Green Plan sets the holistic vision for how the Council will become more environmentally sustainable. With the previous joint 2016-2021 Climate Change and Air Quality Action Plan, and the previous Biodiversity Action Plan reaching their conclusion, the Council wanted to engage with local residents and stakeholders to help design the new action plans. A survey was designed which enabled respondents to share their views on the three new action plans focused on Climate Change, Air Quality, and Biodiversity. A number of engagement events were carried out, with more information about these events on the next page.

This report contains an analysis of the consultation survey, providing findings which will help the Council in shaping the approach to these crucial subjects and establishing the best ways to work with residents and local stakeholders to deliver significant action and beneficial change across the borough.

## Methodology and report

The survey was developed with colleagues from the Cleaner, Greener and Cultural Services and Transport and Regulatory Services and made available to the public through the Consultation and Engagement Hub.

The survey closed on 13 February 2022 and 110 submissions were received. Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions relating to each individual action plan. As a result of this, the base number of responses will change dependent on respondents indicating whether they would like to answer questions relating to each of the action plans. Where graphs are shown, percentages are used. Where there were 'no responses' to questions, if these are below 5 per cent, they have been excluded from the graphs.

## Appendix

Appendix 3 contains details of all comments made by respondents in relation to the consultation. All other responses and data are in the report. The Appendix is available upon request.

## Equalities

Equalities data is presented on the 'About Respondents: Demographic Breakdown' section for all respondents to the survey.

## Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all respondents that took the time to take part in the exercise and gave their views.



# Community Engagement Events - Residents

In addition to the online survey, the Council ran a number of face to face and online events to further engage with our residents and local stakeholders. To reach as wide an audience as possible we held one event each in community facilities in the north, centre, and south of the borough. A total of 28 residents attended the in-person engagement events and 15 attended the online event. A broad variety of topics were discussed at the events, with some key themes from each of the action plans emerging as follows:

## Air Quality

There were concerns raised about the pollution levels at main roads, as well as around schools across the borough. It was highlighted that more monitoring locations were required, in the right places, and with the data accessible to all. There were also calls for more segregated cycle lanes and comments that the Council's active travel actions did not go far enough. There was a request for information about options available if looking to replace gas boilers and install heat pumps. The impact of construction was also raised in the group, how this is monitored and also whether it was possible to limit building developments, in particular multiple basement digging in the same street/community.

## Climate Emergency

Collaboration and partnership working is key and the Council should work with everyone including residents, community groups and businesses to tackle climate change locally. It was raised that there is a need to address the challenges of energy efficiency retrofitting in conservation areas and listed buildings through developing planning guidance, working with developers and housing associations on this. Residents wanted more information and guidance on replacing gas boilers with heat pumps. There were asks for more educational work in schools on climate change, training opportunities for young people and supporting more community groups working on environmental initiatives. Many residents recognised that information is key and the Council needs to develop clear messages which outline what climate change means for Kensington and Chelsea as an urban borough and provide simple tips on what people can do. Many residents felt that the actions on active travel are weak to respond to the climate emergency and called for more segregated and safer cycle lanes and proper cycling infrastructure. There was also an emphasis put on the Council to continue to support more community owned energy project through the North Kensington Community Energy coop and encourage composting and extend the food waste collection.

**Please view key themes for Biodiversity overleaf.**



# Community Engagement Events - Residents

## Biodiversity

The importance of collaboration between Council, residents, community groups and other key stakeholders to share ideas and maximise delivery of projects that are targeted to the needs of the community. This will be facilitated by the formation of the Biodiversity Partnership and several forums for specific groups (gardeners and environmental educators). The need for guidance on greening projects that residents and community groups can develop and deliver themselves, including funding opportunities. The three BAP actions focussing on supporting delivery of community greening projects have been updated to reflect the need to share funding opportunities and support in applying for funding. The desire to see sustainable greening projects added to grey infrastructure, to enhance biodiversity and support resident health and wellbeing. This includes particular interest in retrofitting green roofs. The emphasis on sustainable, resilient projects has been added to the wording of 11 actions that support this priority. A strong desire for the Council to toughen up on the loss of private garden space to hard standing/artificial grass. While there is no legal recourse for this, the introduction of biodiversity net gain requirements may support this for future large development plans. We are considering suggestions to run a public engagement campaign to promote greening of front gardens for biodiversity, potentially as part of Phase Two of the Bee Superhighway Project.

**More detailed feedback from the engagement events will be provided in the key decision report.**



# Engagement Events – Organisations/community groups

## Big Institutions

In addition to the events held for residents, officers also held an event for local big businesses and institutions. There were 19 representatives at this session. It is clear that these groups have a major local impact in the three key subject areas of the consultation, and also that working together can provide crucial support and opportunities for all involved.

Key themes discussed at the Big Institutions Event were:

- Sharing and consolidating an approach to data, monitoring and reporting progress.
- Shared learning.
- Joining up on cross portfolio initiatives for maximum gain.
- Forming meaningful effective partnerships into the future and meet quarterly.

## Youth Council, BME Health Forum and Faith Communities Partnership Forum

Additionally, officers also presented at a session of the Youth Council, the local BME Health forum, and local Faith Communities Partnership forum, to highlight the ongoing consultation, and to seek views on some of the key subject areas. Key themes discussed include:

- Schools represent a large proportion of the emissions in-house and it's important that they work in partnership and collaborate to reduce their environmental footprint. We discussed about the Environmental Charter for schools.
- A climate change summit for pupils and teachers should be organised.
- Developing stronger partnership working and helping with sharing information.
- The Youth Council wanted to find out what is the Council's approach on offsetting emissions to make sure that this is the last resort and businesses are not going to offset their carbon. Raising the issue of improving air quality by organising dedicated no-driving days borough-wide.
- Emphasis put on active travel – providing support for RBKC residents through cycling training, community bicycle repair events and bicycle donation days.
- Utilising open-spaces for allotments and community gardens. Provide group training courses on vegetable and plant growing to residents across the borough to support with self-isolation and loneliness.

## Email submissions

We received a number of email submissions in relation to the consultation, including from the Environment Agency. These submissions have been considered and will be referenced in the Key Decision Report.

**More detailed feedback from the engagement events/email submissions will be provided in the key decision report.**



# Section one:

# Air Quality Action Plan



# Results at a glance – Air Quality Action Plan Findings

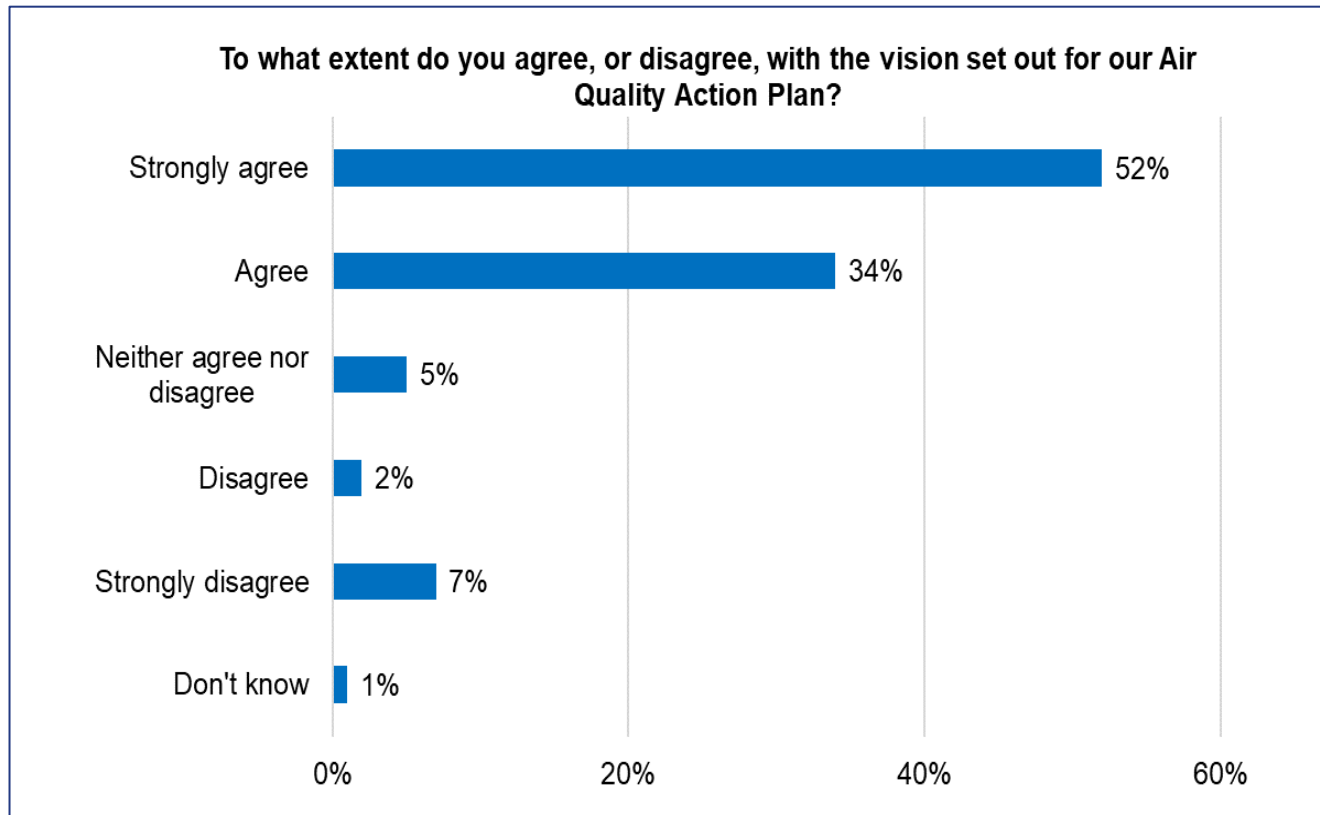
- **Vision for the Air Quality Action Plan:** Around half (52 per cent) of respondents **strongly agreed** with the vision set out, whilst a further 34 per cent of respondents **agreed** with the vision for the Air Quality Action Plan. A total of seven per cent of respondents **strongly disagreed** with the vision set out for the Air Quality Action Plan.
- **Objectives in the Air Quality Action Plan:** The majority of respondents were in agreement with the six objectives laid out in the Air Quality Action Plan. The objective with the highest total level of agreement (95 per cent) was **‘Work with the community for a healthy, clean and sustainable borough’** (70 per cent strongly agree, 25 per cent agree). The objective with the highest total level of disagreement (nine per cent) was **‘Encourage active travel’** (six per cent disagree, three per cent strongly disagree).
- **Themes in the Air Quality Action Plan:** The majority of respondents were in agreement with the six themes laid out in the Air Quality Action Plan. The theme with the highest total level of agreement (92 per cent) was **‘Monitoring and other core statutory duties’** (60 per cent strongly agree, 32 per cent agree). The theme with the highest total level of disagreement (six per cent) was **‘Localised solutions’** (four per cent disagree, two per cent strongly disagree).
- **Actions in the Air Quality Action Plan:** The majority of respondents were in agreement with the actions laid out in the six sections of the Air Quality Action Plan. The section with the highest total level of agreement (87 per cent) was **‘Public health and awareness raising’** (52 per cent strongly agree, 35 per cent agree). The section with the highest total level of disagreement (10 per cent) was **‘Transport and active travel’** (four per cent disagree, six per cent strongly disagree).
- **Views on the summary document for the Air Quality Action Plan:** The majority of respondents (83 per cent) outlined that the information provided in the summary document **was** clear and understandable. A total of 14 per cent of respondents outlined that the information provided in the summary document **was not** clear and understandable.



# The Vision for the Air Quality Action Plan

A total of 100 of respondents chose to respond to questions on the Air Quality Action Plan. Participants were asked to what extent they agreed, or disagreed, with the vision set out in the Air Quality Action Plan.

- Around half (52 per cent) of respondents **strongly agreed** with the vision set out, whilst a further 34 per cent of respondents **agreed** with the vision for the Air Quality Action Plan.
- A total of seven per cent of respondents **strongly disagreed** with the vision set out for the Air Quality Action Plan.



**Base: 100**

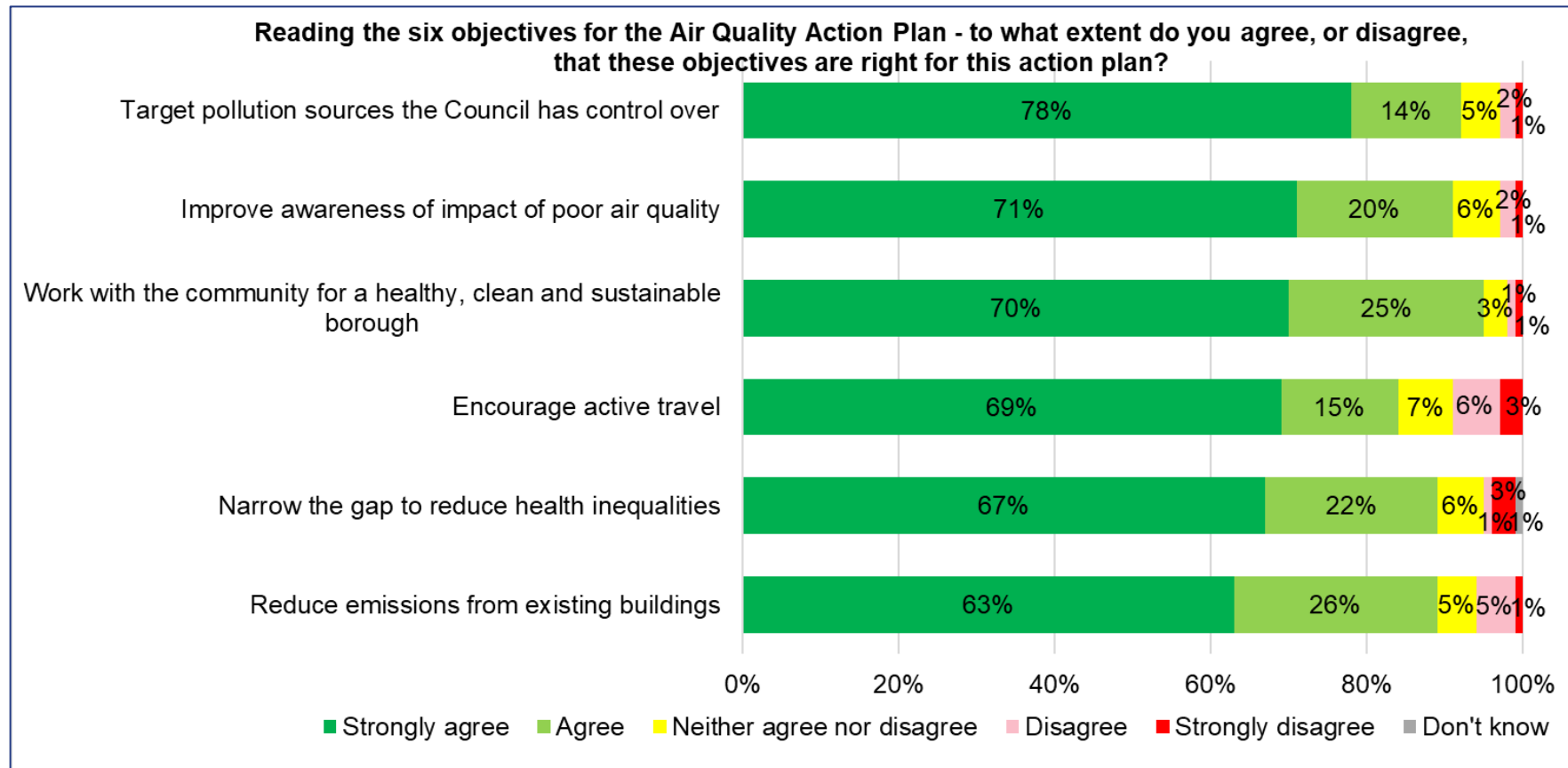




# Objectives in the Air Quality Action Plan

Participants were asked to read the six objectives for the Air Quality Action Plan, and indicate to what extent they agreed, or disagreed, that the objectives are right for the action plan.

- The majority of respondents were in agreement with the six objectives laid out in the Air Quality Action Plan.
- The objective with the highest total level of agreement (95 per cent) was **'Work with the community for a healthy, clean and sustainable borough'** (70 per cent strongly agree, 25 per cent agree).
- The objective with the highest total level of disagreement (nine per cent) was **'Encourage active travel'** (six per cent disagree, three per cent strongly disagree)



**Base: 100**

# Further comments on the objectives

Respondents were asked if there were other objectives they thought were missing and would like to see included, or if they disagreed with any of the proposed objectives, to explain why. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, and the full list of comments made can be found in Appendix 3 of the Key Decision Report.

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Active travel improvements	15	Private vehicles	3
Disagree with wording of objectives	10	Accountability and regulations for construction workers/developers	3
Objectives should be actions orientated	4	Roads and Traffic	3
Consultation materials are vague	4	Air quality	3
Education/information	3	More action on idling engines	3
Reducing the impact of local businesses and organisations	3	More trees and green spaces	3

*\*Themes shown with 3 or more comments*



# Further comments on the objectives

***“Make sure active travel is given safe and prioritised routes across the borough.”***

*Active travel improvements*

***“This is rather vague, isn't it. How are you going to encourage active travel if you don't provide any (!) protected cycle lanes?”***

*Consultation materials are vague*

***“I disagree with limiting yourselves only to “encouraging” active travel. It must be enabled by making roads safer for walking and cycling. Roads must have integrated cycle lanes and safer pavements...”***

*Disagree with wording of objectives*



***“Action speaks louder than words. This council needs to be more aggressive tackling the very high air pollution and needs to set itself much more ambitious goals ...”***

*Objectives should be actions orientated*

***“Outlaw idling engines and enforce it with prominent signs everywhere in RBKC”***

*More action on idling engines*

***“There's not mention of working with businesses - particularly businesses in the borough that may contribute to air pollution.”***

*Reducing the impact of local businesses and organisations*

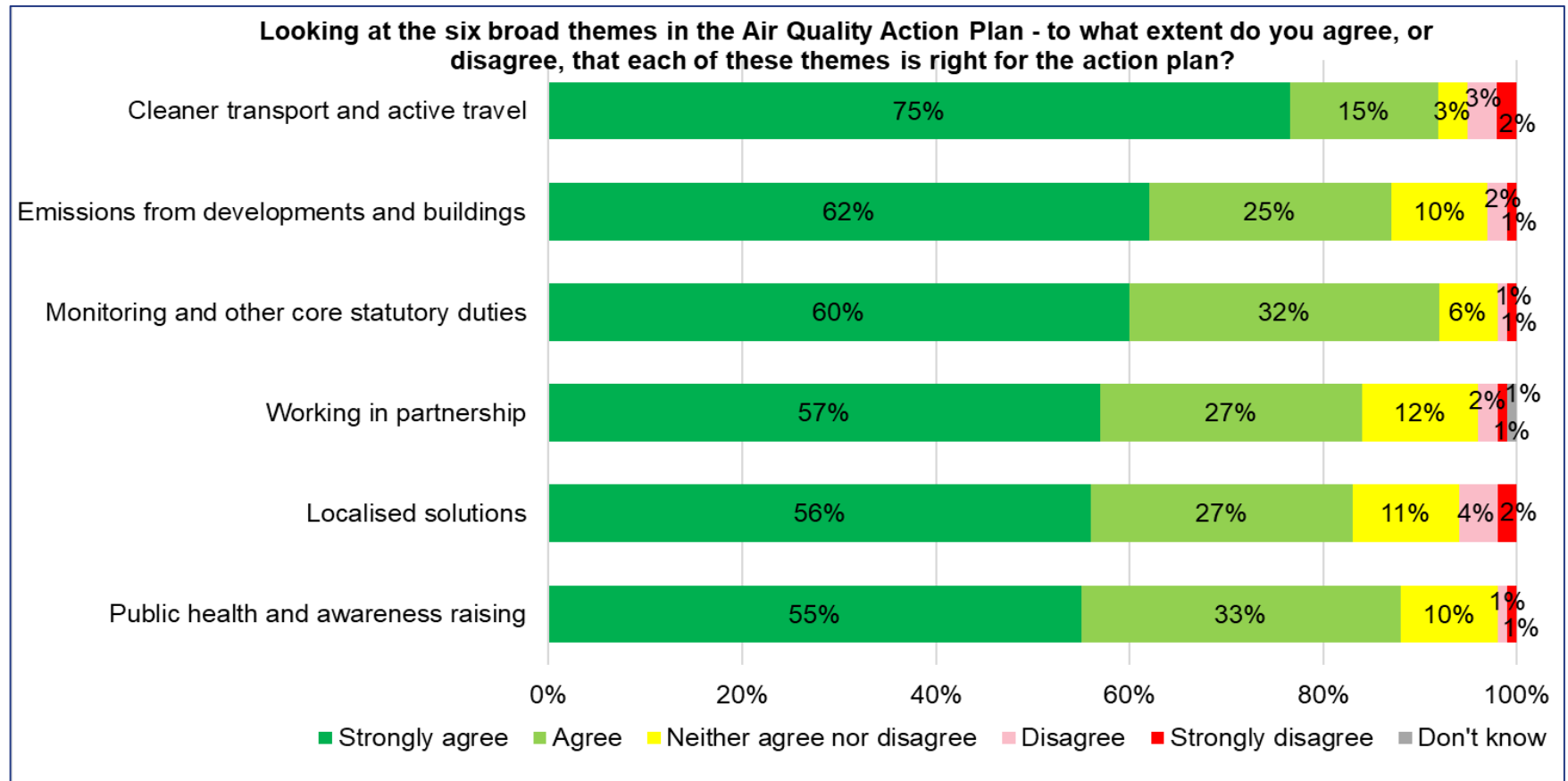


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# Themes in the Air Quality Action Plan

Participants were asked to look at the six broad themes in the Air Quality Action Plan, and indicate to what extent they agreed, or disagreed, that each of these themes are right for the action plan.

- The majority of respondents were in agreement with the six themes laid out in the Air Quality Action Plan.
- The theme with the highest total level of agreement (92 per cent) was **'Monitoring and other core statutory duties'** (60 per cent strongly agree, 32 per cent agree).
- The theme with the highest total level of disagreement (six per cent) was **'Localised solutions'** (four per cent disagree, two per cent strongly disagree)

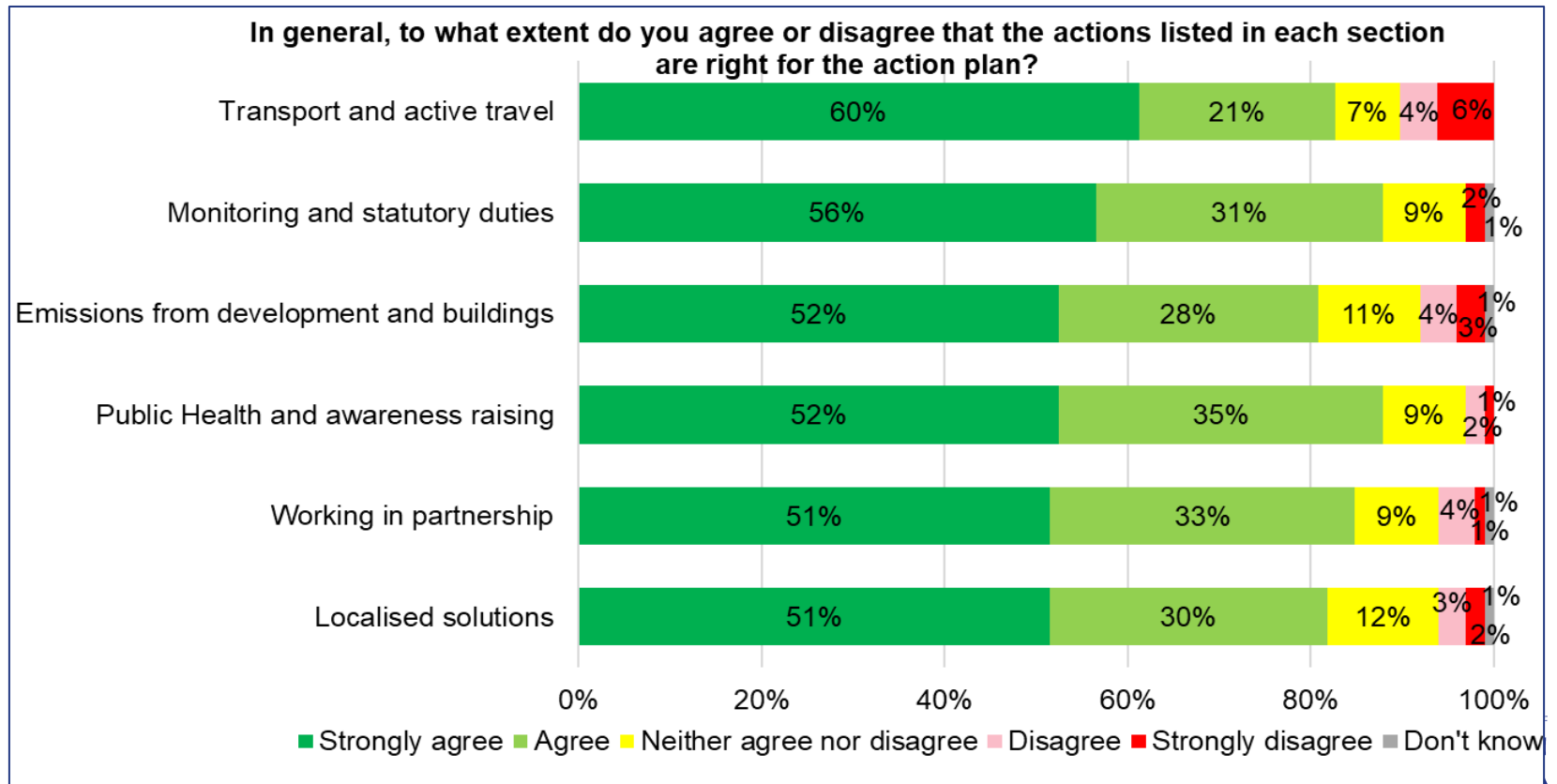


**Base: 100**

# Actions in the Air Quality Action Plan

Participants were asked to indicate to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the actions listed in each section in the summary document are right for the Air Quality Action Plan.

- The majority of respondents were in agreement with the actions laid out in the six sections of the Air Quality Action Plan.
- The section with the highest total level of agreement (87 per cent) was '**Public health and awareness raising**' (52 per cent strongly agree, 35 per cent agree).
- The section with the highest total level of disagreement (10 per cent) was '**Transport and active travel**' (four per cent disagree, six per cent strongly disagree).



**Base: 100**

# Further comments on the actions

Respondents were asked if there were actions they thought were missing, or if they disagreed with any of the actions, to explain why. Comments made have been themed and summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, and the full list of comments made can be found in Appendix 3 of the Key Decision Report.

Theme	Count
Active travel	26
Localised solutions	6
Roads and Traffic Safety	4
Trees and green spaces	3
Low traffic neighbourhoods	3
Air quality	3

*\*Themes shown with 3 or more comments*



# Further comments on the actions

*“The council should, in my opinion, be showing bold and ambitious leadership and supporting LTNs across the borough, or at least engaging properly with residents so that they can understand their benefits (there is a lot of misinformation about LTNs out there)”*

## *Low traffic neighbourhoods*

*“Improve all the most dangerous junctions in the borough to high standards and provide pedestrian signals at all signalised junctions.”*

## *Roads and traffic safety*

*“You need to be much more transparent in your monitoring of air pollution , install many more local monitoring stations , make them available for people to use both inside and outside their house as well and through an app make outdoor results available in reel time , so people can just look on their phone how bad the pollution is ...”*

## *Air quality*

*“Again, please remember those who cannot use public transport, walk or cycle. Has this document been equality impact assessed? If not it should be.”*

## *Accessibility*

*“There was very little consideration of where further trees can be planted - how can we use council building roves, require tree planting in all development, regenerate space along the canal and river, and plant trees near schools and hospitals?”*

## *Trees and green spaces*

*“The localised solutions actually need to happen - and they represent a bare minimum in terms of transforming the borough to a genuine active travel borough.”*

## *Localised solutions*

*“More emphasis on reducing private car reliance. Parking is too cheap, cycle infrastructure is far behind other neighbouring boroughs. There are too many incentives for private car reliance.”*

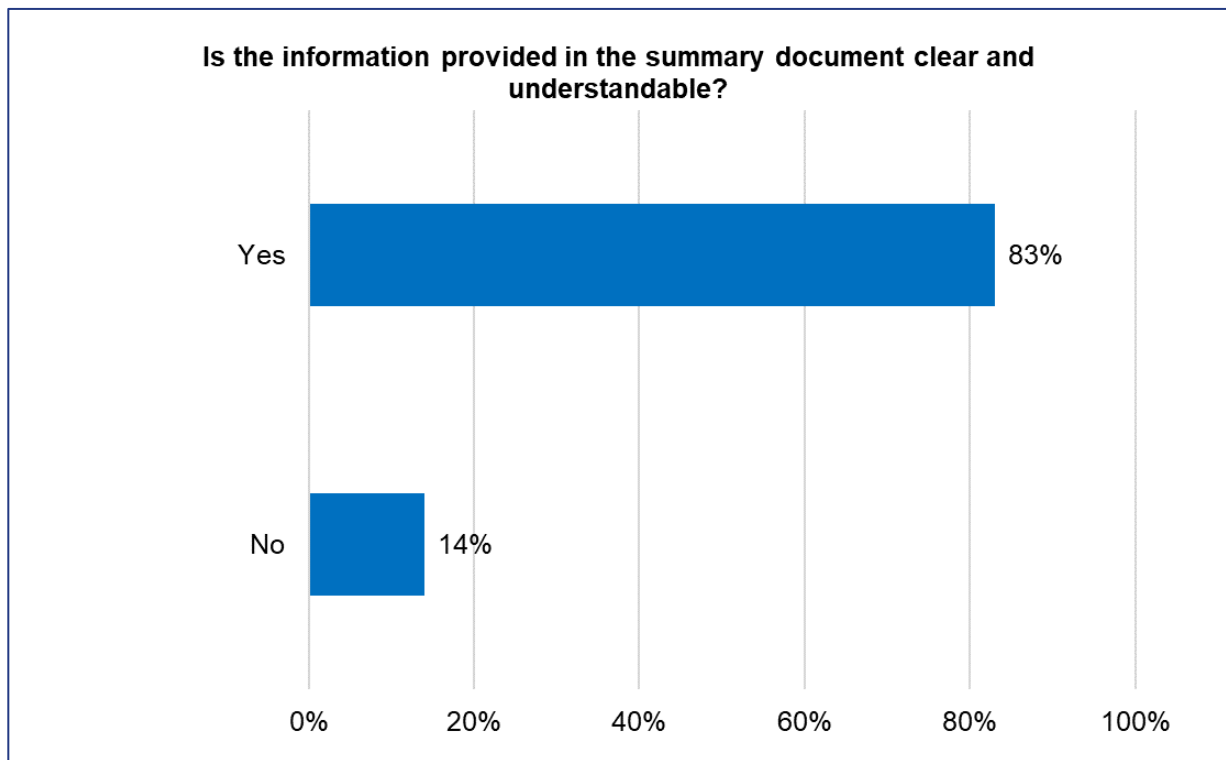
## *Active travel*



# Views on the Air Quality Action Plan summary document

Respondents were asked if the information in the summary document about sources of pollution in the borough and air quality was clear and understandable. Respondents who answered no were asked to specify what was missing and/or not easy to understand, examples of these comments can be seen overleaf.

- The majority of respondents (83 per cent) outlined that the information provided in the summary document **was** clear and understandable.
- A total of 14 per cent of respondents outlined that the information provided in the summary document **was not** clear and understandable.



**Base: 100**



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# Summary document

Respondents were asked if the information in the summary document about sources of pollution in the borough and air quality was clear and understandable. Respondents who answered no were asked to specify what was missing and/or not easy to understand. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen below, and the full list of comments made can be found in Appendix 3 of the Key Decision Report.

Theme	Count
Not understandable/clear	4
Air quality	4
WHO Standards	2
Context and wording of the action plan	2

*\*Themes shown with 2 or more comments*

***“I apologise but I do not find the technical summary at all easy to follow - perhaps if there was a simple graph for each pollutant which showed where we should be, and a curve showing where we are over the course of a year and over different parts of the borough, that might help.”***

***Not understandable/clear***

***“More emphasise of what action individuals are encouraged and expected to take and how they are expected to contribute to cleaner air.”***

***Air quality***

***“It fails to clarify whether the pollution from vehicles results mainly from vehicles passing through the borough on a longer journey or those entering the borough to do business or visit places in the brough or visit friends and family in the borough”***

***Context and wording of the action plan***



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# Final comments on the Air Quality Action Plan

Respondents were asked if they had any final comments about the Air Quality Action Plan. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, and the full list of comments made can be found in Appendix 3 of the Key Decision Report.

Theme	Count
Active travel	18
Air quality	8
Vehicles	5
Consultation materials are vague	3
Speed limits	3
Positive feedback	3

*\*Themes shown with 3 or more comments*



# Final comments on the Air Quality Action Plan

*“Enabling active travel is vital as motor vehicles are a major source of air pollution. Protected main-road cycle lanes and low-traffic neighbourhoods should be introduced to achieve this.”*

*Active travel*

*“Fully support this Action Plan. The emphasis must be on Partnership and Action....the Borough can't do this on its own”*

*Positive feedback*



*“A good consolidation of the areas that need to be focused on - fully supportive a permanent whole Borough 20mph speed limit.”*

*Speed limits*

*“I agree with the general tone of the Plan, though am worried that it is too vague and may not result in concrete and significant improvements in air quality in the borough...”*

*Consultation materials are vague*

*“Tying air pollution to poor health is a powerful motivator for many people to change behaviour. Give the problem a human face in the here and now.”*

*Air quality*

*“Limit the size of cars allowed permits in the borough so that parked cars do not obstruct roads or pavements. This could be phased in over time - starting by charging more for large cars than small cars. This must apply to both electric and combustion engine cars.”*

*Vehicles*



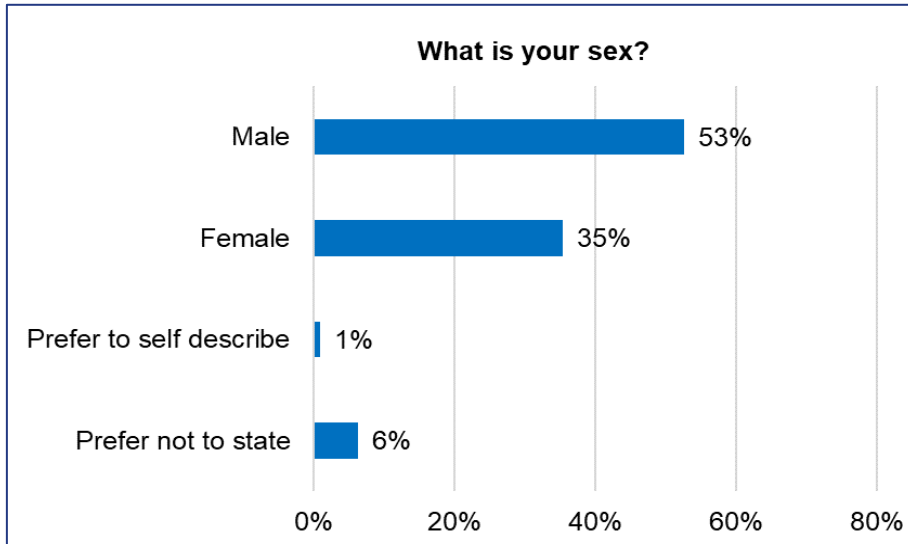
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# Section two:

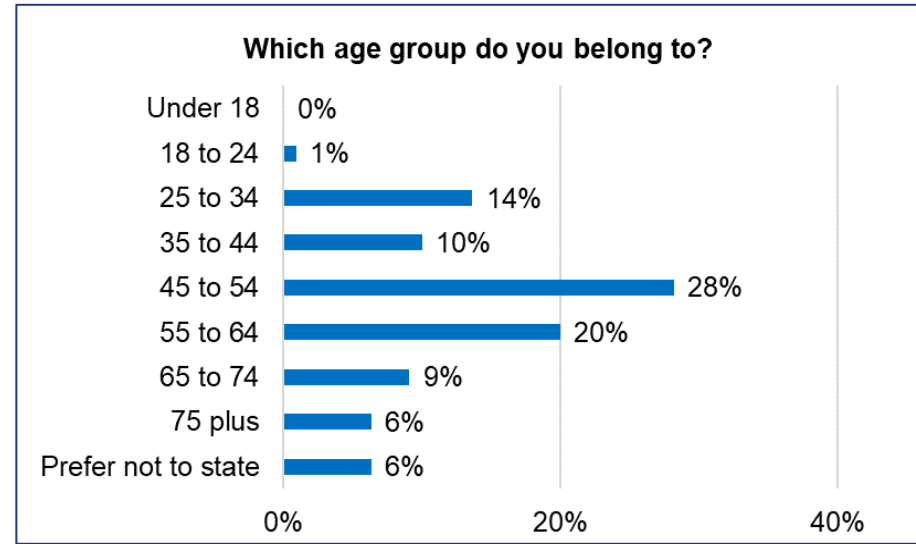
## About You – Demographic Breakdown (All consultation respondents)



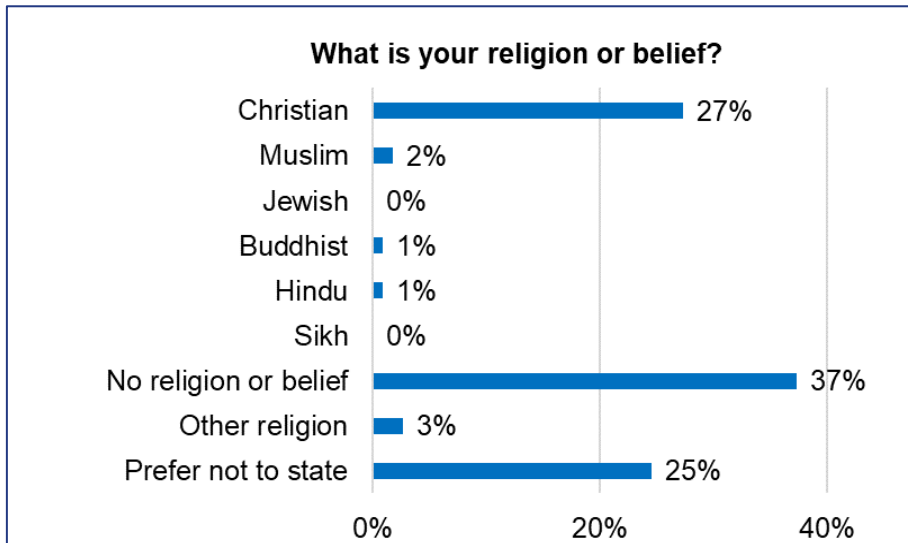
# Demographic questions – Sex, Age, Religion, Long-term health problem



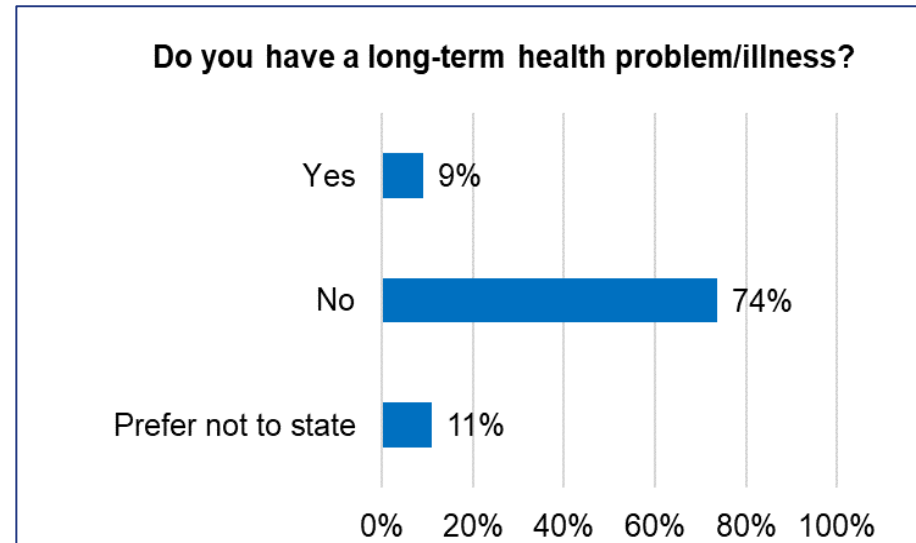
**Base: All responses (110)**



**Base: All responses (110)**

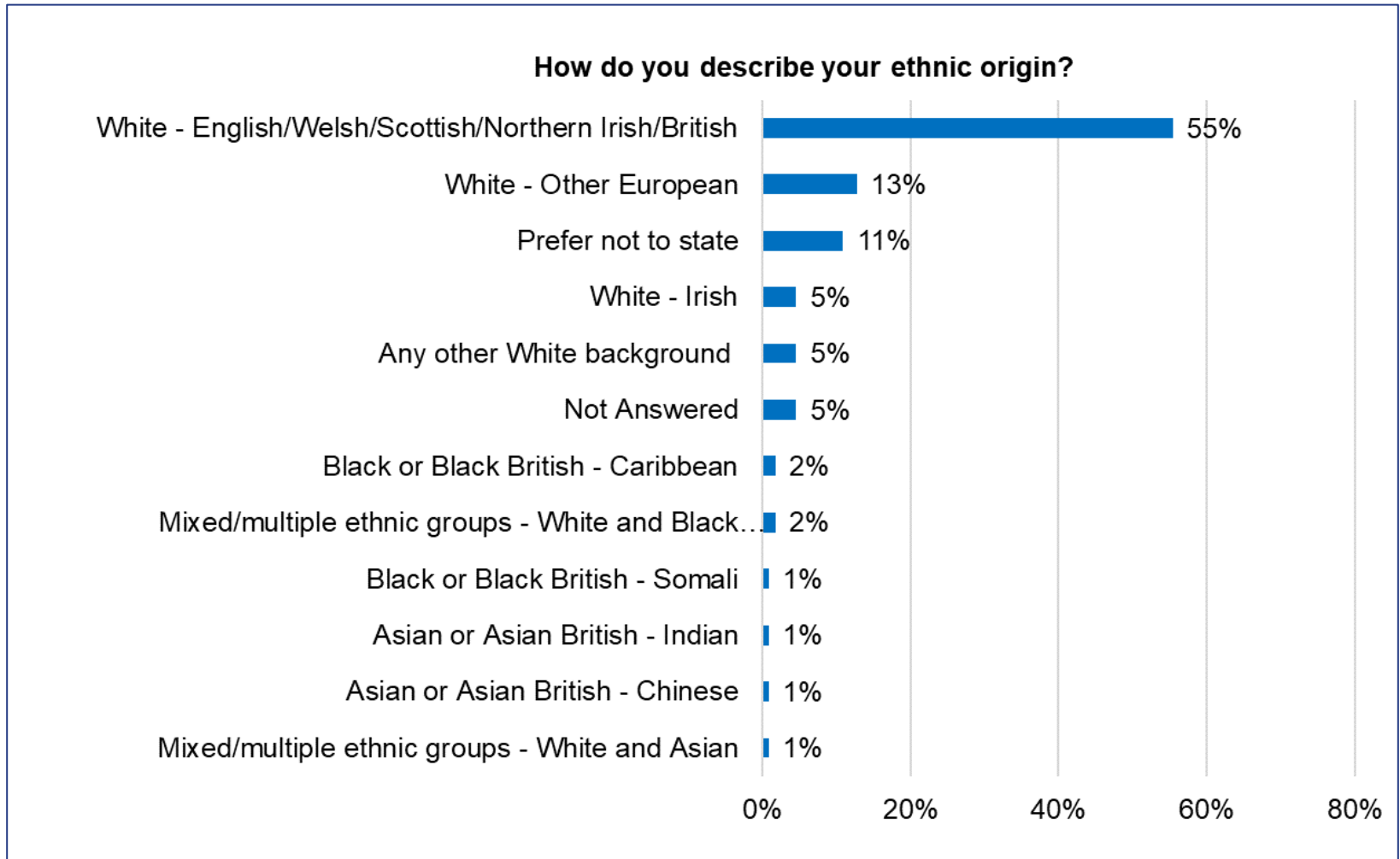


**Base: All responses (110)**



**Base: All responses (110)**

# About respondents – Ethnic Group



**Base: All responses (110)**

