

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Citizen Visioning

1. Purpose of Report

To present the final report of the Broxtowe Citizens' Climate Panel and outline the proposed next steps for integrating its recommendations into Councils Climate Change and Green Futures strategy.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

Broxtowe Borough Council was selected as one of 25 local authorities to participate in the Innovate UK Net Zero Living Fast Followers programme, which provided fully funded support to establish a Citizens' Climate Panel. This initiative aimed to place local voices at the heart of climate decision-making, with a particular focus on flooding, a key issue following the storm events of 2023.

The Council worked in partnership with Involve, Forum for the Future, Ipsos, and Quantum Strategy & Technology Ltd to deliver the project. The only resource requirement from the Council was officer time, with the total value of the project estimated at £80,000.

The Panel met across four in-person sessions in June 2025, engaging 22 residents selected to reflect the demographic makeup of the Borough. The guiding question was:

“What should Broxtowe Borough Council prioritise to tackle flooding in a fair way?”

The final report (**Appendix 1**) contains eight recommendations for what the Council should do and seven recommendations for how the Council should do it. These were shaped through a mix of expert insights, personal experiences, and conversations among participants. The report reflects the voices of residents, offering valuable insight into public perceptions and expectations.

A key theme that emerged during the panel sessions was the misunderstanding among residents regarding the division of responsibilities for flood management. Many participants assumed that Broxtowe Borough Council was the lead authority for flood response, when in fact it is Nottinghamshire County Council. Several recommendations raised by the panel relate to functions that fall outside the Council's jurisdiction, including those led by the Environment Agency and the County Council.

While Broxtowe Borough Council cannot directly deliver all the actions proposed, it can play a vital role in influencing, supporting, and facilitating coordination between key stakeholders. The panel expressed a strong desire for the Council to have greater powers at the local level, particularly in relation to response and preparedness, citing the value of local knowledge and proximity to affected communities.

Next Steps

The following actions are proposed to be undertaken over the next year:

- Share the final report with internal and external stakeholders, including elected members, partner organisations, and community groups.
- Separate the recommendations into those that fall under the Council's direct control and those requiring influence or partnership.
- Incorporate relevant recommendations into the refresh of the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy, scheduled for later in 2025/26. This will include strengthening the adaptation and mitigation sections.
- Provide a six-month update to panel participants via email, outlining progress and actions taken.
- Host a twelve-month in-person event with panel members to share further updates and maintain engagement.

Link to Blue Infrastructure Audit

Members will be aware that the Environment team have recently completed the Blue Infrastructure Audit. The findings of this audit will be presented to Cabinet in the new year.

Given the increasing importance of flood-related work, particularly considering recent incidents, it is proposed that an annual update on blue infrastructure and climate adaptation be brought to members to ensure ongoing oversight and strategic alignment.

The Citizens' Climate Panel has provided a valuable and inclusive foundation for shaping Broxtowe's approach to climate adaptation, particularly in relation to flooding. The next steps outlined in the report will ensure that the insights and recommendations from residents are embedded into the Council's Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and that progress in this critical area continues.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Assistant Director Finance Services were as follows:

The cost of the Citizen Visioning engagement project was fully grant funded at around £80,000. As such, there are no additional financial implications for the Council at this stage. Any significant budget implications that extend from the work of the report in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The report addresses climate change engagement with residents across the Borough which forms a fundamental element of the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and Carbon Management Action Plan. Residents who have taken part in the Citizen Visioning workshops have been invited to join a new network of climate change influencers within the Borough.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.