

APPENDIX 1: Blackburn with Darwen People’s Jury on the Climate Change Crisis

Introduction

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and pledged, in its Climate Emergency Action Plan, to open a dialogue on climate change with partners and residents, beginning with a People’s Jury to help to inform the priorities for the borough as a whole.

In June 2022, following an Invitation to Quote on the Chest, the Council commissioned Shared Future CIC, to establish and facilitate a People’s Jury on climate change in Blackburn with Darwen.

The Blackburn with Darwen Borough Climate Change People’s Jury was established in September 2022 to put citizens at the centre of designing a response to the climate emergency. Thirty two residents from across the Borough were recruited to answer the question ‘*What do we need to do in our homes, in business and our local area to respond to the climate change crisis?*’

People’s Jury

These 32 residents were recruited through the delivery of six thousand letters signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, to randomly selected households across the Borough. The profile of the jury membership reflected the diversity of our population and can be seen as a mini version of the borough. Of the 32 people initially recruited, 27 stayed on board throughout the process, with no fewer than 25 people attending each session.

The People’s Jury met eight times between late September and early December 2022. To help them with their task, the jury received presentations from 19 commentators (similar to expert witnesses), these commentators were from academia, the private sector, third sector and public bodies, they covered the topics listed in the schedule below:

Session	Date & Time	Content
1	Monday 26 th September 6:30pm – 9.00pm	Welcome and setting the scene. Introduction to each other, facilitators and the process.
2	Saturday 8 th October 10.00am – 4.00pm	Commentators: What is climate change and what are its impacts at a local/regional/global level? Digging deeper: what are the root causes?
3	Monday 10 th October 6:30pm – 9.00pm	How does change happen? Which themes would you like to look at in more depth in the next sessions (4-6)?
4	Monday 31 st October 6:30pm – 9.00pm	Themed session: Communication & Education
5	Monday 7 th November 6:30pm – 9.00pm	Themed session: Transport
6	Monday 14 th November 6:30pm – 9.00pm	Themed session: Housing & Building
7	Saturday 18 th November 10.00am – 4.00pm	Writing of Jury Members draft recommendations

8	Monday 5 th December 6:30pm – 9.00pm	Discussing concerns in small groups to improve recommendations. Finalising recommendations for voting after the session.
Voting on recommendations		

The format was the same at each session. After the presentations the speakers were asked to leave the room whilst the Jury broke into groups with a facilitator to talk with each other about their learning and to think about any questions they would like to ask. The speakers returned to the room for a question and answer session lasting around 30 minutes. There was more detailed group discussion after the speakers had left the session. The jury members had the opportunity to deliberate, challenge each other and ultimately reach a set of recommendations on how Blackburn with Darwen Borough can best address the climate emergency.

The process was led by a team of independent facilitators with extensive experience in People's Jury facilitation from the social enterprise Shared Future CIC.

Oversight panel

In order to ensure the process was robust, fair and unbiased, an Oversight Panel was formed to agree the recruitment methodology, the overarching question and the identity of the commentators. This panel met parallel to the jury and was made up of 21 members from the public, private and third sectors. Representatives of the Council were Councillor Zainab Rawat, Councillor Katrina Fielding, Abdul Razaq, Director of Public Health and Martin Eden, Strategic Director of Environment & Operations, who chaired Panel meetings.

The Jury's Recommendations

Using the information it had received over the preceding weeks, the Jury spent its penultimate session formulating its recommendations on its key themes of:

- Communication & Education
- Transport
- Housing & Building

The draft recommendations were submitted to the Oversight Panel, which was given the opportunity to provide feedback in terms of what jury members might want to consider when finalising these recommendations, for example, was the proposal already underway or out of the control of any of the stakeholders. The Jury could choose whether to take account of the feedback or not.

At its last session, the Jury discussed the feedback and finalised their recommendations. These recommendations are not only for the Council, there are also asks of other public sector bodies and organisations and companies in the private sector and third sector.

The Jury has made clear what the priorities for Blackburn with Darwen should be from the residents' perspective. Their recommendations will inform the next iteration of the Climate Emergency Action Plan for Blackburn with Darwen.

The Report of the Jury

The whole of the Jury process and the outcomes were written up as a report by Shared Future. The report and recommendations are to be launched on Monday 23rd January 2023 at an event in King George's Hall for elected members, officers of the Council and stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors.

Jury members will present the recommendations and tell the story of why they got involved and what they have gained from the experience. The recommendations will only be made public at the launch, which is why they are not detailed in this report. The report and recommendations will be emailed to all Elected Members of the Council on 24th January 2023

Members of the Oversight Panel will continue to meet twice-yearly to review progress, in liaison with members of the Jury, many of whom are keen to work with the Council and others on the climate emergency.

At the outset of this process, the Council Leader committed to presenting the recommendations to this Council Forum. It is proposed that the People's Jury recommendations inform the Council's Climate emergency action plan for 2023/2024.

Each stakeholder organisation on the Oversight Panel has also agreed to take the recommendations to a governance and/or decision making body and to take action to help deliver on the recommendations.