

Oxfordshire County Council
Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy
2023-2043

Introduction

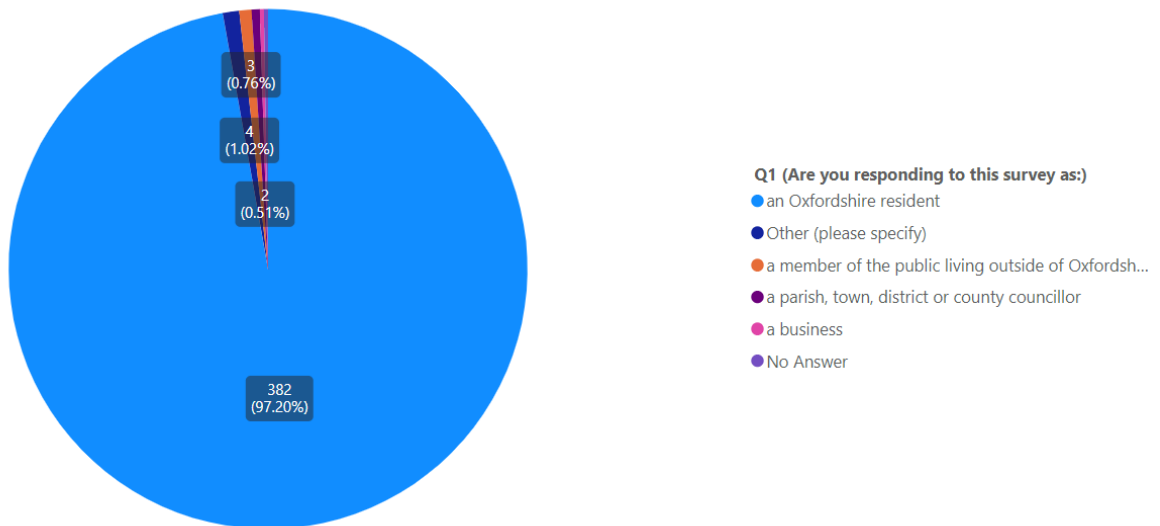
Oxfordshire County Council has seven Household Waste Recycling Centres ([HWRCs](#)). These centres are very popular, with around one million visits every year. They take in 40,000-45,000 tonnes of waste, and 65.5% of this waste is recycled. The HWRCs are an important part of the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership's plan to reduce waste, increase recycling, and decrease the amount of waste that goes into landfills. The HWRCs accept a wide range of materials, which helps to increase recycling. Additionally, the HWRCs provide green jobs and help to support the circular economy. The council's HWRC strategy is in line with its plans to address climate change, tackle inequalities, and promote sustainable waste management practices. Finally, the council is careful to consider budgetary constraints when developing its HWRC strategy

About the strategy

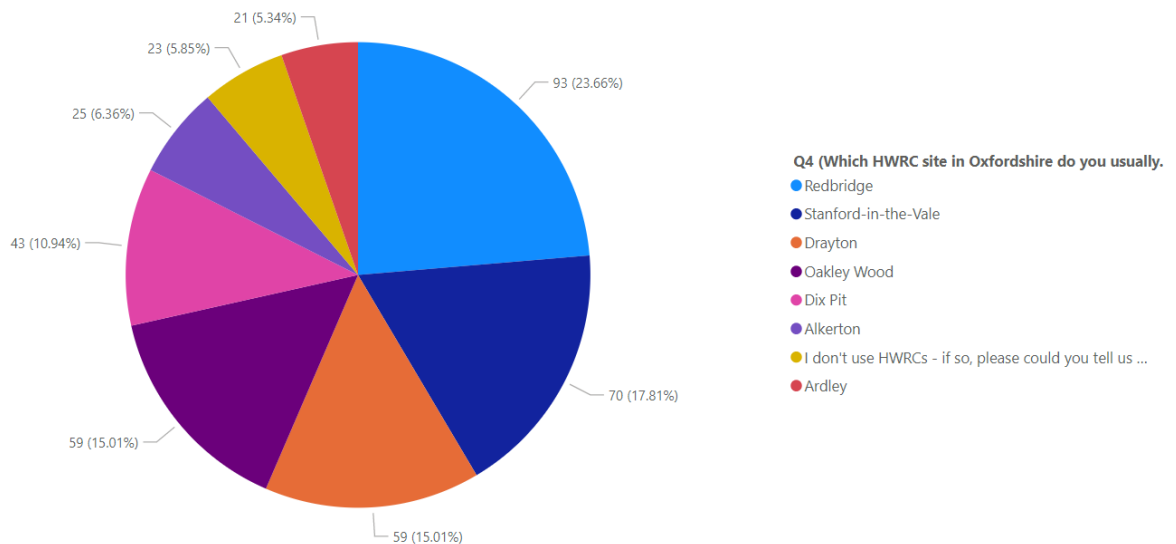
We have developed a plan called the HWRC Strategy that will help us better manage our waste for the next 20 years. Our goal is to fix and reuse more of the things we throw away and follows the idea of the circular economy. We will also review our waste centres to make sure they can work with any new laws and can adapt to the growing population of Oxfordshire. We want to give people places where they can give things to be used again, recycle things easily and safely, and throw things away in the right way.

This new strategy replaces the 2015 strategy to close waste sites and create 3 or 4 super sites. That plan wasn't possible because pieces of land which were large enough weren't available and we know from previous consultations that residents want local facilities to dispose of waste. This new strategy is intended to be a general guide for decision-making and doesn't include detailed actions. It will be checked every 5 years to make sure it is still fit for purpose and will be accompanied by a plan to put it into action.

Q1. Are you responding to this survey as:



Q2. Which HWRC site in Oxfordshire do you usually use?



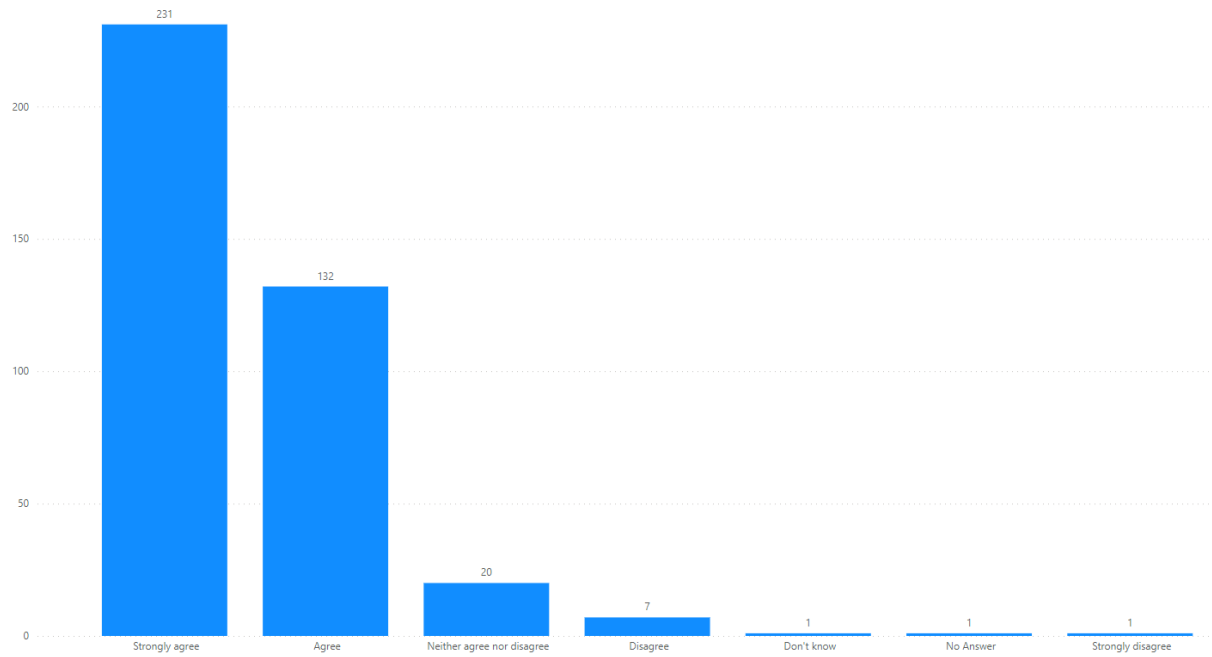
If you don't use HWRCs could you please tell us why?

<p>Not a confident driver/does not have a car Does not live in Oxfordshire Too far away Don't need to – comprehensive collection services Sites are not easy to use</p>

To provide the standard of service required by legislative and societal changes and to tackle climate change, it is necessary for us to address our current network of household waste recycling centres which are outdated, too small, and need significant investment. In addition, we own less than 50% of the sites and leases and planning permissions are short term meaning long term security of these sites need to be addressed.

Our goal for this strategy is to maintain, enhance, improve and expand our HWRC infrastructure and service to meet the future needs of our residents and the waste management services we provide. We want to continue our high rate of recycling, reduce our impact on the environment, and support the idea of a circular economy by encouraging repair, upcycling, and reuse over the next 20 years whilst being mindful of Local Government budgetary constraints.

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this goal?

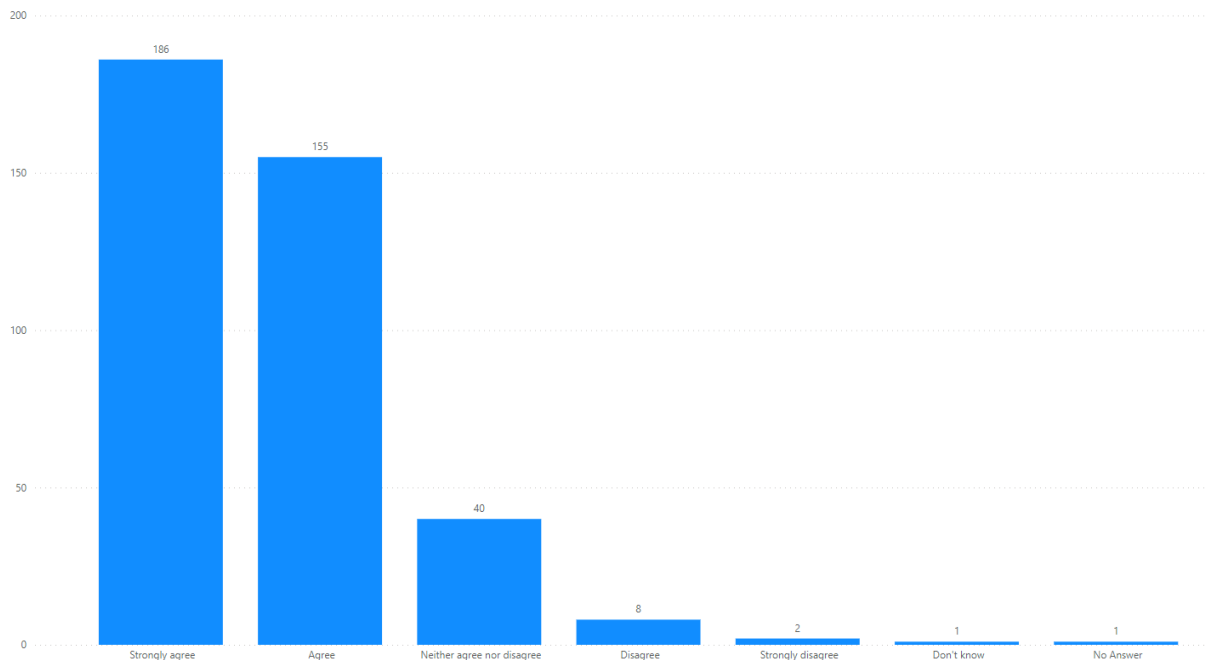


The HRWC strategy has several key factors:

- a. We don't own all of our sites and lease and planning permission expiry are a high risk to service delivery. We want a strategy that enables us to make long term investment decisions regarding sites, maintain infrastructure and invest in a better service for residents
- b. Current sites were developed around old landfill sites, they do not meet modern standards and are too small to meet the demands of a modern HWRC service.
- c. The population of the county is growing, which means more waste and more people using our HWRC service. We need to ensure that we have planned for the growth and ensure that the right sized sites are located in the right places.
- d. Legislation is changing and the type, amount and nature of the waste that is brought to a HWRC will change with it. We need to ensure our sites and service are flexible enough to adapt to this

- e. We want to increase the amount of material repaired and reused and need to ensure that the HWRC sites can play an active part in delivering this.
- f. HWRC's can help us achieve our climate goals. By maximising reuse and recycling we reduce the need for carbon intensive new materials to be manufactured.
- g. Currently, the management of our HWRCs is contracted out to an external service provider. To ensure that we have a solid plan for the future, we will create an updated HWRC strategy that is in keeping with our broader countywide joint strategy. This will help guide how we agree future contracts and deliver services.
- h. To provide a structure which enables us to seek funding from a variety of sources, including from developers where new housing is planned.

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these factors? Strongly agree / agree / neutral / disagree / strongly disagree / don't know



Q5 – do you have any other factors to add?

26 comments about the need to consider travel distances – keeping them as small as possible to encourage people to use sites

22 comments supporting/requesting that reuse becomes more prominent on sites, potentially linked to the third sector

19 comments about the fact that HWRC use requires car ownership. This impacts those who do not or cannot drive, as well as those choosing to use the car less for climate reasons. Comments about how this potentially contradicts current policy to reduce car usage.

14 comments about DIY charging/charging for entry to site being a barrier to prevent usage

6 comments requesting us not to close sites

Other comments linked to: the need to stop production of materials that are not recyclable by retailers/manufacturers; the need to change our behaviours and throw less away, the need to ensure that we link with districts to ensure services are complimentary, and the potential to change contract models and bring services in house.

Our primary aims are:

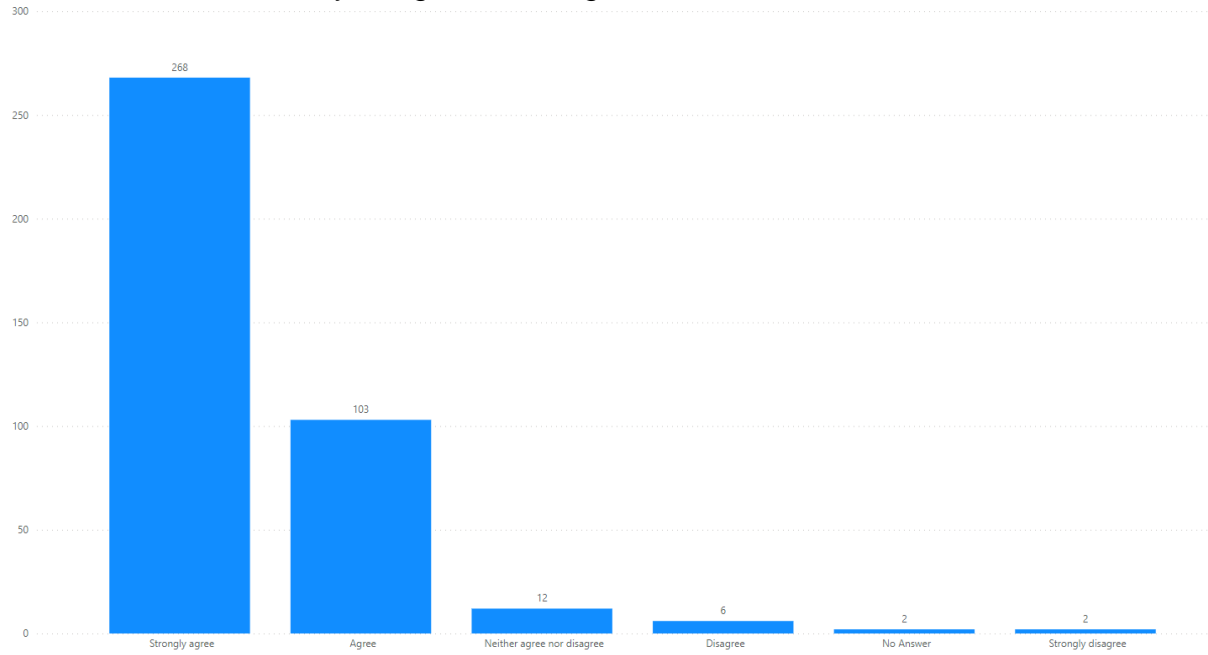
To provide a high-quality, accessible HWRC service to encourage residents to dispose of their waste correctly.

The sites need to be:

- Easy to find, with clear and accessible layouts
- Have enough space for manoeuvring vehicles and depositing materials into the correct containers
- HWRCs are places where people can take large or heavy items that are difficult to dispose of through regular kerbside collection services, providing an affordable way for people to get rid of small-scale DIY home improvement projects

The sites must comply with all relevant legislation and be safe for both visitors and workers.

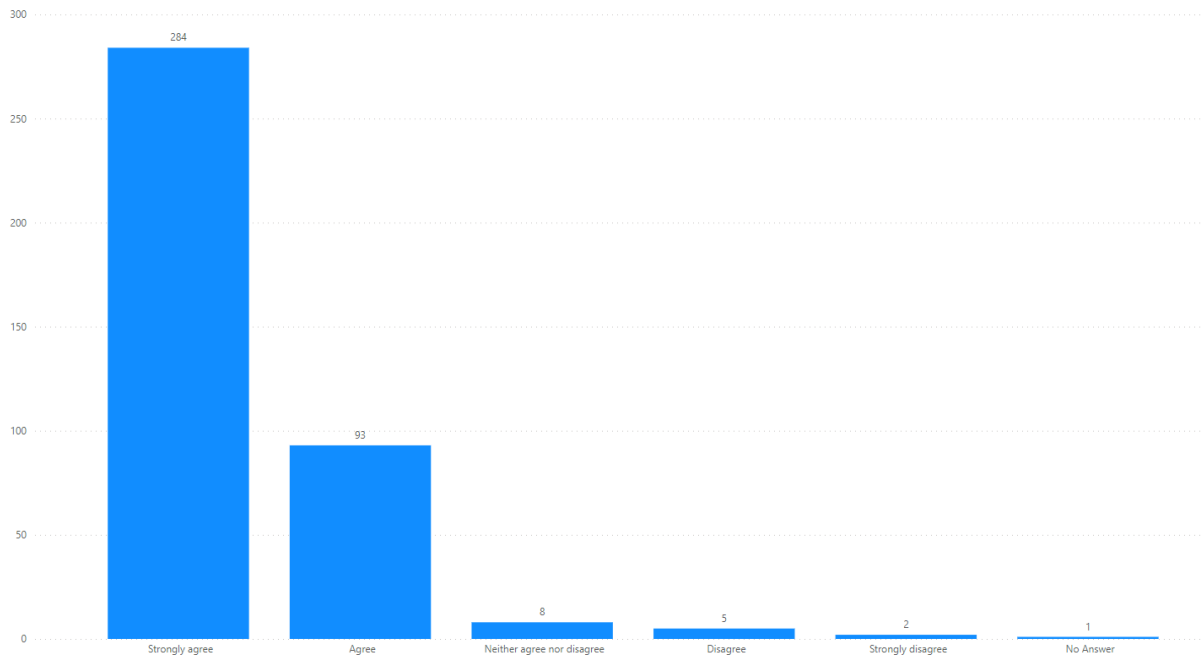
Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this aim?



Develop and promote in-county reuse and repair of household materials taken to HWRCs:

We currently live in a 'linear' economy, where we take, make and then dispose of items. To transition to a 'circular' economy, where goods are designed to be kept in use for as long as possible and to be easy to reuse and repair then recycle at the end of their life, we should focus more on reusing and repairing items. This will reduce the need to buy new, which will lower carbon emissions from extracting, manufacturing, and transporting new goods. The council also wants to investigate setting up more reuse and repair shops both on-site and off-site within the county. This will make it easier for people on lower incomes or those trying to save money and resources to reuse smaller and less valuable items.

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this aim?



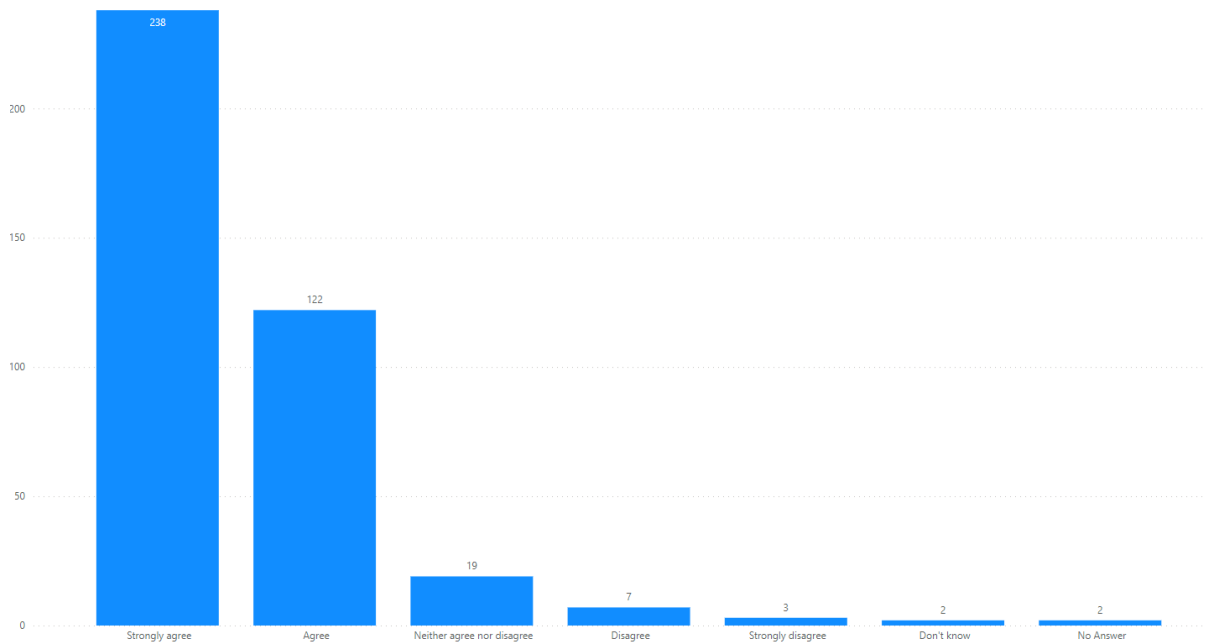
Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and energy recovery:

The 'waste hierarchy' prioritises reducing, reusing, repairing, recycling, recovering, and disposing of waste. We want to run HWRCs in a way that reduces the amount of waste going to landfill and energy recovery. This means improving waste sorting on site, increasing recycling, and finding more ways to recycle materials.

Manufacturers are looking to accept more of their products back directly so they can reuse or recycle them to create new products. We support this change, but it may mean that HWRCs will change their services. The materials accepted may alter, and infrastructure needs to be flexible.

HWRCs may become a collection or return point for retailers to maximise take-back schemes. To do this, they need clean and dry areas to accept and store different materials.

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this aim?



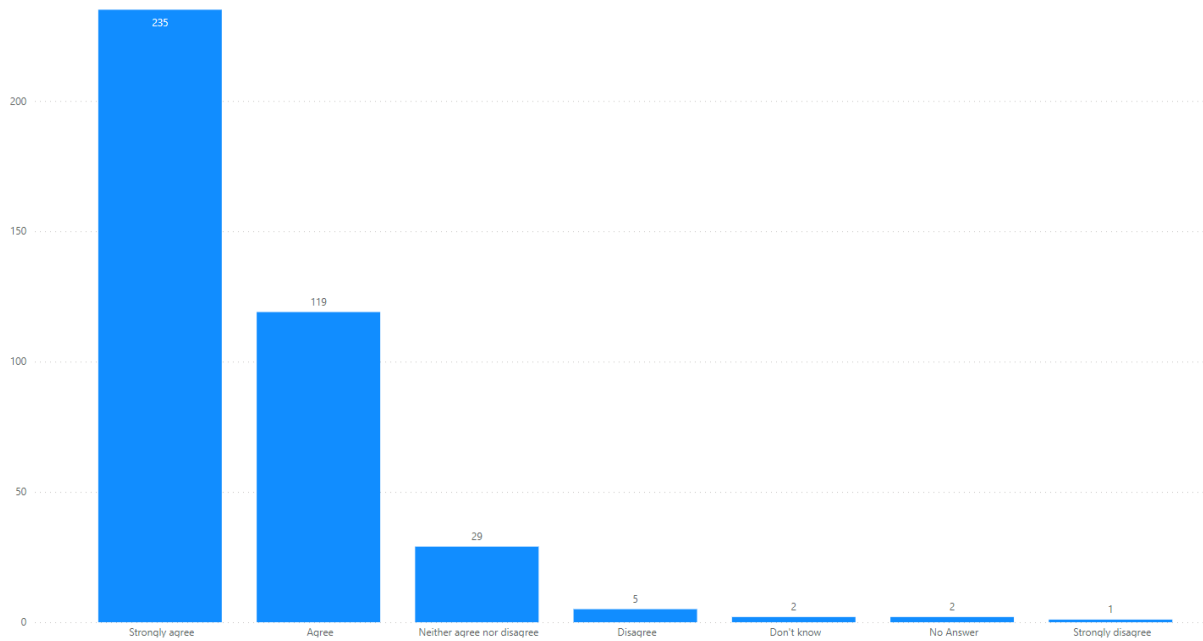
Reduce Carbon emissions by seeking to manage waste as close to source as possible:

A recent study¹ found that using kerbside recycling is better for the environment than bringing items like paper, card, plastic bottles and glass to an HWRC for recycling as it reduces transport emissions. However, HWRCs will still accept these materials to make it more convenient for people.

We should also consider the environmental impact of transporting recyclables for processing, especially when goods are made overseas, which leads to high carbon emissions. To reduce this impact, we should use UK based re-processors and infrastructure like transfer stations for bulk transportation. We could have these facilities on an HWRC site or at a separate location.

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this aim?

¹ OCC commissioned study: Examining the carbon impacts of HWRCs and kerbside collections. Ricardo 2021 (internal report)



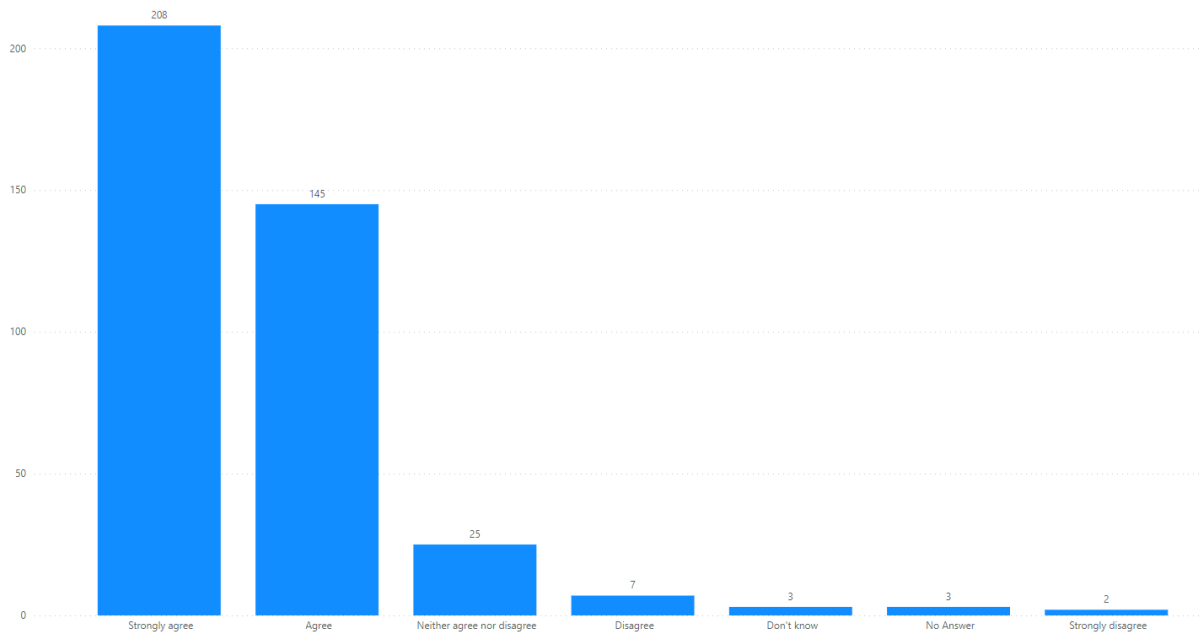
In order to achieve these aims we will:

Secure, maintain and where feasible enhance, our current HWRC network:

We wish to keep at least 7 HWRC sites for residents, but some sites may need to be moved or expanded as they reach the end of their planning permission or lease arrangements. If this happens, we will look for new locations and make the sites larger if necessary, to account for population growth and space needs. We will aim to develop existing HWRCs for reuse and repair and to collect and sort more materials for recycling and waste management.

If funding is available, we may add more sites based on population growth and access to other Oxfordshire HWRCs. The goal is to make sure all HWRCs meet local and national needs and priorities for the future.

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this action?



We will continually look for new ways to innovate and deliver flexible, cost effective, customer focussed HWRC services. We will regularly review and benchmark against best practice elsewhere to maximise recycling, support the transition to a Circular Economy and lower carbon to tackle the climate emergency. All whilst recognising the ever-increasing financial restraints on local authorities and competition with other critically important council services.

Q11. We welcome any ideas or suggestions from residents on how this could be achieved, bearing in mind the well documented financial challenges faced by Local authorities. Please include your thoughts below:

29 respondents commented on the benefits, including financial that reuse could bring

24 people commented on changes that could be made to kerbside collections, including Bulky waste collections and charges.

Again, respondents commented on how the HWRC strategy linked up with OCCs move to reduce car usage and ownership

Other ideas included: the use of compactors, ensuring we have good reverse logistics, keeping an eye on innovations in the sector, selling compost produced from green waste and the need to educate people to reduce waste and recycle more.

We aspire to keep materials undercover by building sheltered bays and drop off donation points. This will reduce contamination and damage from bad weather,

and maximise the reuse and recycling potential of the materials and goods we accept.

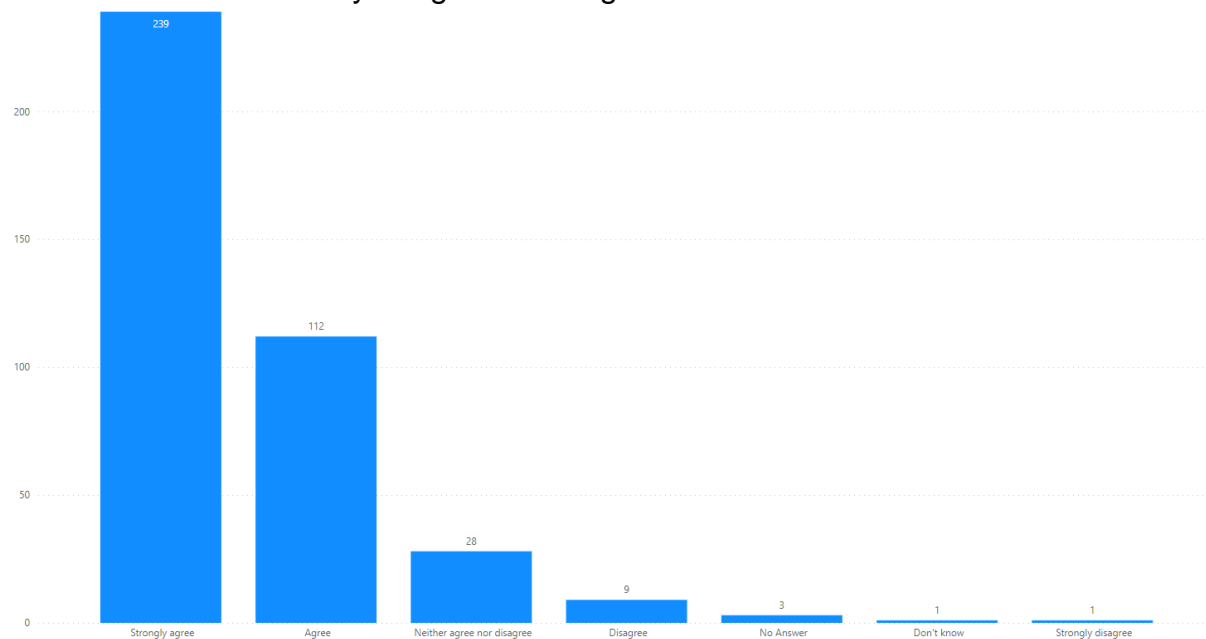
Wet weather can damage materials sent for recycling, leading to higher costs and more rejections. To avoid this, we can provide covered drop-off areas and sheltered skips to keep materials dry, increase recycling, and make the sites more user-friendly.

A covered drop-off area for reusable materials can also support circular economy activities like repair and upcycling, and potentially generate income from resale.

We'll also look into adding environmental improvements like solar and green roofs.

Overall, making HWRCs more weather-resistant and user-friendly will increase their capacity, reduce wait times, and provide a better experience for visitors.

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this?



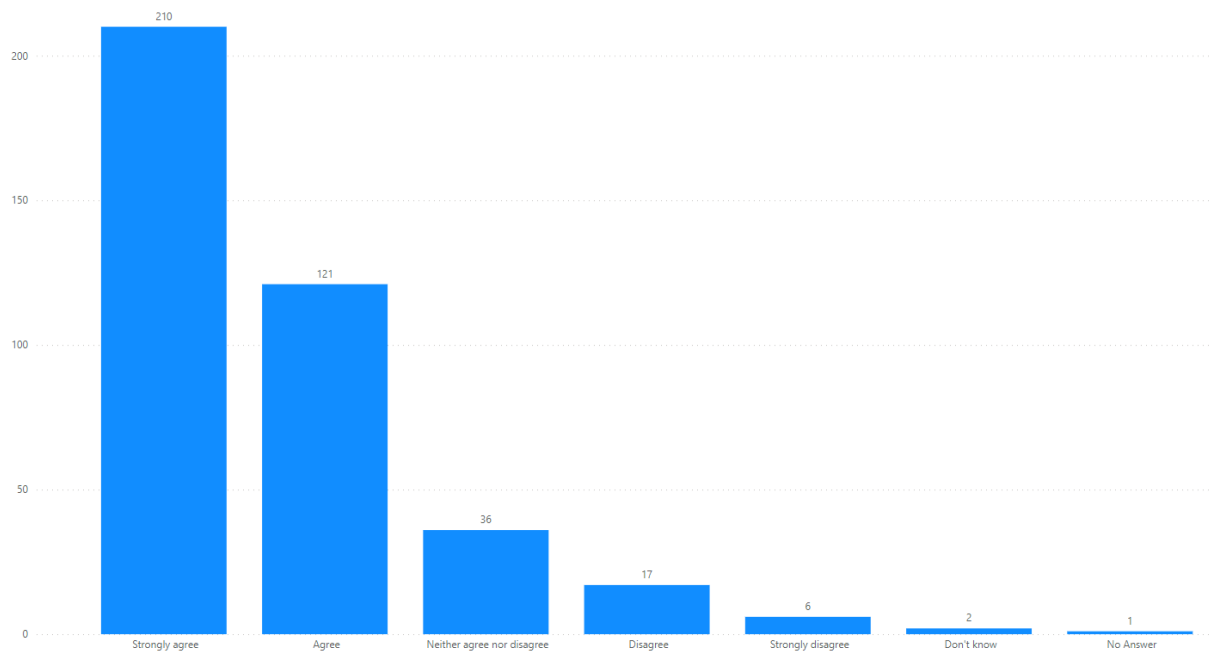
If replacement or new sites are needed, we will locate these as close as possible to centres of population to limit drive times for residents:

New HWRCs will be located near population centres, with consideration for pedestrian access and public transport routes. The aim is to locate facilities in the same place to make them more efficient, and work with partners and stakeholders when possible.

This will also help reduce carbon emissions from transporting items to an HWRC.

We plan to own the land, machinery and containers to keep site management fees low. Since Oxfordshire is a rural county, residents are likely to need to travel to an HWRC. However, bikes and bike trailers are allowed at all sites, and safe pedestrian access at new sites will be considered.

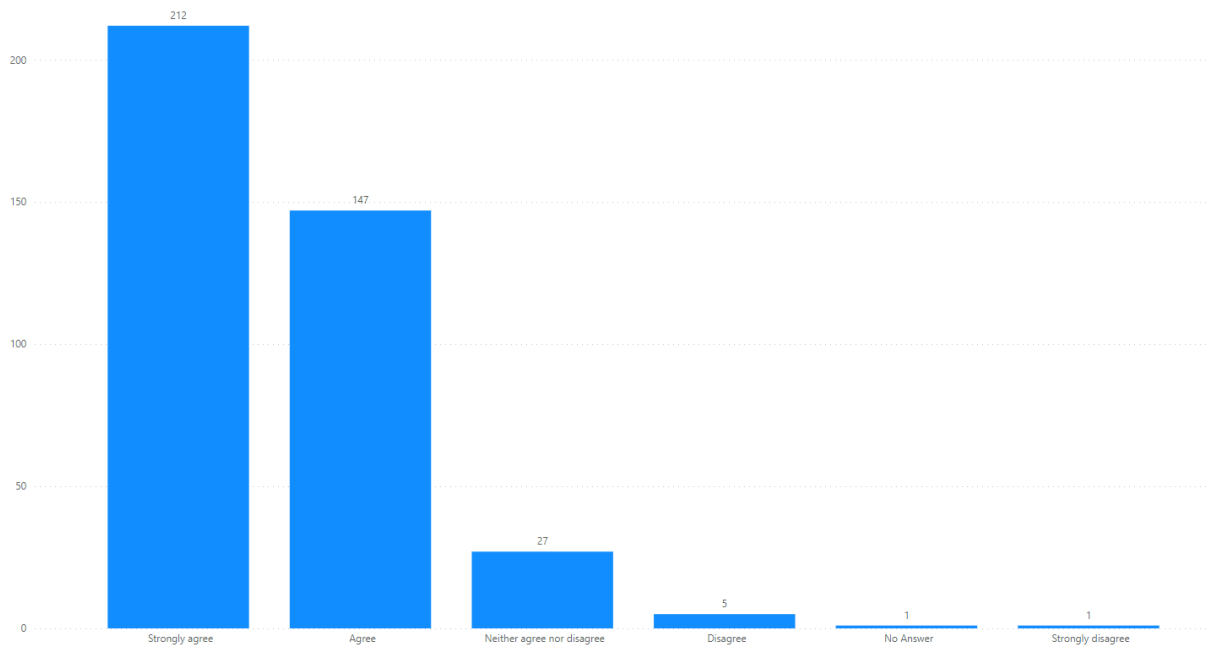
Q13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this aim?



We will aim to schedule improvements to HWRCs sympathetically to reduce the impact on local residents:

We are aware that the closure of an HWRC for improvement works will affect residents, either requiring them to drive further to other HWRCs, or to store waste for longer in their homes until the HWRC reopens. We will ensure that no two neighbouring HWRCs are shut for improvement works at the same time, retaining an accessible service for residents who need immediate access to our service.

Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this aim?



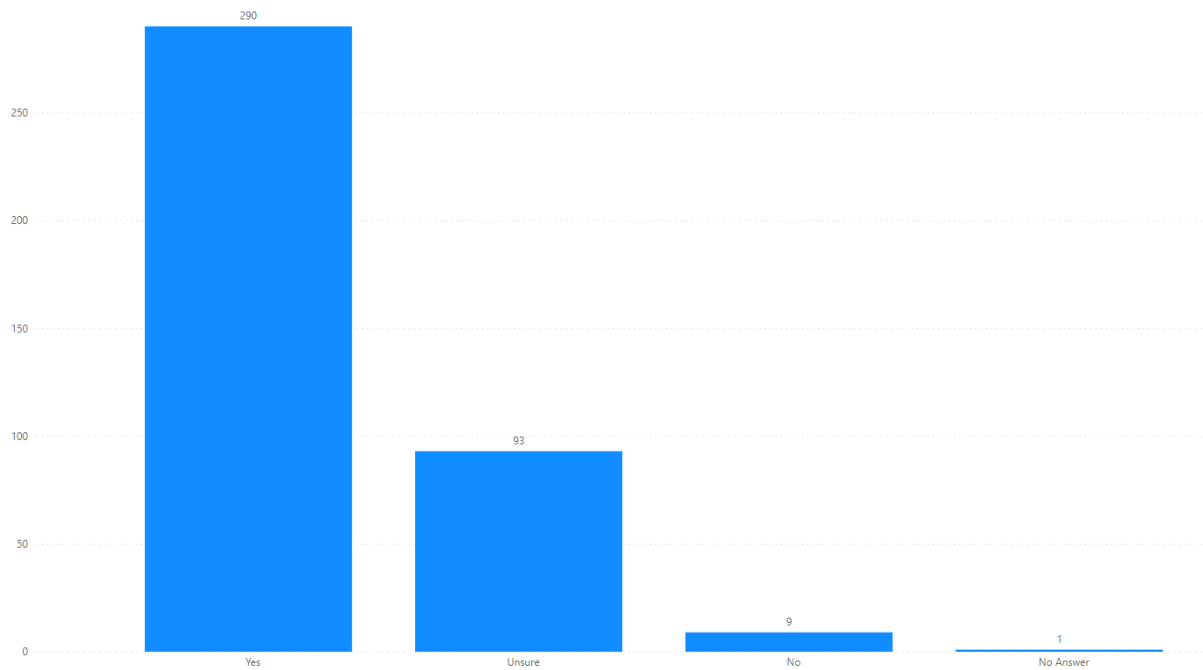
Implementation

An implementation plan for the strategy will be developed and regularly reviewed. It will take various factors into account including land ownership, lease length, planning permission and population growth, and well as available budget.

Broadly the order of works would be:

- Continue to carry out essential maintenance works at all sites
- Secure lease and planning permission extensions at relevant sites
 - If not possible, begin site replacement process
- Investigate the possibility of improving and expanding capacity at sites to increase the amount reused, repaired and recycled – beginning with the sites under most pressure
- Consider the location of any additional sites(s)
- Seek to ensure this plan is a good fit with other main Council strategies and objectives and those of our partners, through our joint waste strategy

Q15. Overall do you believe the strategy will help us fulfil our vision and meet our targets?



Q16. Are there any other comments you wish to make? *Free text box*

Comments around the lack of detail presented in the implementation plan

Comments around the drive to reduce cars and the fact that HWRCs require car usage. Links to kerbside collection systems, including request for them to collect more materials and for cheaper bulky services

Requests to 'change the system'; more recyclable material, less excessive packaging etc

Reuse on site is very popular and people would like to see it introduced as soon as possible.

The need for sites to be staffed by friendly, helpful operatives is clear.

Suggestions for locations for new sites have been provided

Responses received via email from stakeholders and partners

4 Recieved

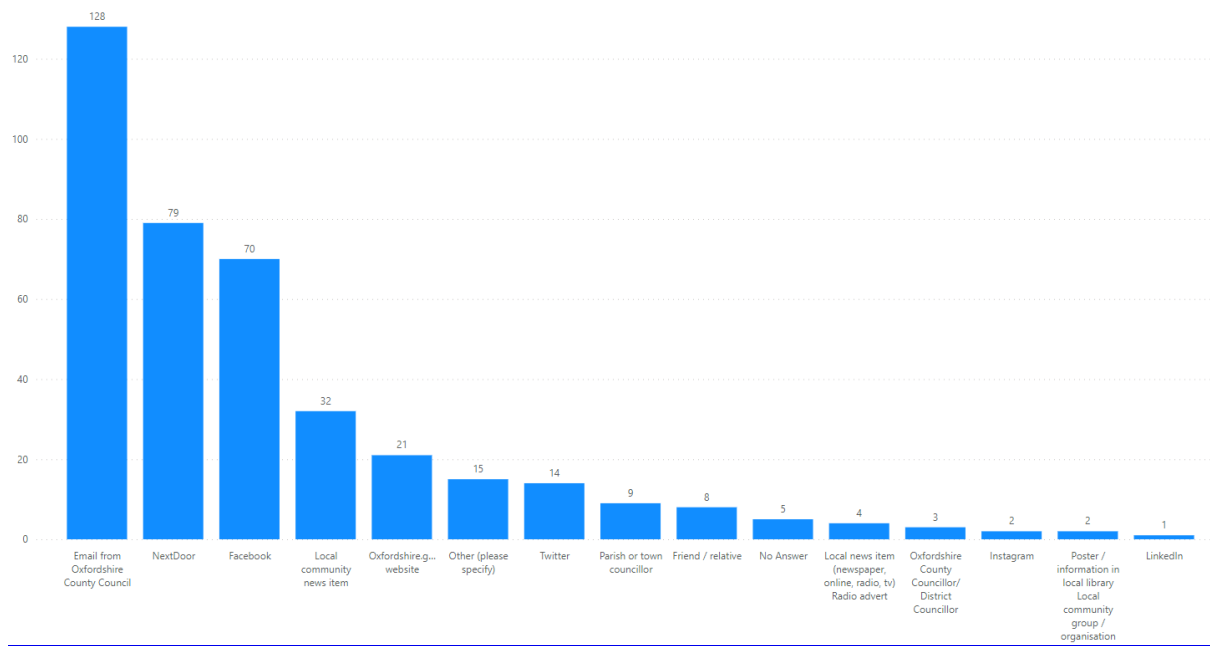
About You

We would like to know more about you so that we can understand more about our customers and residents, as it helps us to know if we are hearing the views of a wide range of people and communities.

If you do not wish to provide any of this information, please select prefer not to say. All information given is anonymous and is governed by the [General Data Protection](#)

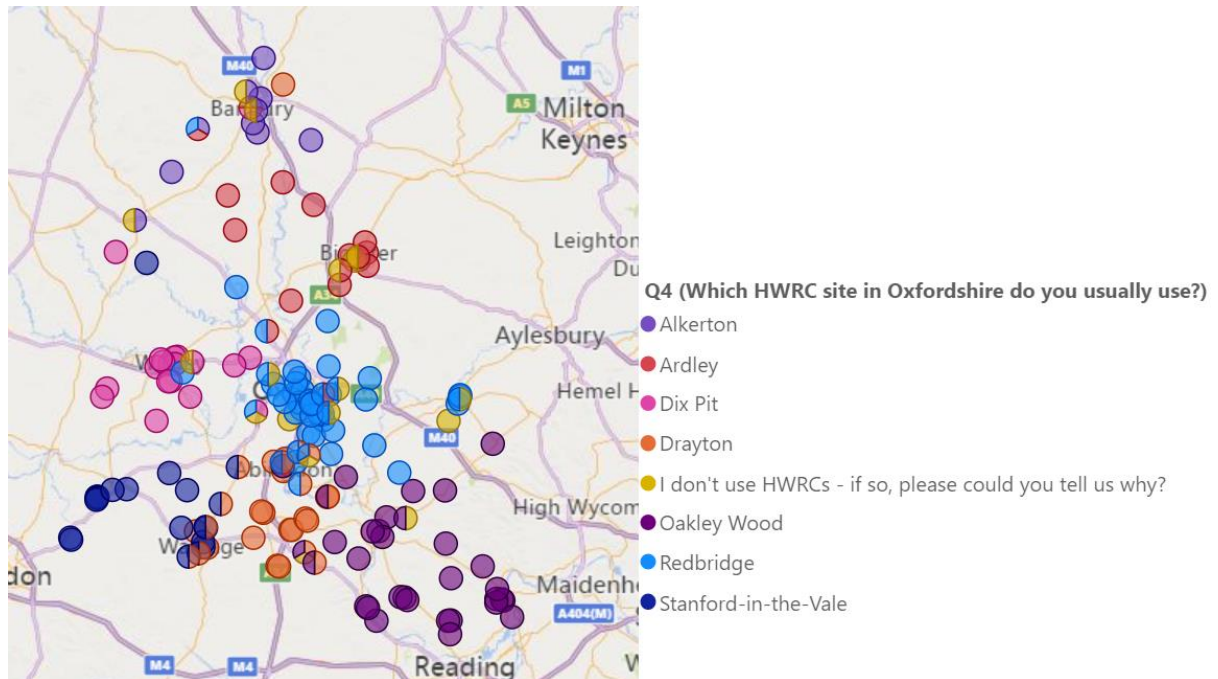
Regulations 2018.

Q17 How did you find out about this consultation?

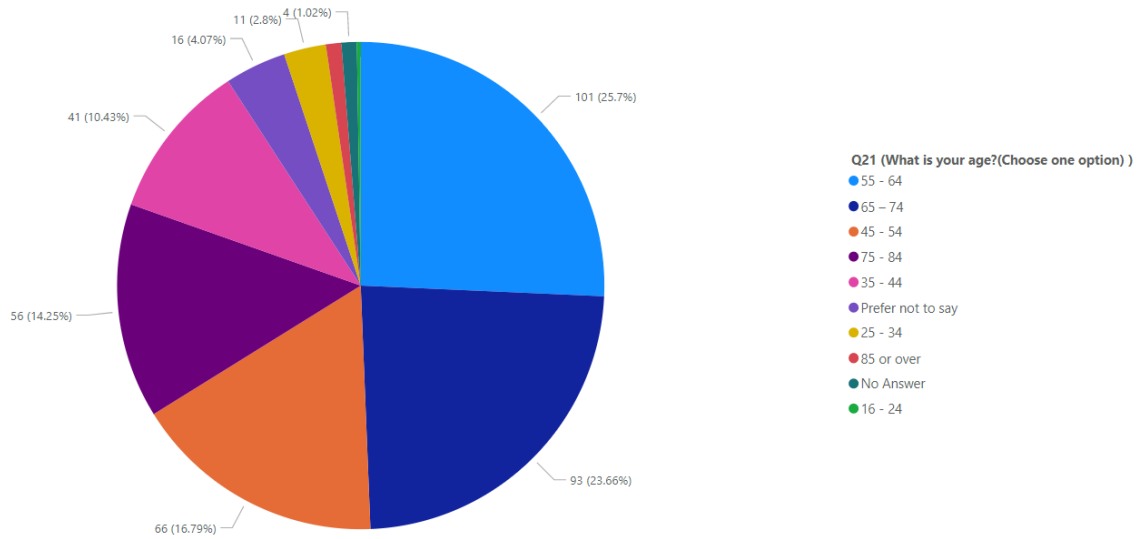


Q18 What is your postcode?
Please provide the first four or five digits of your postcode (but not the letters at the end). e.g. OX1 1 or OX14 5.

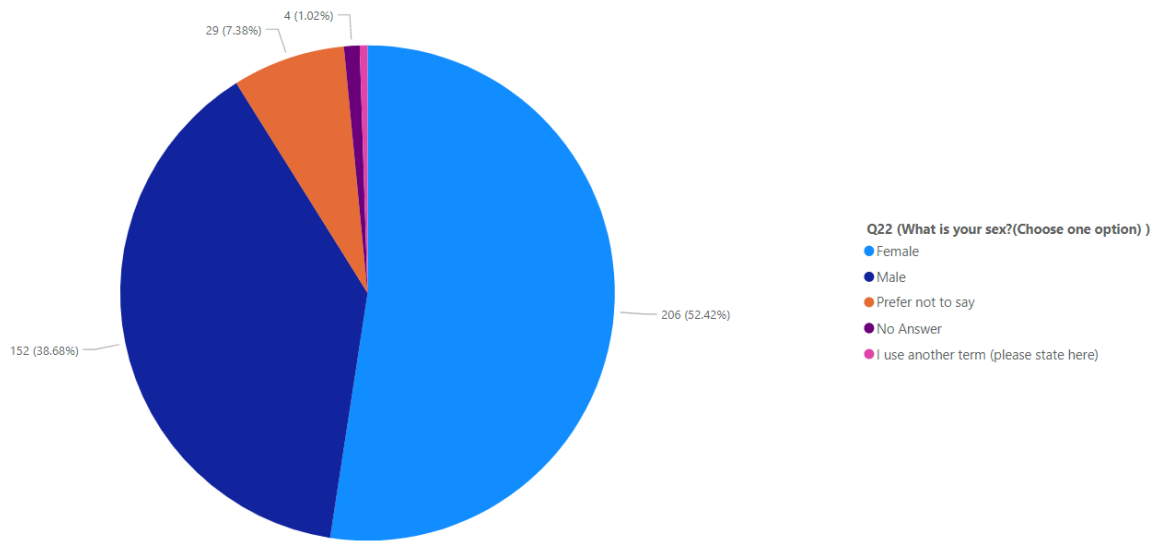
What is your postcode cross analysed with Which HWRC do you use.



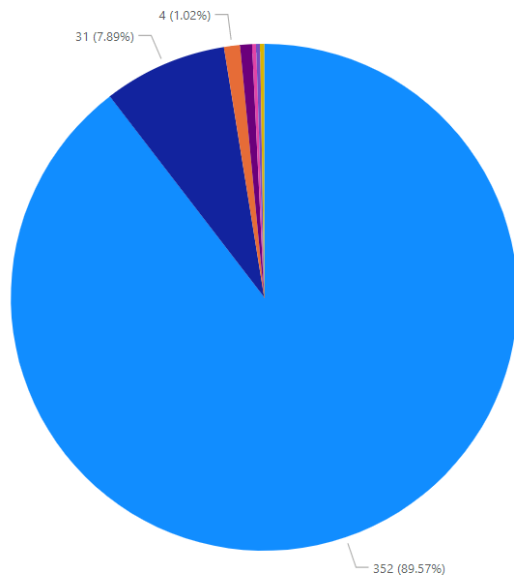
Q19 What is your age?
(Choose one option) *



Q20 What is your sex?
(Choose one option) *

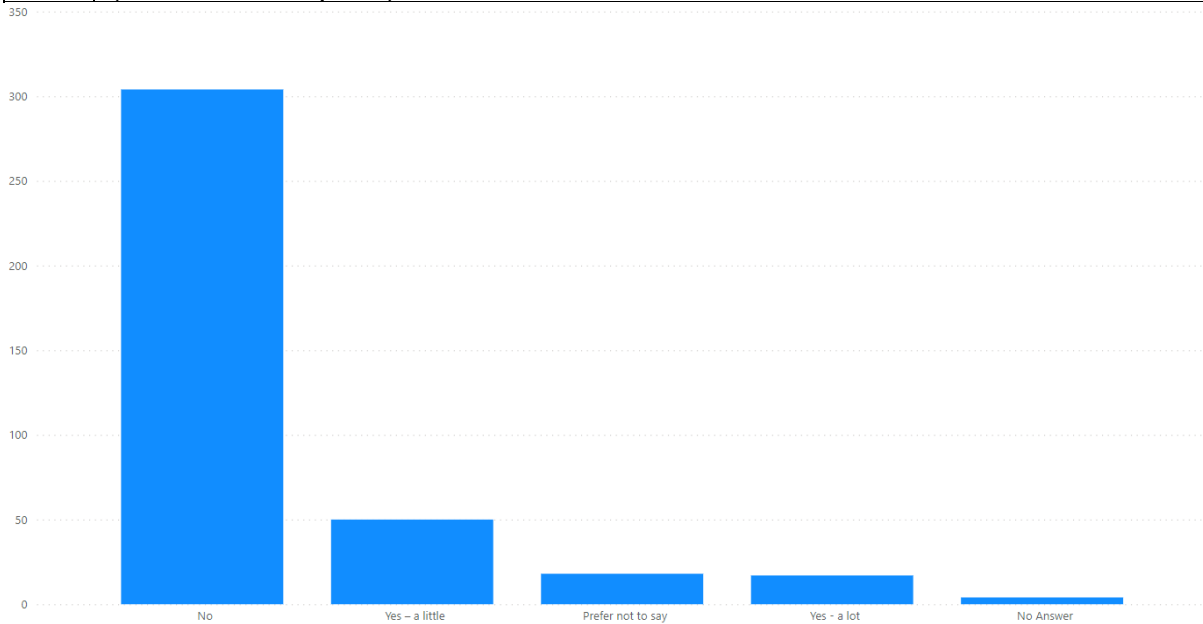


Q21 What is your ethnic group or background?
(Choose one option)*



- Q23 (What is your ethnic group or background?)(Choose one.**
- White (British, Irish, or any other white background)
 - Prefer not to say
 - No Answer
 - Other ethnic group or background (please specify)
 - Asian or Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or any ...
 - Black or Black British (Caribbean, African, or any other Black...
 - Mixed or multiple ethnic groups (White and Black Caribbea...

Q22 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a long-term illness, health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?
(Choose one option) *



Data protection and privacy *

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, we (Oxfordshire County Council) have a legal duty to protect any personal information we collect from you. Oxfordshire County Council is committed to open government and this may include quoting extracts from your consultation response in our report.

We will not however, disclose the names of people who have responded unless they have provided consent. For this purpose, we ask that you are careful not to disclose personal information in your comments – for example the names of service users or

children. If you do not want all or part of your response to be made public, or shared with councillors, please state below which parts you wish us to keep confidential.

View Oxfordshire County Council's privacy notice online at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/privacy-notice

Q23	Please use this space to tell us if there is any specific part of your response you wish to keep confidential:

Stay in touch *

We invite you to sign up to get regular email updates on news, events, and developments from across the county.

Any contact details you provide will be separated from the feedback you have shared in this survey.

Q24	Would you like to sign up?
	Yes
	No

Q25	Please provide your email address below, so we can contact you and send a link to our sign-up page where you can tailor which communications you receive:

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions

Please return the completed survey to:

Freepost OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No further address details are required and no stamp is needed, but please write **HWRC** on the top left corner of the envelope.)