![Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority logo]

East Anglian Alternative Fuel Strategy (AFS) Consultation Report

21/02/2023

Version History

Revision Number	Revision Date	Nature of Revision	Checked by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	14/02/2023	Draft	EW	ML	

Introduction

The East Anglian Alternative Fuel Strategy (AFS) went out for a 6 week consultation between the 9th November and the 21st December 2022. Overall, 121 responses were received.

In summary throughout the consultation the below diagram summaries the main themes of feedback that was received for all questions.
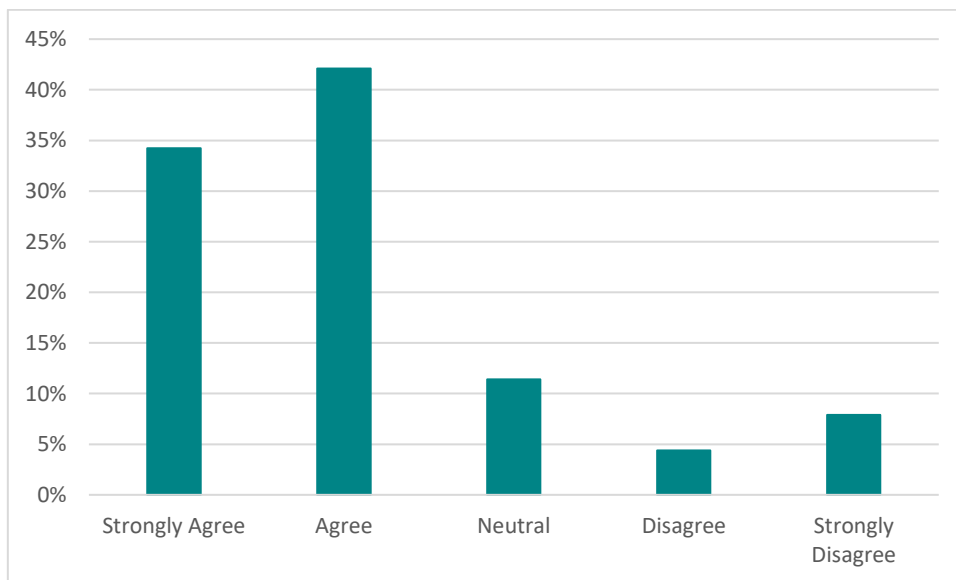
Affordability	**Charging Infrastructure**	**Electric Vehicles (range)**
Issues with disincentives the car – current economic situation – isolate people	**Rural Support / lack of focus on rural areas**	**Option of Hydrogen and exploration of other options**
Public Transport Issues	**Active Travel Issues**	**General support for Strategy as way forward**
	Micro-mobility options	

Consultation Results

Question - Do you agree with the Objectives of the Alternative Fuels Strategy (AFS)? (See page 3 of the AFS document)

In summary the key aims of the AFS are to :
1. *Support clean growth*
2. *Support the decarbonisation aims of Local Authorities*
3. *Accelerate the uptake of Alternative Fuels Vehicles (AFV) in the region*
4. *Improve air quality*
5. *Provide a combined collaborative vision*
6. *Support the creation of commercial opportunities*

In summary, 76% of respondents either Strongly Agree or Agree with the objectives of the Alternative Fuel Strategy as shown in the figure below.

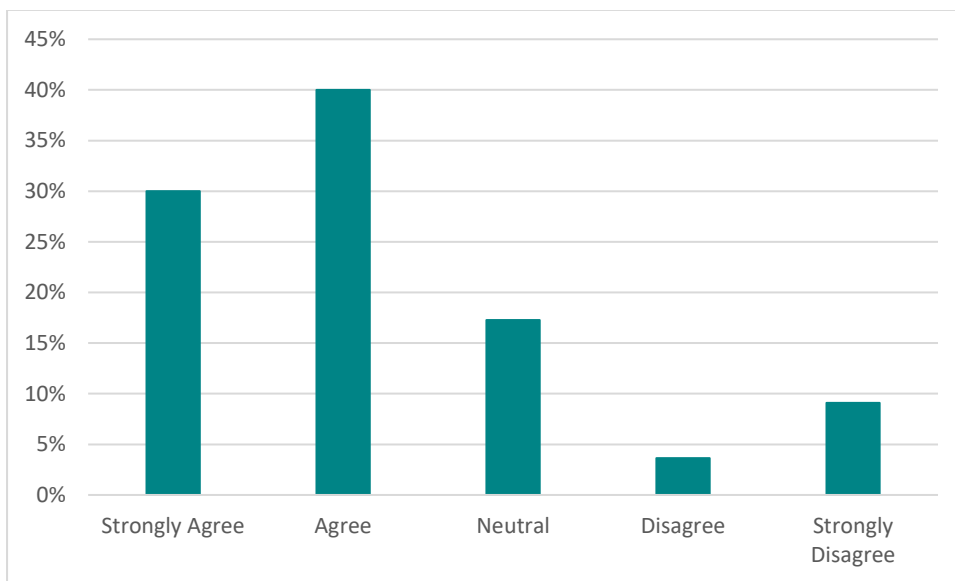The majority of comments on the objectives covered the following topics:
- Infrastructure (particularly charging) and what is needed and available;
- Affordability of electric vehicles and charging for all;
- The need to make public transport more accessible, affordable and reliable; and,
- Support on the strategy and the way forward towards improving the environment.

Question - Do you agree with the Action Plan for Decarbonising East Anglia Transport? (see page 7-12 of the AFS summary document).

> In summary the actions are split into three broad categories including:
> 1. Actions to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
> 2. Actions to encourage AFV uptake; and,
> 3. Actions to deliver a modal shift and encourage behavioural change.

In summary, 70% of respondents either Strongly Agree or Agree with the Action Plan for Decarbonising East Anglia Transport as shown below.

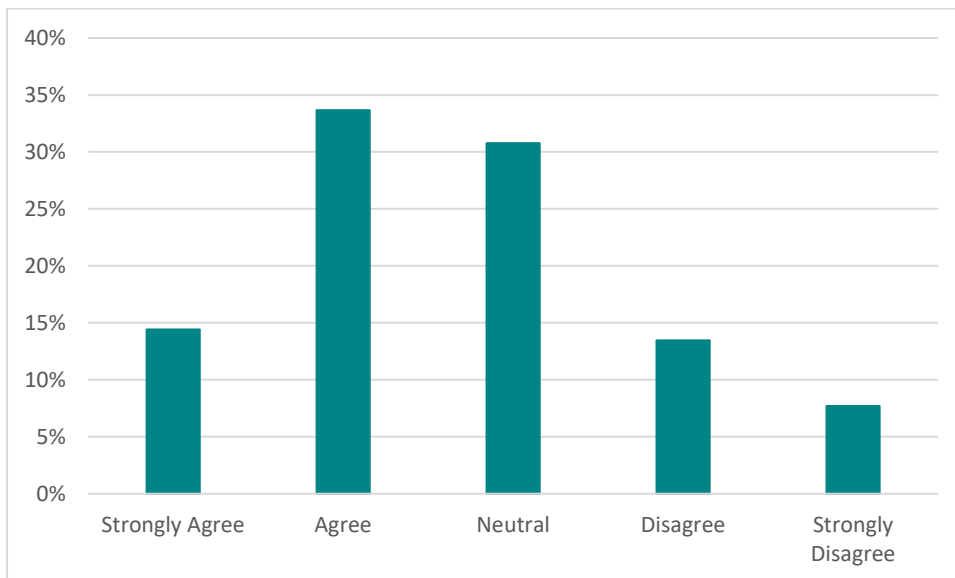
The majority of comments on the Action Plan included:
- Infrastructure (particularly charging) and what is needed and available going forward;
- Affordability of electric vehicles and charging to meet the Action Plan; and,
- Private Car and the points in the Action Plan to dis-incentivise its usage

Question - Do you believe the road map covers the actions needed to achieve the strategy's objectives? (see page 12-13 of the AFS summary document)

> In summary the road map is broken down into three main categories including:
>   1. AFV uptake (EV charging);
>   2. AFV uptake (Wider Action); and,
>   3. Modal shift.

In summary, 48% of respondents either Strongly Agree or Agree and 31% are neutral with believing the road map covers the actions needed to achieve the strategy's objectives as shown below.

The majority of comments on the road map included:
- Infrastructure (particularly charging) and what is needed and available going forward;
- Affordability of electric vehicles and charging including taxing/charging of electric vehicles;
- Role of public transport, active travel and micro-mobility; and,
- Option of Hydrogen and exploration of other options.

Question - Do you believe anything else that should be considered as part of the Alternative Fuel Strategy (AFS)?

Common themes to whether anything else should be considered as part for the AFS include:

- Option of Hydrogen and exploration of other options;
- Increase need for better, affordable and accessible public transport and active travel routes;
- Do not rush into the change – have all the information available and collated first;
- E scooters / E bikes / E cargo scooters;
- More consideration towards rural areas;
- Rail and freight movements;
- Need for the infrastructure to support the strategy and plan.

Question – Any further comments to make on the Alternative Fuel Strategy (AFS)?

A number of further comments were made on the AFS (though these have been touched on throughout the consultation answers) including:

- Affordability;
- Infrastructure;
- Rural area issues;
- Public Transport and Active travel links issues;
- Need more consideration of Hydrogen; and,
- Support for strategy towards moving forward thinking.

Way Forward

In response to the general themes that can be addressed by the organisation at present from the AFS consultation the below plans and strategies are emerging in response as a way forward to progress:

Hydrogen

The AFS covers hydrogen fuel although this is mainly centred around HGVs. There is a lack of rollout of hydrogen vehicles in East Anglia meaning that no stations have been developed in the area to date. There are a number of key challenges to delivering hydrogen for transport including a lack of fleet commitment in order to justify refueling infrastructure, cost of vehicles and lack of a dedicated funding stream. In the future it is an ambition of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to undertake a Freight Strategy and this will look at hydrogen in more detail.

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) is the Combined Authority's long-term strategy to improve transport in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. The consultation on this plan ran from May to August and the document is currently being updated following this feedback. The Vision of the LTCP is

"A transport network which secures a future in which the region and its people can thrive."

"It must put improved public health at its core, it must help create a fairer society, it must respond to climate change targets, it must protect our environment and clean up our air, and it must be the backbone of sustainable economic growth in which everyone can prosper."

"And it must bring a region of cities, market towns and very rural areas closer together."

"It will be achieved by investing in a properly joined-up, net zero carbon transport system, which is high quality, reliable, convenient, affordable, and accessible to everyone. Better, cleaner public transport will reduce private car use, and more cycling and walking will support both healthier lives and a greener region. Comprehensive connectivity, including digital improvements, will support a sustainable future for our region's nationally important and innovative economy."

Bus Strategy

The Bus Strategy aims to set out an ambitious vision and strategy to improve our bus network in a way that will benefit the residents and business of our region, and to deliver the goals and objectives of the Combined Authority's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. The aim is to pave the way for a bus network that is convenient, attractive and easy to use, by being convenient, attractive and easy to use.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

Following on from the AFS will be the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. The scope of this strategy is to address the transition of roadgoing transport within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough away from fossil fuels in the short term and throughout the next decade. The strategy focuses on 5 key areas for delivery:

1. Charging Infrastructure – to ensure our approach is appropriately targeted to different settings
2. Chargepoint Accessibility – to ensure all our communities have equitable access to public chargers
3. Communication, Advocacy and Outreach – to share our knowledge and empower our communities
4. Public and Shared transport -
5. Planning, regulation and guidance – For new developments

Digital Policy

The Digital Policy aims to ensure the availability of high quality, affordable digital connectivity services and support the exploitation of digital technologies. This is due to digital connectivity playing an increasingly important role in providing access to jobs, and to services and experiences such as entertainment, social interaction, shopping, banking, education, and healthcare.