



# Southampton Citizens' Climate Assembly



# Aims for today's event

- To tell you more about the Southampton Climate Citizens' Assembly, and answer your questions
- To ask for your input to the overarching question that the Assembly will consider
- To ask for your input around what topics are addressed at the Assembly



# Agenda

1. Introducing the Assembly and answering your questions
2. Asking your views on what overarching question the Assembly should be answering

## *Comfort break*

3. Discussing what topics should be covered at the Assembly
4. What will happen after today's discussions



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# About citizens' assemblies and this citizens' assembly



# What is a Citizens' Assembly?

- Event that brings together an inclusive and diverse set of people to have their say on an issue
- Provides people with a chance to learn about the issue through hearing balanced evidence, discuss it and make recommendations about what should happen
- Been used by governments and parliaments around the world to help shape their work. First Citizens' Assembly in Southampton on climate change.



# Why is this one happening?

- Commissioned by Southampton City Council, with the support of the University of Southampton
- An important initiative that contributes to the ambitions of the Council's Green City Plan and their ambitions to tackle climate change with residents and businesses at the heart of what they do
- The aim is to help inform decisions around climate change and transport in the city, including those made by the Council



# Why is it focussing on transport?

- Climate change is a huge topic and it takes time for people in a citizens' assembly to explore information and consider what they think – you can't cover everything
- Currently 29% of Southampton's emissions come from the transport sector and, nationally, transport emissions are not declining very quickly, so this area requires action.
- Transport is a policy area where Southampton City Council has some direct control
- There are upcoming decisions, such as on the Local Transport Plan, that the assembly is well-timed to influence



# How will the Assembly work?

- The Assembly will meet over 2 weekends in Autumn and Winter 2023
- It will bring together a diverse and reflective group of 40 Southampton residents to explore the issues and engage in a safe discussion
- People will sit at small tables, consider balanced evidence, ask questions and discuss their views. They will ultimately agree recommendations to make to the council





# What will happen afterwards?

- After the Assembly, Involve will write a report including the Assembly's recommendations, which it will give to the council and which will be publicly available
- The council won't be obligated to act directly on the recommendations but intends to use the Assembly's recommendations to help inform its decisions around climate change and transport in the city
- The council hopes that others in the City and region will also use the report to inform their decisions

# Who is involved?

- Southampton City Council, University of Southampton and University of Oxford
- Involve and the Sortition Foundation
- Civil Society Events and Advisory Group



Your input: the overarching  
question for the Assembly



# Draft overarching question for the Assembly

***"How do we decarbonise the transport system in Southampton, so that it is safe, easy and connected for people to get around?"***



# Your input

***"How do we decarbonise the transport system in Southampton, so that it is safe, easy and connected for people to get around?"***

1. Which max. 3 of these adjectives would you prioritise as most important to be included in the question?

Zero-emission	Safe	Connected
Easy	Accessible	Attractive
Affordable	Green	Helps personal mobility

*...or something else?*

2. Do you think this is the right overarching question to ask?



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Your input: topics covered at the  
assembly



# Topics covered at the Assembly

- The Assembly will definitely cover:
  - **People's personal transport use** (i.e. what they use transport for in their personal lives and for their commute)
  - **People's use of delivery services** (e.g. Amazon and Deliveroo) and issues around that
- There may be time to cover other transport issues too, namely:
  - **Seaport** – emissions from ships, but also for example emissions from vehicles servicing the port
  - **Airport** – emissions from planes, but also for example emissions from vehicles servicing the airport and its shops
  - **Other commercial vehicles** servicing businesses and retail in the city
- We want to ask your opinion on whether to **prioritise** giving proper time to the first two topics above, or whether we should try and get to one or more of the other topics too



# Pros and cons of covering additional topics

## **Pros include:**

- They are responsible for a significant amount of emissions
- The Council does want to see reduced emissions from these areas, and including them in the assembly would help to make that clear to assembly members, businesses and residents

## **Cons include:**

- The Council does not have direct control over many of these decisions
- Risk that assembly tries to cover too many topics, and so does none of them properly





# Your input – what should we prioritise?

Should we prioritise:

**A. Giving more time to the topics that the assembly is definitely cover to cover – i.e.:**

- People's personal transport use (i.e. what they use transport for in their personal lives and for their commute)
- People's use of delivery services (e.g. Amazon and Deliveroo) and issues around that

**...Or...**

**B. Including one or more of the following additional topics:**

- Seaport – emissions from ships, but also for example emissions from vehicles servicing the port
- Airport – emissions from planes, but also for example emissions from vehicles servicing the airport and its shops
- Other commercial vehicles servicing businesses and retail in the city



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# What happens next



# What happens next?

- Short briefing note summarising what was said at these events will be circulated
- Later in the year invites will go out for people to register their interest in taking part in the Assembly

[RebootingDemocracy@soton.ac.uk](mailto:RebootingDemocracy@soton.ac.uk)

If you don't want to hear from us about the Assembly again, please tell us on the way out and we will make sure we don't contact you about it

# Thank you!



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