

Cumbria Climate Assembly

SPRING 2025





Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank all the commentators, and all the members of Cumbria Climate Assembly without whom this project would not have been possible.

About the authors

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About Shared Future

We are a community interest company working across the UK. Our aim is to provide an excellent service that makes a difference to communities and individuals and works towards a fairer, more equal society. Our mission is to move those we engage with towards greater individual and collective authority and autonomy, by supporting their ability to act wisely, confidently and in community with others. Since setting up Shared Future in 2009, we've built a team of experienced practitioners with a diverse range of skills. We work together on worthwhile and stimulating projects that reflect our personal values.

About Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership

The Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership brings together voluntary sector organisations, businesses, and local governments to help Cumbria become a net zero county by 2037.

zerocarboncumbria.co.uk



Contents

Introduction.....	1
Foreword.....	2
Background.....	3
How was the Cumbria Climate Assembly Selected?	5
Recruitment Targets	6
Oversight Panel and Observers	7
Jury Sessions.....	8
Assembly Statement.....	21
Principles for Good Engagement	22
Recommendations.....	27



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Introduction

The Cumbria Climate Assembly was commissioned by the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership with support from the National Lottery. The Assembly ran from March to April 2025 and was facilitated by Shared Future. This report details the process and final recommendations.

Trust in democratic institutions is declining around the world (see e.g. [report](#)). Amongst the many reasons for this, is the feeling that citizens are unable to influence the decisions that affect them.

A recent [report](#) from Carnegie UK has revealed that 72% of people feel they cannot influence decisions that affect the UK as a whole, while 55% feel unable to influence decisions at a local level. North West England, which includes Cumbria, scores significantly below the national average.

One issue that will affect citizens for decades to come is climate change. Climate change is the most pressing issue of our time, threatening everything from food and water security to our health and livelihoods. Any strategy to mitigate or adapt to climate change must consider a diverse range of opinions and perspectives to determine solutions that are fair for all.

Citizens' Assemblies and other forms of participatory engagement are increasingly seen as important tools in shaping our response to climate change. They can support governments at all levels to produce policy that is fair and obtains significant buy-in from the public. This rests on the ability of such processes to engage a cross-section of the public, with diverse opinions and experiences.

The Cumbria Climate Assembly was convened to answer the question:

'Many people in Cumbria feel unheard and unable to influence those who make decisions on climate change action. What can be done about this?'

In Winter 2024/25, 10,000 letters were sent to households across Cumbria, inviting residents to join the Assembly. 106 people responded, registering their interest and availability, from which 44 participants were randomly selected to reflect the demographic characteristics of Cumbria.

To ensure a robust, fair, and unbiased process, an independent Oversight Panel was also recruited, bringing together representatives from local government, the private sector, voluntary sector, educational sector, climate and nature groups, deliberative democracy, and other community groups.

Of the 44 people selected for the Assembly, 42 members attended all the sessions and voted on the recommendations in this report. Aged 16 to 76 and from many different walks of life, they met for approximately 30 hours across three evenings online and three full days in-person beginning on Saturday 1st March 2025. The Assembly heard from 23 commentators, and shared their own opinions and lived experience.

After approximately 30 hours of deliberation, the Assembly produced 11 'principles for good engagement' and 16 recommendations covering a range of topics and issues.



Foreword

Cllr Giles Archibald is the Cabinet Member for Climate, Biodiversity and Environmental Services at Westmorland and Furness Council. **Cllr Bob Kelly** is the Portfolio Holder Environment and Planning at Cumberland Council.



We know that without dramatic action to tackle the causes of the climate crisis, people across the world are going to be impacted. Sea levels are going to rise, millions of people will be displaced, billions of people will be without reliable freshwater, and crops will fail. There will be more droughts and wildfires. Storm systems will be more violent. Diseases will spread. Species will become extinct.

It is a grim future to contemplate. Indeed we can see evidence of these impacts already occurring all around the world, including in the UK and closer to home in Cumbria. Much of our agricultural land and road and rail infrastructure in the county is vulnerable to flooding. Our coastline is in jeopardy, as are many peoples' homes.

On the current trajectory, the climate crisis is set to worsen. Just when we need strong, visionary leadership we see countries like the United States and Australia rolling back their climate ambitions. Even in the UK we are seeing threats to our prior national consensus for prompt action.

To prevent catastrophic climate change we need to radically reduce polluting emissions, which needs a lot of change to happen – in our individual lives, in communities, in organisations. It requires changes to how we get around, what we buy, what we do with

our waste, how our electricity is generated, what we eat and drink and where our food and drink comes from, how we heat homes and how we build homes. Inspiring that change will require lots of engagement with people across all Cumbrian society.

Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils are determined to work with the assembly, community groups, the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, farmers and other businesses, town and parish councils and all interested individuals. Together, we want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt our infrastructure and most importantly give people hope.

This is where the Cumbria Climate Assembly comes in – it gives a clear, independent voice to citizens and enables us to understand what matters most to people, what their priorities are, what the actions are that they want to see, and what help they need.

Thank you to the people of Cumbria who have given their time, energy and ideas to this process.

Cllr. Giles Archibald and Cllr. Bob Kelly

Giles Archibald *Bob Kelly*

Background

Cumbria is a large and diverse county in the North West of England, bordered by Scotland to the north and the Irish Sea to the west. It includes extensive areas of protected and culturally significant landscapes. Cumbria is home to two national parks, the Lake District National Park, entirely within the county and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The county also contains three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With a population of just under half a million, Cumbria is one of England's most sparsely populated counties, with large rural areas punctuated by a few key urban centres. The largest urban population is in Carlisle, a historic border city in the north. Barrow-in-Furness, in the south-west, is another significant town, known for its shipbuilding heritage and industrial base. Other notable urban areas include Workington and Whitehaven on the west coast, and the market towns of Kendal and Penrith.

Cumbria was restructured in 2023 into two new unitary authorities; Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, replacing the former county and district councils. Cumberland covers the north and west of the county, including Carlisle, Allerdale, and Copeland, while Westmorland and Furness encompasses Barrow-in-Furness, Eden and South Lakeland.

Cumbria's economy is a mix of sectors including tourism, agriculture, nuclear energy, manufacturing and public services. The area is well known for tourism, particularly in the Lake District, but also faces challenges linked to seasonal employment, housing affordability, and an ageing population. At the same time, there are areas of significant economic deprivation, especially in former industrial and coastal communities.

Addressing climate change requires ambitious action at every level of society, public, private, and community and a recognition that climate policy must be shaped by those it affects. In response, the Cumbria Climate Assembly was convened in early 2025 to explore the public's role in working with decision makers to address climate change.

This process builds on previous local deliberations, including the Furness Climate Change Citizens' Jury the Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change, and

the Kendal Climate Change Citizens' Jury as well as numerous national and international examples such as Climate Assembly UK and the French Citizens' Convention for Climate.

The Assembly was funded through the National Lottery supported Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP). The partnership is a broad coalition of over 80 organisations working together to help Cumbria reach net zero carbon emissions by 2037. Funded in part by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund, the partnership brings together local authorities, businesses, community groups, educational institutions, and environmental organisations. It coordinates county-wide action on climate through shared planning, public engagement, and sector-specific working groups focused on areas such as transport, buildings, land use, and waste.

What is a Citizens' Assembly?

Citizens' assemblies are a form of deliberative democracy in which a group of randomly selected residents, that broadly reflect the diversity of the wider population, come together to learn about, deliberate on, and make recommendations on a specific issue. Assemblies are particularly useful for addressing so-called 'wicked problems', complex challenges that are shaped by uncertainty, differing values and the way different parts of the problem are connected.

The Cumbria Climate Assembly brought together some 40 residents from across the county, selected via a process of sortition. This involved sending out 10,000 letters to randomly selected households, followed by a stratified random selection to ensure diversity across key demographics such as gender, age, geography, ethnicity, income, disability, and attitude toward climate change.

Over the course of six sessions held between March and April 2025, comprising approximately 30 hours of discussion, participants engaged with a range of expert 'commentators', shared personal experiences, asked questions, and deliberated in small and large groups. The process was independently designed and facilitated by Shared Future CIC, a not-for-profit with extensive experience in running deliberative processes.

How the Assembly Question Was Chosen

Rather than prescribing a topic, the ZCCP and its partners undertook a collaborative process to determine the most relevant and urgent issue for the Assembly to consider.

Between January and April 2024, a series of 'problem tree workshops' were conducted by Shared Future with a wide range of local stakeholders. These included the ZCCP sector-specific working groups on buildings, transport and mobility, land use, and waste; the Cumbria Sustainability Network; officers from Westmorland and Furness Council; and attendees of the Cumbria Net Zero Summit. (While a session was not possible with Cumberland Council, feedback was later incorporated separately).

The workshop participants explored a central problem: "It will be difficult to meet the 2037 zero carbon target", to identify a range of root causes. From this analysis, a range of possible themes were identified. A strong and consistent thread emerged: that residents often feel unheard in climate decision-making and that local democratic systems lack the strength and responsiveness needed to drive meaningful action.

After reviewing the findings, a number of possible overarching questions were proposed. The final question agreed by the Assembly Oversight Panel was:

Many people in Cumbria feel unheard and unable to influence those who make decisions on climate change action. What can be done about this?



How was the Cumbria Climate Assembly Selected?

Citizens' Assemblies derive their legitimacy in a similar way to legal juries, through a process called sortition. This ensures that everyone has an opportunity to take part. This process relies on a technique called 'random stratified sampling'.

The Sortition Foundation (a not-for-profit organisation with expertise in the use of stratified, random selection in decision-making) determined all potential addresses in Cumbria using the Royal Mail address database. 10,000 randomly-selected households then received an invitation letter with some frequently asked questions.

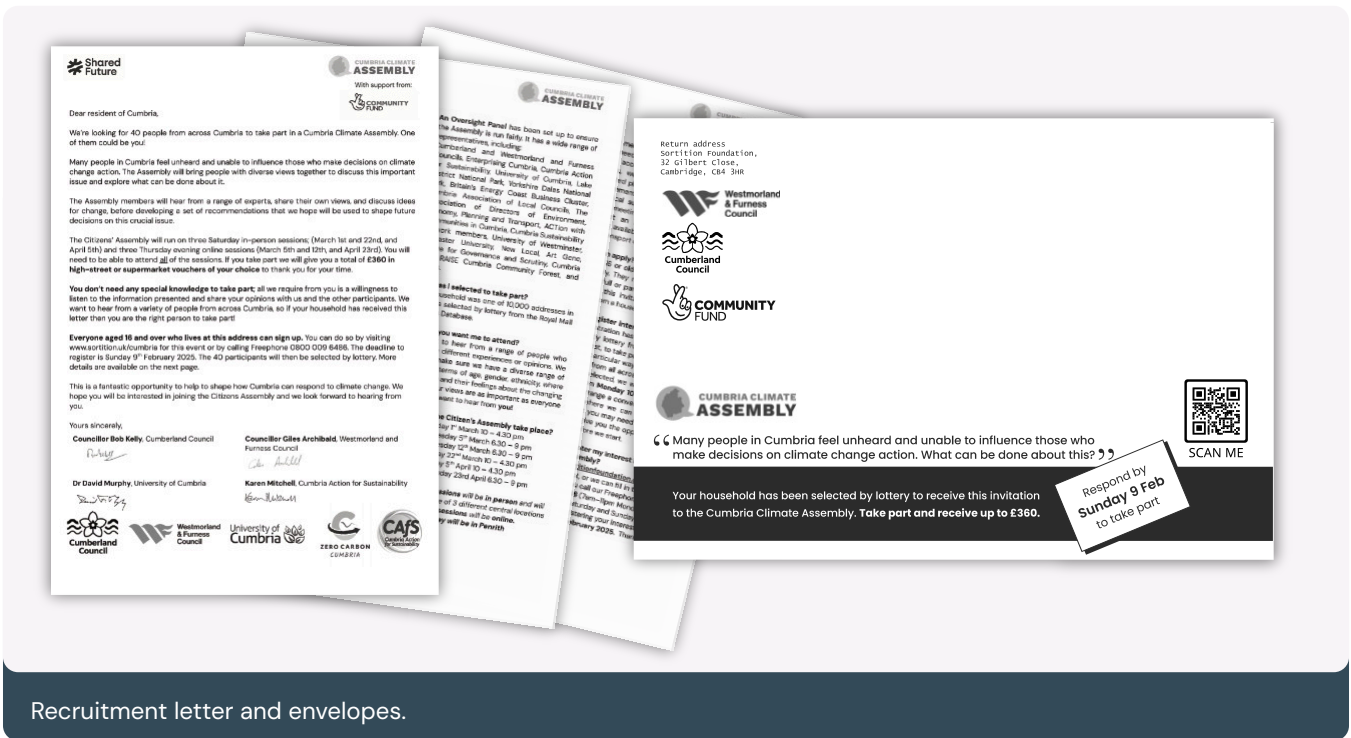
The letter highlighted the value of lived experience over specialist skills or knowledge of the climate and offered £360 in vouchers as a gift plus expenses for taking part in the process. By providing gift vouchers and expenses, we can ensure that those who are not typically able to take part are able to do so.

Interested residents were invited to respond via freephone or register their details online. 106 people responded and 44 people were invited to take part in the process.

The Assembly was designed to reflect the demographics of the population of Cumbria. Participants were selected based on the following characteristics: Gender, Age, Ethnicity, Disability, Indicators of Multiple Deprivation, Geography and Attitude to climate change

The Oversight Panel (see p.7) decided that it was important to overrepresent from those who would be 'hardest hit' by the climate crisis. This included young people, ethnic minorities, and those from areas with high indices of multiple deprivation. It was not possible to overrecruit young people or those from lower IMDs due to a low overall response rate.

All Assembly members were invited to a 1-to-1 phone call in advance of the first session. This helped to establish a relationship with members of the Shared Future team, to summarise the purpose and workings of the Assembly, and to reassure Assembly members, answer any questions, and identify any further support or travel needs.



Recruitment letter and envelopes.

Recruitment Targets

	Recruitment target based on available statistics	Actual Assembly members
Gender	Male: 49.1% Female: 50.6% Non-binary: 0.3%	Male: 48.8% Female: 51.2%
Age	16-24: 10.3% 25-34: 13.4% 35-49: 20.2% 50-64: 27.3% 65+: 28.9%	16-24: 9.3% 25-34: 9.3% 35-49: 23.3% 50-64: 32.6% 65+: 26.6%
Ethnicity	White: 97.7% Diverse Ethnic Groups: 2.3%	White: 90.7% Diverse Ethnic Groups: 9.3%
Disability	Yes: 26.8% No: 73.2%	Yes: 23.8% No: 76.2%
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	1-2: 14.4% 3-4-3: 22.0% 5-6: 28.7% 7-10: 34.8%	1-2: 9.5% 3-4: 11.9% 5-6-5: 23.8% 7-10: 54.8%
Urban / Rural	Urban: 46.5% Rural: 53.5%	Urban: 31.0% Rural: 69.0%
Level of Climate Concern	Very concerned: 37.0% Fairly concerned: 43.0% Not very concerned: 14.0% Not at all concerned: 5.0% Don't know: 1.0%	Very concerned: 60.5% Fairly concerned: 34.9% Not very concerned: 4.7%

Oversight Panel and Observers

Citizens' Juries incorporate a range of measures to ensure that the process is as transparent as possible and stands up to scrutiny.

Oversight Panel

In line with best practice, an Oversight Panel was recruited to ensure that the process was fair and stood up to scrutiny. The Oversight Panel, chaired by Karen Mitchell of Futureproof Cumbria and Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, met five times and consisted of a range of local organisations and individuals. The group met to:

1. Ensure that the project design was fair and rigorous.
2. Agree upon and monitor the process of citizen recruitment.
3. Suggest topics to be considered by participants.
4. Identify 'commentators'/'witnesses' best able to present on these topics.
5. Push for implementation of the Assembly's recommendations.

Oversight Panel Member Organisations

- Penrith Action for Community Transition
- Extinction Rebellion North Lakes
- Cumbria Sustainability Network
- Cumberland Council
- Westmorland and Furness Council
- Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies
- University of Westminster
- ADEPT
- Futureproof Cumbria (formerly Cumbria Action for Sustainability)
- Raise
- Enterprising Cumbria
- Art Gene
- University of Cumbria

- Cumbria Development Education Centre
- Action with Communities in Cumbria
- Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)
- Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
- Lancaster University
- Cumbria CVS
- Lake District National Park Authority
- New Local

Observers

To ensure transparency, we provided external stakeholders with an opportunity to observe the process from start to finish. In addition to commentator presentations and Q&A sessions, observers were able to watch any deliberative exercises or activities. All observers were briefed to remain silent. They were not allowed to participate in any of the small group discussions.

Who attended as an observer?

Representatives from the following organisations attended at least one session as an observer:

- Liam Killeen, Ph.D Researcher, Lancaster University
- Kate Long, Ph.D Researcher, University of York
- Kevin Walsh, Trustee of Cumbria Community Foundation
- Jennie Stein, Enterprising Cumbria
- Tim Duckmanton, Commentator and Lake District National Park Authority
- Cllr Sally Lansbury, Cumberland Council Councillor in Keswick
- Karen Johl, Extinction Rebellion North Lakes and the Cumbria Sustainability Network
- Ian Hinde, Oversight Panel member, Cumberland Council

Assembly Sessions

The Assembly took place between March and April 2025. It consisted of 3 in-person Saturday sessions and 3 online sessions on Wednesday evenings.

Session 1

The first session was held on Saturday 1st March. After a brief overview of the process from Shared Future, **Karen Mitchell** of Futureproof Cumbria and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership ([recording](#)) was invited to give a short introduction to the purpose behind the assembly, followed by a question and answer session. We then invited everyone to stand up, shakeoff and play a game of 'people bingo'. This was intended to get people to start getting to know each other in a friendly, informal way.

Home Groups

Assembly members broke off into four 'home groups'. Throughout the process they would regularly re-join their homegroup to help build a relationship with the facilitators and with each other. This would give all participants a chance to check in with each other about how the sessions were running. The groups were

determined in advance to ensure that each group was as diverse as the Assembly.

Group Guidelines

When we bring together people from different backgrounds, with different opinions, and varying life experiences, we invite the potential for conflict. Such a mixing of opinions and ideas brings opportunities to learn, but only if participants feel respected and able to contribute as fully as possible.

To ensure that we made effective use of our time together, we asked assembly members to develop a set of 'group guidelines' on how to work together. It has been shown that when groups are involved in co-designing the norms or principles behind an engagement, they are more likely to abide by them.

To do this, each participant was asked to share in their home groups 'one thing that would make it easier for you to take part in the Assembly'. Assembly members



Group Guidelines

1. Try to keep an open mind and listen respectfully to other people's opinions, ideas and experiences. Be kind. Try and explore views different to your own and value that people come from different backgrounds
2. Encourage people to take turns to speak e.g. by raising hands when they want to make a contribution. Try to be quiet while others are speaking
3. We can sensitively encourage quieter people to speak up and give them space to do that but if asked its OK to say "I don't have anything to say"
4. Asking questions is a good thing. There is no such thing as a stupid question
5. Try at all times not to use jargon and too complicated language. Avoid using abbreviations. Use red cards if what is being said is difficult to understand
6. Try to be friendly with each other and enjoy some joy and banter
7. Facilitators and participants should try to make sure we stay on track and be focussed and keep to time
8. Recognise that some in the group find lip reading helpful
9. Participants can contact facilitators after a session if they want to offer an opinion anonymously
10. Facilitators to support participants to reach consensus where possible

were able to offer additional guidelines which they felt uncomfortable sharing in public with facilitators during the break.

At the end of the session, all the guidelines were grouped and merged where necessary. The guidelines were shared back with the Assembly via email and at the next session. Facilitators would refer to the guidelines throughout the process to keep conversations on track.

Commentator Slot: What is climate change?

After a short break, assembly members heard from their first commentator. This was intended to give all participants a foundational understanding of climate change, its causes and consequences, so that they could begin to understand the the basics before getting to grips with the overarching assembly question:

- **Dr. Richard Waller:** Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography, School of Life Sciences, Keele University ([recording](#))

After the presentation, assembly members went into small groups to discuss what they had heard and develop questions for the commentator. Assembly members were encouraged to ask their own questions, but facilitators offered to ask questions on behalf of participants if they were not comfortable doing so themselves.

Any questions that were not answered due to time constraints were emailed to the commentators after the session to provide a written response.

Before lunch, all assembly members were given 5 minutes to reflect quietly on their own about anything they might need to remember from the session.

Human Map

To energise assembly members after lunch and encourage them to think about the diversity of voices in the room, we asked them to construct a 'human map'. Carlisle, which represented north east Cumbria was at one end of the room, while Barrow in the south west was at the other. We asked each assembly members to locate themselves on the map according to where they were from. This also encouraged assembly members to speak to people that they hadn't had the opportunity to so far.



The Cumbria Climate Assembly produces a 'human map' of Cumbria

Who makes decisions on what we do about climate change?

The next exercise was designed to support assembly members to explore which individuals, groups, and organisations make decisions on what we do about climate change. Participants were divided into four smaller facilitated groups where they began to brainstorm and list actors that could influence decision making. Each suggestion was written down on an A5 piece of card and placed on a grid with 2 axes (4 quadrants), with one axis representing the power to influence decision making and the other representing the level of commitment to acting on climate change. Participants were asked to place their cards on the grid based on their knowledge and discuss their placements with fellow participants. The facilitator encouraged people to think more about what they would need to know more about to answer the overarching question. Towards the end of the exercise, we asked each group around the room so that they could compare and contrast their work with that of another group.

How can people make their voices heard?

After exploring who has the power to make decisions on what we do about climate change, we asked assembly members to reflect on how we can have our voices heard and influence the people or organisations making decisions.

To accommodate different ways of thinking and

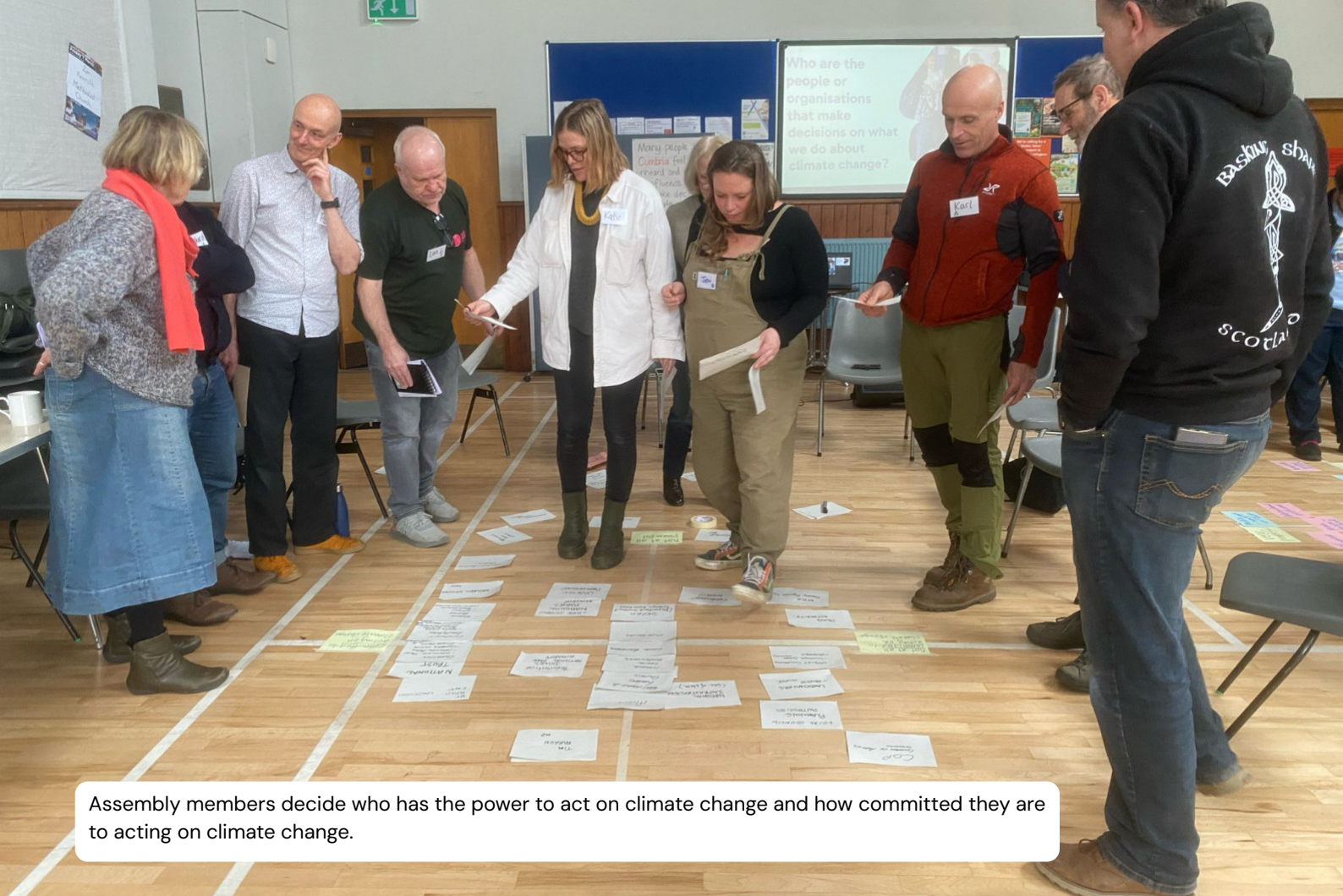
learning, we asked assembly members to choose between 1 of 3 groups which used different means of expression. The largest group was split into two individually facilitated groups.

The first group was tasked with drawing the different ways of having our voice heard and exploring what makes them effective or not. The second group was asked to create freeze frames (acting it out). The third and fourth group spoke about the different ways they could have their voice heard. They then wrote them down on A5 pieces of paper and placed them in rank order on the floor according to which they felt were most effective.

After 25 minutes, the facilitator from each group was asked to share back what the group came up with.



Mapping out who has power to act on climate change



Assembly members decide who has the power to act on climate change and how committed they are to acting on climate change.

What do we need to talk about next

It is important in any deliberative process to provide some room for the participants to shape the agenda. In a citizens' assembly, this ensures that the participants hear from the most relevant commentators to make recommendations on the issues that they feel are most important to them, and that the process is not unduly shaped by either the commissioning body, the facilitator, or the oversight panel. This is particularly important with a topic as complex as climate change.

Towards the end of the session, assembly members returned to their home groups, where they were asked to individually reflect on the things they think we should hear more about, and then asked to contribute one or more things to the group. The facilitators then grouped these under different headings. Assembly members were asked whether they broadly agreed with the theming of ideas. Once approved, these themes were shared with the Oversight Panel to help them to decide on appropriate commentators for the following sessions

Session 2

The second session took place on zoom on the evening of Wednesday 5th March. Tech support was provided



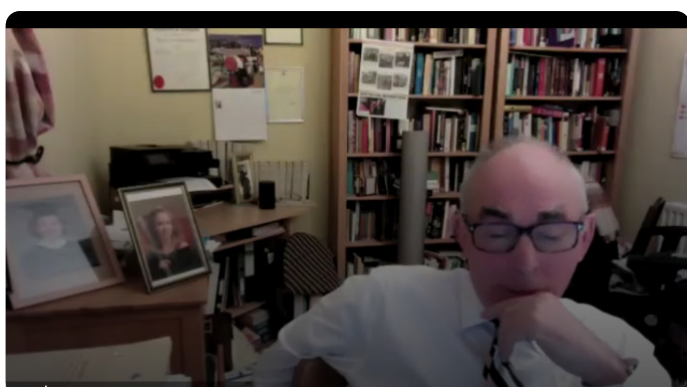
Assembly members join their first online session on Zoom

ahead of the session to ensure that all participants felt comfortable joining the call and using zoom.

To begin the session, assembly members entered their home groups, where a facilitator reminded them of the basic zoom functions. The facilitator shared back the list of group guidelines and checked for approval within the group. The remaining time was used to check in with participants.

Commentator Slot

The second session provided an opportunity for assembly members to hear from commentators from a range of organisations and sectors explaining what



Presentation: Cllr Giles Archibald, Westmorland and Furness

decisions are being made at present and what opportunities (if any) there are for the public to influence these decisions. The two commentators selected to speak from the two local authorities were:

- **Cllr. Giles Archibald** Westmorland and Furness Council: Cabinet Member for Climate, Biodiversity and Environmental Services ([recording](#))
- **Cllr. Bob Kelly** Cumberland Council: Policy and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder ([recording](#))

After the presentations, assembly members went into small groups to discuss what they had heard and develop questions for each commentator. The questions were then grouped by facilitators on a Miro board (an online platform for brainstorming and mind maps).

Assembly members were encouraged to ask their own questions. If they were not comfortable doing so, facilitators asked the questions on their behalf. Any questions that were not answered due to time constraints were emailed to the commentators after the session to provide a written response. These were then shared with the Assembly ahead of the following session.

After a short break, the assembly heard from three more commentators from different sectors across Cumbria:

- **David Beeby:** Chair of the Enterprising Cumbria Growth Board, previously Chief executive of Innovia and Chair of Cumbria CBI / Confederation of British Industry ([recording](#))
- **Carolyn Otley:** Chief Executive: Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service ([recording](#))
- **Tim Duckmanton:** Team Leader, Strategy and

Environment, Lake District National Park Authority ([recording](#))

After the presentations, assembly members went into small groups with one commentator so they could ask questions. Commentators moved between each group every 10 minutes so that all assembly members could ask questions of each commentator.

Towards the end of the session, we asked all assembly members to reflect quietly on their own about what they had heard during the session and write down anything they felt they would need to remember. Assembly members were asked to keep hold of these so that they could share them back in the next session.

Session 3

Session 3 took place on the evening of Wednesday 12th March, 2025. Assembly members joined their home groups, where they shared back the things they noted down at the end of Session 2.

Reflecting on the question

Given the complexity of the question, the facilitation team felt it was important to check in with participants about their understanding at this stage.

This was an opportunity to remind participants that although this was a citizens assembly about climate change, the purpose was not to produce recommendations which told decisionmakers what to do about climate change. Instead, the focus was on how citizens can best influence the people who are making the decisions about climate change. Assembly members were also reminded about how this question was arrived at.

After a brief plenary discussion, assembly members returned to their home groups where they were invited to test examples of what might be an appropriate issue for a recommendation to address. Facilitators also shared some recent statistics about the levels of influence that people felt they had over the decisions that affect them (Carnegie UK, We're Right Here).

Assembly members returned to the large group where they could share anything useful that had helped them to grasp the question. At this point, the facilitation team also gave a preview of the upcoming session, which would give them an insight into the decisionmaking processes for a range of case studies.

Commentator Slot

Assembly members heard from two commentators approved by the oversight panel on different approaches to influencing decisions:

- **Jon Alexander**, Author of 'Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything is All of Us' and co - founder of New Citizenship Project: Why should people be able to influence decision making and what could it look like?
- **Zoë Wilkins**, Climate Democracy Associate at People Powered: What can engaging with decision-makers on climate change look like?

To maximise our remaining time, we held a question and answer session in the large group. Assembly members were asked to raise their hands, and facilitators invited them to ask their questions one by one.

At the end of the session, we asked all assembly members to write down a word that described how they were feeling and hold it up to the camera to share with the group.

Session 4

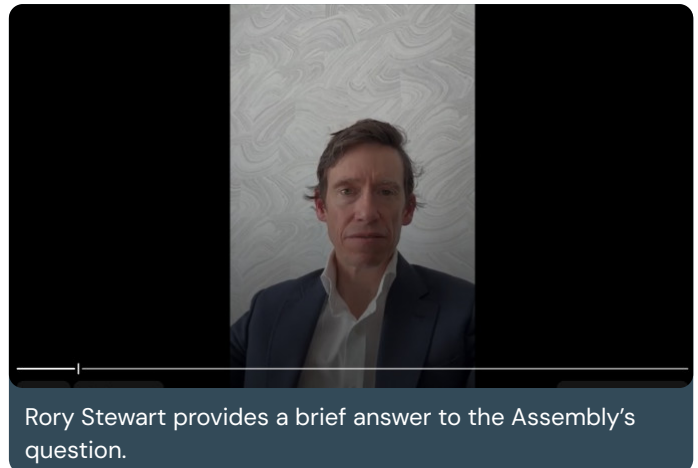
Session 4 took place on Saturday 22nd March, 2025. Before the session started, we asked assembly members to carefully consider which discussions they would like to be part of throughout the day.

Commentator Slot

Assembly members were shown two pre-recorded presentations at the start of the day:

- **Rory Stewart**, Host of The Rest is Politics and former MP for Penrith and the Borders, 2010 - 2019 ([recording](#))
- **Tim Maiden**, Green Small Business

Assembly members were reminded that although they would not be able to ask questions directly to the commentators, they would be able to write down questions which we could share after the session. The Assembly was asked to vote on their top 2 questions for Rory Stewart at the end of the session. These would be answered on the next The Rest is Politics Question Time episode.



Commentator Slot: Case Studies

At the end of Session 1, the Assembly agreed that they would like to hear more about who is making the decisions and how they can influence them. Working with the Oversight Panel, we determined a selection of climate-related case studies and commentators who would be able to talk about the decision-making process behind them, including the scope for the wider public to input.

Assembly members were asked to join one of two case study groups which ran in parallel. A member of the council was given 7 minutes to present the decisionmaking process behind each case study and where the public (if at all) was able to input. They were then asked to take part in a 15 minute question and answer session. During this time, a facilitator made a record of the decisionmaking process on the flipchart.

After the question and answer session, the member of the council was asked to leave the room while a member of a voluntary organisation that had attempted to influence the process was invited in to speak. They were asked to comment on how they found the decisionmaking process and whether there were enough opportunities for citizen input.

Case Study 1: Kendal North Relief Road

- **Angela Jones**: Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council
- **Kate Wilshaw**: Policy Officer: Friends of the Lake District

Case Study 2: Rockcliffe and Kingmoor Incinerators

- **Colin Cox**: Director of Public Health and Communities: Cumberland Council

- **David Mudge:** Sustainable Carlisle

After a short break, the process was repeated with two new case studies. Each council member was allowed to present for five minutes, before a twelve minute question and answer session. This was followed by a five minute presentation and a twelve minute question and answer session from a member of a voluntary sector organisation.

Case Study 3: W&F Climate Change Action Plan

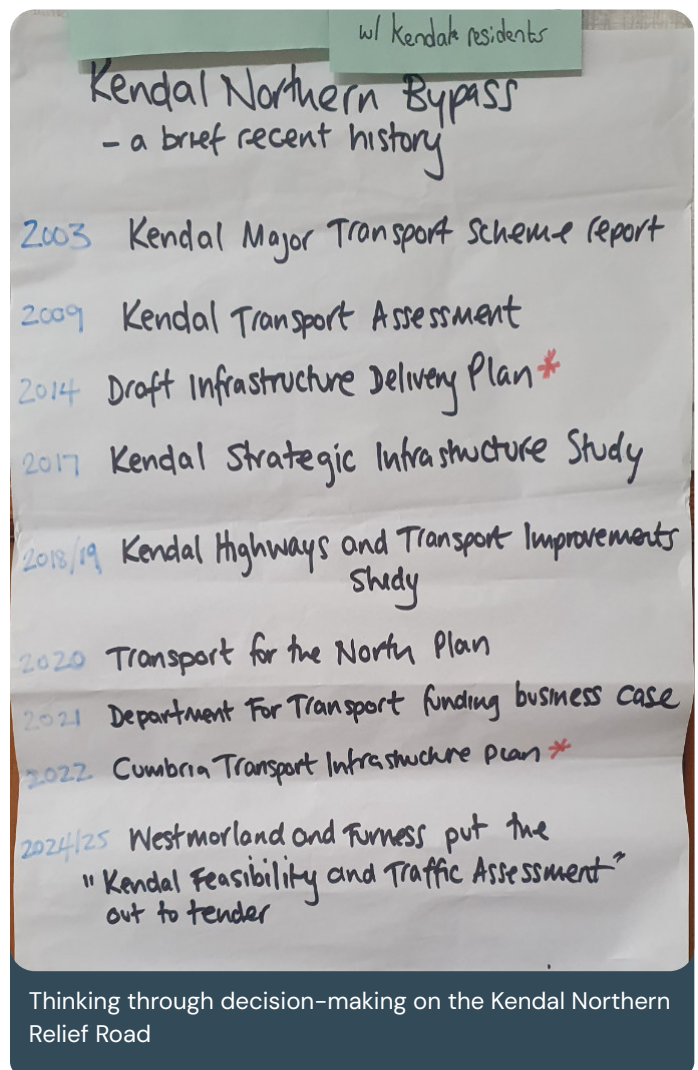
- **Angela Jones:** Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council
- **Fiona Atkinson:** local activist (pre-recorded)

Case Study 4: Cumberland Climate and Nature Strategy.

- **Ian Hinde:** Policy and Scrutiny Adviser: Cumberland Council
- **Julia Robinson:** Cockermouth Climate Action Now

Commentator Slot: Various

Before lunch, assembly members were given the choice between one of three small group conversations with commentators on a range of topics, as well as a further group to discuss anything else that had come to mind. Each commentator was given 7



Assembly members hear from Ian Hinde, Cumberland Council



Facilitators explain the next part of the session, run by Hope for the Future

minutes to present, before a 30 minute question and answer session. The commentators were as follows:

- **Jennie Stein:** Enterprising Cumbria, Cumbria's Economic Growth Strategy
- **Jake Ainscough:** Lancaster University, Different approaches to community engagement on climate change and their impacts
- **Angela Jones:** Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council, A Mayor for Cumbria: the plans for a mayoral authority.

Reflection

After lunch, assembly members were given 10 minutes to reflect on everything they had heard in the morning. They were encouraged to think specifically about things they might think could be the beginning of a recommendation. A facilitator collected all these ideas in and these were shared back with the group in Session 5.

Influencing MPs: Hope for the Future

In the first session, assembly members identified the following issue to discuss in more depth: 'how can people influence their MPs and how can it be done

better?'

We invited a commentator to give an insight into the ways in which the public can influence MPs and some of the innovative ways in which MPs are engaging with their constituents:

- **Joe Gascoyne-Thompson,** Hope for the Future: Understanding MP Engagement

Hope for the Future also shared a pre-recorded input from the following Cumbrian MP:

- **Markus Campbell Savours,** MP for Penrith and Solway (pre-recorded)

After a brief question and answer session, the assembly broke into 8 small groups. Each group was given 15 minutes to consider the following prompt: 'what ways of interacting with MPs seem to be working well and what isn't? How might this help us in thinking of ideas for our recommendations?' Facilitators moved between each of the groups to ensure that no one person was dominating and that each group was recording their thoughts. At the end of the exercise, each group was given 30 seconds to summarise their conversation in front of the large group.

Reflection and Sharing in Pairs



Participants move around the room to music and share one thing they think is important with the person next to them.

Assembly members were given a few minutes to reflect on the things that have stood out to them from the conversations throughout the day. They were asked to reflect on the following prompt: 'think of one thing that has particularly struck you from today's discussions and that we need to think about when writing our recommendations and why?'

For 10 minutes, we asked people to move around the room whenever the music played. When the music stopped, assembly members were asked to stop and explain their point to the person closest to them. After 30 seconds, they would swap so that the other person in the pair was able to explain their point.

At the end of the exercise, we gave everyone some A5 paper and a pen to write down anything they felt could make a good recommendation that they didn't write down after lunch. Assembly members were asked to keep hold of these until the end of the day, when they would share back in their home groups.

Commentator Slot:

We heard from an additional commentator online about how young people can have their voices heard:

- **Caroline Taylor-Beswick:** Chief Executive Officer: Carlisle Youth Zone ([recording](#))

After a ten minute presentation, there was a large group question and answer session. It was agreed that the commentator would share some resources with the assembly after the session.

Ideas for recommendations

Towards the end of the day, assembly members returned to their home groups. They were given 3 minutes to share with the person next to them the ideas for recommendations that they developed earlier

in the day. Each pair was then asked to share one idea that they really liked with the rest of the group. The facilitator then started a conversation with the group about the ideas that they really liked or felt needed more work. All ideas were collected in at the end of the session.

Session 5

The Assembly met for Session 5 on April 5th, 2025. This session was focused on drafting a set of principles for good community engagement that could be applied broadly to all individuals, organisations, and sectors, and a set of recommendations which detailed more specific actions that could be taken by certain people or organisations.

What happens after the final session?

At the start of the session, we gave a brief introduction to three options for assembly members to push for change after the process. These included:

1. The recommendations launch event, which would give participants an opportunity to present their recommendations to local and national stakeholders and ask for commitments.
2. The 'Get Heard, Make Change' project, which would support assembly members to take up media opportunities and promote the work of the assembly.
3. Working with Hope for the Future to present recommendations to MPs.

Commentator Slot:

Before launching into the recommendation writing process, we shared the response from **Rory Stewart** and **Alistair Campbell** to the Assembly's questions, which were asked on the 'question time' episode of The Rest is Politics. This can be viewed [here](#).

Drafting Principles for Good Community Engagement

After Session 4, the facilitation team took the ideas for recommendations that assembly members had shared and themed them. This was intended to make it easier for people to see what others had discussed and for them to build on these ideas in this session.

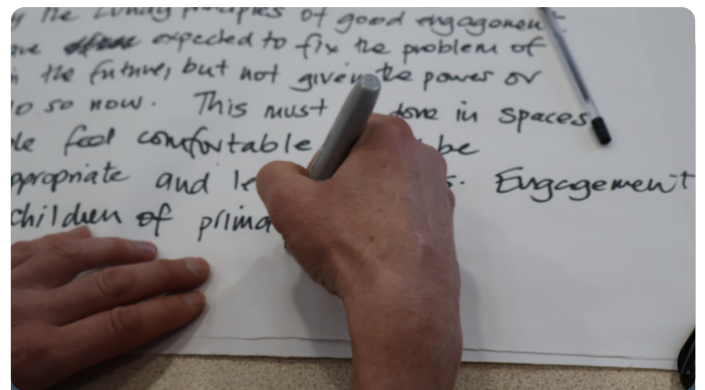
It was felt that while some of the ideas that came out

of Session 4 were for specific actions that could be taken by certain groups or organisations, others were more general. The Oversight Panel agreed that a set of more generally applicable 'principles for good community engagement' should sit alongside the recommendations.

The difference between principles and recommendations was explained by facilitators. It was stressed that if assembly members did not yet understand the difference between principles or recommendations, this should not get in the way of them sharing their ideas. There would be an opportunity to rework the principles and recommendations in Session 6.

Assembly members were asked to join one of four groups. These would take the themed ideas from Session 4 as a starting point for writing principles. The groups were as follows:

- Group 1: Engage at an early stage / need for speed and urgency (notes)
- Group 2: Publicise engagement and make information accessible / value community input, ensure impact and no tokenism / Offer many opportunities to influence and make it ongoing not one off (notes)
- Group 3: Show accountability and feedback / be transparent and honest (notes)



Drafting the 'principles for good engagement'

- Group 4: Engage variety of people / engage young people / any other principles (notes)

Each group spent half an hour drafting principles before a break. After the break, assembly members were able to join a different group and work on a different set of principles if they wanted to for a further half an hour.

Statement Writing

After the principles, we introduced the statement writing activity. The facilitator gave a brief introduction to the purpose of the statement, which would sit alongside the principles and recommendations, and would reflect the feelings of the group about their experience as part of the assembly and what they felt fellow residents needed to know about the assembly



Writing the recommendations

and its conclusions.

While a small group of assembly members would ultimately be responsible for drafting the statement, we wanted to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to input. We asked each participant to share on a post-it note a word or phrase in response to the following questions:

- What's your experience been like as part of the assembly?
- What are your thoughts about the problem that we have been exploring?
- What is the call for action?

Facilitators grouped these on a large sheet of paper wherever they felt themes were emerging and encouraged discussion to draw out the reasons behind the responses.

The post-its were collected at the end of the activity and an initial draft of the statement was written up by a facilitator over the lunch break. This would be refined with the support of a small group of assembly members before being presented to the larger group for feedback.

Recommendation Writing

Before the lunch break, assembly members were given the choice between drafting some recommendations or working on the statement in small groups. Over the course of the afternoon, there were 4 recommendation writing slots of approximately half an hour each. These were determined by the ideas for recommendations that were collected at the end of Session 4. Each group ran twice, and is listed below:

- Group A: MPs and national politics
- Group B: Businesses
- Group C: Young people
- Statement Group
- Group D: New ways to engage
- Group E: Planning and infrastructure
- Group F: Radical campaigns and protest
- Group G: Others



Assembly members take part in an 'opinion line' activity

Opinion Lines

After the lunch break, and before assembly members entered their second recommendation writing group, there was a short 'opinion line' activity. Assembly members were asked a series of questions and asked to stand at a point along an invisible line that spanned the length of the room, according to how they felt they would answer the question. At one end of the room was a sign with the words 'little impact' and 'disagree'; a sign with the words 'big impact' and 'agree' was at the other end of the room. The facilitator asked participants at points along the line for the reason why they stood there and encouraged a discussion between participants.

Reflecting on the recommendations

After the recommendation drafting had concluded, facilitators pinned the recommendations to the walls.

Assembly members were invited to put green sticky notes on the recommendations that they particularly liked, and yellow sticky notes strip on those they felt needed more conversation. During this time, facilitators walked around the room to gain an understanding of why certain recommendations were more or less popular than others.

Sharing the Statement

At the end of the session, the statement was read out to the whole group. Assembly members were asked to raise their hand if they felt they could 'live with it' and would vote in favour of it. Those who didn't raise their hand were asked what changes they would like to see for them to be able to support it. Some suggested changes were made by the facilitator ahead of the last session for the approval of the group.

Session 6

The final session took place online on Thursday 23rd April, 2025. This session was the last chance to make adjustments to the principles and recommendations as a group. Assembly members were reminded that they could still add comments on the recommendations to be published in the report. These can be found in Annex X.

Comments from the Oversight Panel

All of the draft principles and recommendations were shared with the Oversight Panel after Session 5. The Panel were invited to add comments (up to 500 characters in length) to each of the principles and recommendations, in response to the prompt “what might assembly members want to consider when finalising these recommendations”. Any comments were shared back with the Assembly on Friday 18th April via email. Facilitators would encourage assembly members to reflect on these throughout the session. It was up to assembly members whether they felt that these comments should be incorporated into the recommendations or ignored.

Improving the Principles and Recommendations

Assembly members were asked to choose between two of four themed groups of principles to suggest improvements. Each group was given 15 minutes to suggest improvements before they had the opportunity to choose a different set of principles.

Assembly members were then asked to suggest improvements to the recommendations. The recommendations were split into 7 themed groups in total, with one facilitator allocated to each. Participants could choose up to four different groups of recommendations to work on, and had two opportunities to suggest improvements to each themed group of recommendations. Each round of improvements lasted approximately 15 minutes. All assembly members were reminded that there was a comments box on the voting form where they could share any additional improvements if there was not enough time to discuss.

Celebration activity

At the end of the session, we asked all assembly members to share a short answer to the following question: what has taking part in the assembly meant to you and anything else you'd like to say to the group?



Assembly members reflected on the recommendations they liked and those they felt needed more attention



Assembly Statement

The following statement was written by a small group of Assembly members. An 80% threshold of support was set for inclusion in the report.

The statement received 92.8% support from the Assembly.

We are a broad range of citizens unified by a passion to empower the voices of Cumbria. We have brought our own stories and diverse experiences and have worked together to try and show and understand our different perspectives. This process has been challenging for us all, but it has also been thought provoking and inspiring. We have heard from and questioned commentators, as well as each other and feel encouraged by meeting so many motivated people.

People feel powerless and that needs to be taken seriously. Sharing power increases everyone's power. We are concerned that consultation only happens when a decision has been made and we feel like we are too often simply a box to be ticked. Local communities are full of knowledge and expertise which is under used or just not considered at all. Within our area there are 6 MP's and we were disappointed that none of them were able to prioritise engaging with this process.

We want things to change. More effort needs to be made to engage with the community at a much earlier stage - and much more effort made to engage voices from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds, particularly younger people who can feel ignored or overlooked. We are an untapped resource of knowledge and power and we should be taken much more seriously.

We have experienced being heard through this process and we want that for everyone else in our communities. We believe our recommendations, if implemented, will go a long way towards improving both how decisions are made and what decisions are taken. Together we can work towards a true partnership between communities and decision makers, for everyone's benefit.

Principles for Good Engagement

These principles should be adopted by Councils and other organisations to inform and guide their work in engaging with communities. They should be included in specific policies e.g. Westmorland and Furness Council's Engagement Framework and other similar initiatives.

The principles are listed in rank order. Assembly members were asked to vote on a scale of "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" for each principle, with each vote worth the following number of points:

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
+2	+1	0	-1	-2

The points for each principle were tallied and the principles ranked accordingly.

Assembly members were also invited to comment on the principles. These can be found in Annex A.

Engage at an early stage

1st | 76 Points

The community should be consulted on any perceived issues or problems, before any significant investment is made. Then consult meaningfully on any solutions and progress thereafter, utilising the knowledge and skills within the community wherever possible.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
34	8	0	0	0

Make information understandable and accessible

2nd | 71 Points

Information relevant to decisions that have an impact on climate change must be accessible. It is the responsibility of decision makers to make information clear and relevant. This is key to ensuring citizens at all levels of education are informed and able to influence decisionmakers. This could mean:

- Standardised reporting, that is objective and free from bias and also provides clarity on the environmental impact.
- there should be 'Plain English' explanations about what policies and decisions Councils and other organisations e.g. businesses are considering, not just long technical documents. Links to longer documents can be included. Keep it simple, but don't oversimplify. This might mean executive report summaries with full detail for those who want it.
- Easy to find information, that is in one clearly signposted place and accessible to all.
- Different formats (e.g. social images, videos, reports)

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
30	11	1	0	0

Citizens not consumers

3rd | 69 Points

We need to be treated as citizens, with something to bring to the table, rather than just consumers. Councils and others should be proactive and enabling in how they engage with Citizens. If not many people respond to a consultation it probably isn't because we aren't interested, it is maybe because something is wrong with the consultation e.g. not explained well, difficult time, short notice etc.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
29	11	2	0	0

Young People

=3rd | 69 Points

Quality engagement with young people is an essential. Organisations, when engaging, should be guided by and prioritise the '**Lundy principles**' of good engagement. Young people are expected to fix the problem of climate change in the future but not given the power or opportunity to do so now. This engagement must be held in spaces where young people feel comfortable, should be respectful and age appropriate, should be in spaces across Cumbria (we live in a county which is hard to travel across) and lead to results. Engagement should also include children of primary age. Decision makers must go to young people and not expect young people to go to them, using a range of approaches e.g. meetings, surveys, anonymous QR codes, online and offline sessions etc. Creativity and fun should guide some of these activities.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
29	11	2	0	0

Honesty and Transparency

5th | 67 Points

Decision makers must be clear about what decisions have been made, how they have been made, and why. We need to understand the gap between what decision makers want to do and what they can do (e.g. what is blocking them from taking action). This can help to break down the high levels of distrust in government and will ensure that citizens can make environmentally conscious decisions when shopping or using services. In any consultation process, there must be openness about any budgetary or legal constraints that might apply to actions or recommendations made as a result

Honesty and transparency might be evidenced through:

- Businesses: Environmental reporting
- Councils: A council climate dashboard
- Government: Adopting the EU rules on greenwashing language.
- All: More reporting that is peer reviewed by an independent body.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
28	11	3	0	0

Reaching out to specific groups

6th | 65 Points

Efforts must be made to reach out specifically to minority groups and groups whose voices are not traditionally heard on this topic. Including those who will face the biggest impact, for example those on lower incomes / working-class and those with specific needs for example disabled people. We all have different needs which must be heard, understood and articulated. Efforts must be made to work with such groups to identify their access needs with them science, history, arts, and the natural world.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
28	9	5	0	0

Accountability and Feedback

7th | 64 Points

Engagement should be followed up / tied in with realistic and ambitious targets and dates. Organisations, groups and individuals that have committed to taking action must be able to demonstrate clear, tangible, and verifiable progress against clear timescales. They must be willing to provide feedback on progress, explain why they have not met targets and how they will learn from this. This might look like:

- Adopting SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) and encouraging ambition when setting them.
- “You said, we did” reporting, but also “we didn’t, here’s why”
- Regular reporting through e.g. newsletters.

There should be standardised methods and meaningful words for reporting statistics and progress.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
25	14	3	0	0

Engagement Methods

8th | 59 Points

Use engagement methods that are fun, creative, accessible, have variety, consider people’s circumstances / needs, are advertised well (giving good notice) and use appropriate language to engage target groups.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
21	18	2	1	0

Routine Dialogue with Communities

9th | 58 Points

Dialogue with communities should be: proactive, embedded, ongoing and regular. We are a powerful resource which the status quo is not tapping into.

For example regular monthly events in the evening (one in person, one online) where a whole range of current problems, potential solutions and opportunities can be shared with the community. The Council and other organisations can share information and seek input at these regular events. Having regular meetings will help community members engage, rather than having to keep track of many different times and arrangements for various initiatives and consultations.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
20	19	2	1	0

Bringing People Together

10th | 55 Points

There must be opportunities for various groups to come together so we can understand each other's perspectives and value each other rather than blame each other, for example intergenerational engagement

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
18	19	5	0	0

Who Engages

11th | 36 Points

Engagement whenever possible should be facilitated by a person the community can relate to and identify with, ideally a person with a similar identity or from the same demographic group or people with similar attitudes

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
14	13	11	3	1

Recommendations

The recommendations are listed in rank order. Assembly members were asked to vote on a scale of “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” for each recommendation, with each vote worth the following number of points:

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
+2	+1	0	-1	-2

The points for each recommendation were tallied and the recommendations ranked accordingly.

The recommendations are grouped into 7 themes:

Jury members were also invited to comment on the recommendations. These can be found in Annex B.

MPs and National Politics

Businesses

Young People

New Ways to Engage

Planning and Infrastructure

Campaigns and Protest

Informed Citizens



Recommendation 1

1st | 70 Points (MPs and National Politics 1)

MPs and all other elected representatives need to be proactive, seeking the views of everyone rather than reactively responding to the vocal minority. They need to work harder to capture more voices from their community about the environment and climate change. They can do this by:

- MPs annually reaching out to their constituents via post, social media, emails etc to specifically seek out ideas and concerns about climate change and environmental issues (3 month window to submit ideas/concerns, 3 months for the MP to report back the findings to constituents, 3 months to put the concerns/ideas forward to local and national govt, 3 months to start action, then repeat cycle)
- MPs holding regular open invite Zoom meetings and online polls on climate issues
- Elected representatives (local and national) should attend (not as a participant but e.g. as commentators or observers) any climate juries/assemblies or similar processes that are held within their constituencies
- It would be beneficial for all elected representatives, relevant employees and civil servants to receive ongoing climate literacy training to enhance understanding and communication with the wider community

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
28	14	0	0	0

Recommendation 2

2nd | 69 Points (Planning and Infrastructure 1)

Local Plans: there needs to be a concerted effort to inform people about the significance of the 4 Local Plans that affect Cumbria and how to have their voices heard during the creation of the plans. This consultation/engagement should adhere to the Principles outlined by this Assembly. The timeline of the development of the four Local Plans should be aligned so that:

- There can be a county-wide well publicised engagement process
- Issues that affect the whole county can be identified and dealt with in a collaborative manner

Local Plans should have the power to mandate local climate measures that are more impactful than national guidelines currently suggest e.g. insist that new housing developments install solar PV as standard. Local Government should lobby national government to make this happen and study the case of Lancaster City Council to see what is already possible now.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
27	15	0	0	0

Recommendation 3

3rd | 68 Points (Informed Citizens 1)

More needs to be done to focus on what we stand to gain from climate action rather than what we stand to lose e.g. in relation to energy efficiency and resilience. We should all play a part in this: MPs, Local councils, Community groups and Individuals. This is not just the job of climate change organisations.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
28	12	2	0	0

Recommendation 4

=4th | 66 Points (Informed Citizens 2)

We recommend the set up of a Cumbria-wide independent central hub where all groups, organisations, councils, businesses and members of the public can access information and resources, engage with each other on issues concerning climate change decision making, and actively invite feedback on issues and concerns.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
27	12	3	0	0

Recommendation 5

=4th | 66 Points (Informed Citizens 3)

When Local Authorities make a decision on any matter, they must carry out a carbon impact assessment which must be included in any documents relating to the decision. e.g. cabinet papers, planning committee reports etc. This would provide our citizens with some comfort that climate change is considered within all decision making.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
28	11	2	1	0

Recommendation 6

6th | 65 Points (Planning and Infrastructure 2)

Funding should be ringfenced to engage the public in options assessments before any infrastructure development is proposed (e.g. discuss a variety of traffic reduction solutions before starting feasibility studies for a ring road or explore waste reduction potential before considering planning for a new incinerator). This should be for example via a standing citizens assembly or through an independent organisation e.g. People Powered or New Citizen Project. This should be mandatory for public funding projects and best practice for privately funded projects.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
25	15	2	0	0

Recommendation 7

=7th | 64 Points (Young People 1)

It is essential to engage young people and in order for this engagement to be meaningful all organisations should apply the **Lundy principles** (considering space, voice, audience and influence).

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
24	16	2	0	0

Recommendation 8

=7th | 64 Points (Young People 2)

Climate change should have a compulsory part in the curriculum, this could be carried out at both a national level and also at the local level including learning about its effect on local communities. Without this priority young people have limited understanding of what climate change is and what its implications are. As a result young people who want to influence decision-making on climate change are not taken seriously and intimidated and sometimes ridiculed by their peers. This learning should also enable young people to understand how they can best use their voice to influence climate change decision making.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
25	14	3	0	0

Recommendation 9

=9th | 61 Points (New Ways to Engage 1)

There should be a pilot for a standing assembly on climate change and nature in Cumbria with a rotating membership. Its design must remove barriers to participation (compensating people, covering childcare etc). It must lead to change so more people are then encouraged to engage. The assembly will decide what issues the elected officials should consider / act upon in response to the assembly's work and feedback regularly on action taken. In its design the assembly should firstly be ground breaking in making sure there are spaces for children and young people as well as spaces for both young and old to deliberate together and secondly draw upon the experiences of existing standing assemblies (see this briefing and the example of the **permanent climate assembly in Paris** (pp.121-124). We request that existing councils, the National Park Authority and any future mayoral authority considers that the assembly becomes part of its formal decision-making process. We hope that the success of this experiment can be built upon to consider other issues, not just climate change. A citizens assembly is a very specific model of engagement. We also recommend that key decision makers undertake training to better understand this approach and its value and that there is further research on what model of operation might work best in Cumbria

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
25	13	2	2	0

Recommendation 10

=9th | 61 Points (Planning and Infrastructure 3)

The planning system and planning documents are difficult for the public to understand. People don't know what they can change and when is the best time/point to intervene. It is not clear what is local vs national government responsibility. Citizens want to be involved – you can help by adopting the principles developed by this Assembly and providing clear information such as:

- A widely available summary infographic about the planning process with a background detailed document
- A recording of an explanatory webinar
- All of the above could be developed with the assistance of the Standing Assembly
- Having training sessions for people interested in more detailed understanding of the planning process with the opportunity to ask questions

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
22	17	3	0	0

Recommendation 11

11th | 57 Points (Campaigns and Protest 1)

We are opposed to the draconian antiprotest laws which stifle discussion and democratic engagement and make people more radical and disruptive or politically apathetic. People increasingly feel like they must do extreme things just to be heard.

Protests are a fundamental democratic right and have played a critical role in the fight for women's rights, disability rights, and raising awareness of climate change.

The government should repeal these laws now. It must explore options to reduce disruption from protests by providing more open communication with the government.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
25	10	5	1	1

Recommendation 12

=12th | 50 Points (New Ways to Engage 2)

Organisations should experiment with new, different, innovative and diverse ways of engaging with communities that seek out lived experience and tap into the ideas and energies of everyone, such as:

- Participatory policy making and participatory budgeting.
- Polls and debates to gather public opinion before voting / debating / deciding, for example; a call in radio show/podcast/online video show, a telephone hotline (voicemail box where folks can contribute ideas / opinions / questions),
- Big regular community meetings including: guest speakers as starting points for deliberation and public question and answers.
- Legislative theatre
- Using the Spacehive platform to crowdfund for local projects.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
16	19	6	1	0

Recommendation 13

=12th | 50 Points (MPs and National Politics 2)

The system is not responding as if this is an emergency. We think this needs proportional representation and free voting for climate issues (not on party lines). MPs and other elected members should be accountable in making sure that policies including budgets and funding are sufficient to reach milestones in Cumbria's progress towards its net zero goal of 2037. We would like the national Climate Change Committee to scrutinise progress in Cumbria specifically in addition to its UK-wide remit. Transparency is needed about finance and lobbyists potentially affecting decision making – the government should publish figures on funding and donations to be transparent about the basis on which decisions are made.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
23	10	5	2	2

Recommendation 14

14th | 49 Points (Businesses 1)

We recognise that businesses may have many different obligations (Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Value, Sustainability) and these change all the time. At the very least, we think businesses with such policies, and where possible, small businesses that do not yet have such policies, should fully consider their climate and nature obligations, and where possible:

- Raise public awareness of climate change.
- Actively report on the climate impact of the business and its products
- Support non-profit climate action groups to amplify their voice
- Hold customer focus groups on sustainability and climate contributing change.
- Employ a climate impact officer. For smaller companies, this may be an existing employee with additional responsibilities. This would be a channel for influence.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
18	15	7	2	0

Recommendation 15

15th | 46 Points (Businesses 2)

Businesses need joined up sustainability and engagement corporate functions with real opportunities for employees or citizens to influence decisions. Large businesses in particular should recognise that they have a responsibility to empower and educate citizens so that they are able to influence decision making.

- Large businesses must ensure that community engagement and sustainability teams work together, not in siloes, to help communities have meaningful influences.
- Shareholders must be asked what kind of return (e.g. not just profit) they want to see.

- Businesses should report on what environmental action they are taking in their annual reports / AGMs and give shareholders the opportunity to vote on options.
- Employers must provide mandatory carbon literacy training to their employees (management and staff) to influence decision-makers within their organisations. This should also apply to small businesses, which make up 70% of the UK economy. The returns on accreditation far outweigh the initial cost. This could be delivered through government funded non-profits or funded through tax incentives.
- Large businesses could consider funding training for small businesses and voluntary sector organisations.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
13	21	7	1	0

Recommendation 16

16th | 43 Points (New Ways to Engage 3)

We recommend using fun and creative ways to engage the whole community. Some examples of engagement methods could include: a festival, newsletters, roadshows, local theatre, etc.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
16	17	5	2	2

Recommendation 17

17th | 32 Points (Campaigns and Protest 2)

Shareholders can remind companies that their priorities may not be only financial, but environmental.

- Shareholders should be encouraged to use their power to influence companies.
- Climate campaign organisations should research into polluting companies that can be influenced through shareholder meetings and how (e.g. what are the minimum shareholdings required to attend) so that citizens can be empowered to coordinate and strategically purchase shares and influence climate policies at their Annual General Meetings.

S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. Disagree
11	18	8	2	3