

Evaluating the Trajectories for Carbon Emission Reductions public dialogue project

Report for Sciencewise and the
Committee on Climate Change

March 2014

Executive Summary

This executive summary highlights the key findings from the evaluation of the Trajectories for Carbon Emission Reductions public dialogue project, commissioned by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) with the support of Sciencewise.

Background

The CCC, with support from Sciencewise, developed a public dialogue process to learn more about public understanding of, and views on, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and on the costs and challenges in meeting the 4th Carbon Budget. Hopkins van Mil (HVM) was commissioned to design and deliver the public dialogue.

The dialogue involved 25 people from the Greater London area who were broadly representative of the population of the United Kingdom (e.g. in terms of gender, life stage, social grade and ethnicity).

It involved three separate events held over four days, adopting elements of the Citizen's Jury dialogue model. The dialogue participants formed a panel that was taken on a journey from exploring the context of carbon emission reductions to making recommendations to the Committee. The events contained a mixture of plenary sessions and small group break-out sessions. The workshops, all lasting 3-3.5 hours, were held on 9, 10 and 12 October 2013.

HVM worked in close collaboration with a project Oversight Group to make complex scientific information on the climate change challenge accessible to participants. This included four think pieces, which were sent to panel members in advance. Delegate packs were also emailed in advance of workshop 1 and provided in hard copy at the venue. Presentations by Expert Witnesses provided the framework for small group deliberation and ensured that panel members gradually gained knowledge about the key issues.

A detailed overview of the dialogue process is provided in the Introduction section of this report.

Evaluation objectives and methodology

This evaluation had two aims:

1. To provide an independent assessment of the quality and impacts of the dialogue project to demonstrate the extent of the project's credibility, effectiveness, and success against its objectives, covering both the dialogue processes and their outcomes (including an assessment of impacts on policy and those involved);
2. To contribute to increasing the wider effectiveness and use of public dialogue.

The evaluation comprised three key elements:

- *Observing the dialogue events.*
- *Post-event feedback* - a two-stage approach: (i) a short paper-based questionnaire (asked of all 25 participants); and (ii) an online discussion board (with 12 of the participants), which was held over the course of the week immediately after the dialogue events. This latter approach allowed for in-depth responses and provided a detailed understanding of participants' perspectives.
- *Interviews with 15 key stakeholders* - drawn from policy audiences and funders.

Key evaluation findings and lessons

i) Design

- The three stage process, drawing on elements of a Citizens' Jury approach, was very effective - avoiding information overload in the early, more educative parts of the dialogue and allowing for a deeper level of debate.

- The final (Saturday) event culminated in a session where a selection of participants fed back, on behalf of their table, a series of recommendations to the CCC attendees. The CCC then, in turn, responded to these recommendations. This was very effective and an example of best practice that should be considered, wherever possible, on other dialogue projects. The feedback from participants suggests that it was an important means of giving them confidence that their views were important and likely to be listened to.
- A slight lack of clarity of the objectives was raised by some participants and stakeholders. For example, several participants noted that they were not always clear about what the endgame of the process was intended to be, even though this was set this out at the beginning of the first event as well as returned to in the first panel discussion of each subsequent event. This emphasises the need for additional signposting that flags not only how the events link together but also the outcome they are building towards.
- The think pieces were well received and used by participants, which is noteworthy given the potential for ‘information overload’. Feedback suggests that further improvements are possible – particularly in terms of quoting sources, breaking the information into bite sized chunks and using images and comparisons to help convey large and abstract figures.
- While most participants were comfortable with the balance of information provided, some questioned the absence of a speaker who was sceptical about climate change. This flags an important distinction between the perceived *independence* of an organisation (which participants acknowledged the CCC to be) and its perceived *neutrality* (which more participants questioned). On balance we conclude that, as the science of climate science was not the primary focus of the dialogue, it is reasonable for there to not have been a strong counter-perspective on this subject. The issue of natural climate variability and questions about the uncertainty inherent to scientific enquiry were both raised and not obfuscated.
- The project timescale was a significant constraint and had a series of impacts, from materials development and speaker availability through to the functioning of the Oversight Group.

ii) Delivery

- The event organisation was exemplary and the venue was fit for purpose (although having some space for break out rooms for the mini groups may have been useful at the point at which participants were developing their recommendations to the CCC). Facilitation was strong throughout the dialogue.
- The speakers and the content of the presentations were well received by participants.
- The process of developing questions took place in the small groups, some of which were then asked in plenary (as opposed to a completely open Q&A in plenary only). This approach worked well to allow the majority of participants to input to the formulation of questions (rather than a confident few), and to enable the process to move forward smoothly. However, a criticism from a number of participants was the lack of time to ask the speakers questions (particularly given that participants found the speakers engaging and wanted more time for clarifications).
- Participants were keen for opportunities to engage the CCC attendees directly (rather than via the facilitators). There was opportunity for this, and there was also a positive atmosphere in the room with participants comfortable talking to CCC representatives (and vice versa). Nonetheless, and perhaps reflecting how much they valued the opportunities that they were given, participants wanted more time for this.
- The CCC speakers noted that they were helped to tailor their approach by the contractor, which was particularly useful given they are not typically accustomed to presenting to a public audience. Even so, some CCC attendees also noted that they were not entirely clear how much they could engage participants and would have been willing to provide further information informally.

iii) Impacts

- On policy: The dialogue had a very specific output in the form of its input into the CCC's advice to Government on the 4th Carbon Budget, which was published in December 2013. The Dialogue report was published in parallel on the CCC website as an annex to the main report.
- On participants: The evaluation finds that the dialogue had a positive impact upon participants, in terms of them learning something new as a result of taking part, their views towards the value of public participation in these sorts of events, and their attitudes to climate change.
- On the CCC: the immediate impacts of the dialogue on the CCC – beyond its immediate role in helping to inform the CCC's advice to Government on the 4th Carbon Budget - are likely to be subtle and slow burn. A key reason for this is the fact that the findings from the dialogue largely supported the CCC's overarching narrative on climate change emissions reductions (i.e. that transition is possible at reasonable costs and the UK should retain its leadership role internationally). If the dialogue results had questioned specific measures or challenged the overarching narrative, then the impacts may have been more apparent.

While the impacts may be subtle they could potentially be significant. For example, the CCC point to the project influencing internal discussions about future research needs, potentially arguing for a stronger role for assumptions about behaviour change in future assessments, and flagging potential public concern about specific technologies (e.g. Shale gas, Carbon Capture and Storage). It is also likely to inform other forthcoming reports to Government and Parliament.

- On stakeholders: circulation of the dialogue report to date appears to have been relatively low key and limited to immediate known contacts of the CCC across Government, or to those individuals who have attended a meeting where CCC have referred to the work. Nonetheless, this element remains a work in progress and impacts are likely to accrue over time.

An issue raised by all stakeholders is the small size of the dialogue and its geographical focus around Greater London. While clearly operating in a qualitative sense (and therefore there is no objectively 'right' answer or minimum sample size), there was a sense that the findings could have been more persuasive had there been three or four of the Panels across the country (i.e. 75-100 participants with greater regional distribution).

iv) Governance

- The OG appeared to work very effectively as a vehicle for the CCC, Sciencewise and HVM to convene and plan the delivery of the project. Meetings were productive, positive and appeared to help the process of fine tuning the approach.
- However, its representation was limited and heavily impacted by the timetable constraints. The late involvement of certain members impacted on the functioning of the OG and led to a somewhat disjointed process that, in effect, reflected a 'two tier' OG - a small group involved in the direct delivery of the dialogue, and then some additional representation from external organisations who did not have the benefit from being involved from the outset.

v) Conclusions

We conclude that the dialogue was effectively delivered and sets out some key examples of good practice from which other dialogue projects can learn. These included the 3-stage 'panel' process - particularly the final discussion between participants and the CCC - and the clarity and engagement of the presentations, think pieces and accompanying materials.

Perhaps most notable of all was the dynamic of the events and, in particular, the openness of the discussion between participants as peers as well as with stakeholders in the room. The dialogue empowered participants to be comfortable and able to engage with the subject matter on an equal footing with others. These successes are all the more impressive in light of the challenging timescale constraints.

We conclude that the dialogue has met Sciencewise's principles of good public dialogue.

01

Introduction

This report sets out key findings from the evaluation of the Trajectories for Carbon Emission Reductions public dialogue project, commissioned by the Committee on Climate Change with the support of Sciencewise. The findings from the dialogue project itself were published in December 2013¹.

Background

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC)², with support from Sciencewise³, developed a public dialogue process to learn more about public understanding of, and views on, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and on the costs and challenges in meeting the 4th Carbon Budget.

In 2011 the Government legislated the level of the 4th Carbon Budget (2023-2027). This requires a 50% reduction in UK greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by 2025, on the path to an 80% reduction in 2050.

When adopting the budget in line with the CCC's recommendation, the Government also committed to carrying out a review in early 2014. The CCC was required to provide advice for that review. This was intended to include a recommendation on the appropriate rate of emissions reduction taking into account what has changed since initially providing its advice, including in relation to scientific understanding and estimated economic impacts of the budget.

In providing advice in relation to carbon budgets the CCC is required to take into account a number of matters specified in the Climate Change Act. These include scientific knowledge about climate change, relevant technology, economic and social circumstances. Whilst public understanding of climate change is not directly identified as a separate matter for the CCC to consider, it clearly plays in to acceptability of carbon budgets and how they are met – through issues around acceptance of the science, costs, and views about technologies. It is therefore an important consideration in the CCC's work.

Dialogue Objectives

The aim of the project was to better inform understanding of public opinions and attitudes towards greenhouse gas emissions reductions, specifically around the acceptability of the 4th Carbon Budget. The key objectives for the dialogue were to allow the CCC to learn more about:

- Public understanding of the global climate change challenge and acceptability of the risks of global climate change compared to the costs of global action.
- Public views of the UK's role and responsibility within global action, their understanding of what the UK and others are doing, and tolerance for the risks of moving first vs. the benefits.
- Public understanding of and attitudes to energy bill impacts of UK action – including whether the public understand what has driven price changes historically, understanding of what may happen to prices/bills in future and the possible trade-offs between higher but stable prices, or lower but more volatile prices, and how public acceptability of the case for action is impacted by levels of expected cost.

¹ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/trajectories-for-carbon-emission-reductions/>

² The Committee on Climate Change (the CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Its purpose is to advise the UK Government on setting and meeting carbon budgets and targets, and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. See www.theccc.org.uk

³ Sciencewise is funded by the Science and Society team of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Sciencewise is the UK's national centre for public dialogue in policy making involving science and technology issues. See www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

- Public understanding of, and attitudes towards, the wider implications of UK action – including whether the CCC's rationale for budget levels - e.g. small economic costs with potential to mitigate competitiveness concerns, potential for increased energy security, UK contribution to insurance against potentially catastrophic climate change - is accepted as a reasonably balanced approach.
- Whether the public think the case for UK action has changed significantly since the fourth carbon budget was legislated in June 2011. For example, do they think the recession and its impact in reducing emissions should lead to a lowering or tightening of long-term ambition?

Hopkins van Mil (HVM) was commissioned to design and deliver the public dialogue.

Dialogue project activities

This section provides the reader with an overview of the dialogue process itself and sets the context for the evaluation findings that follow.

Oversight Group

The CCC established an Oversight Group to ensure the project would be delivered on time and to standard. The members were as follows:

- Professor Sam Fankhauser – Committee on Climate Change
- Adrian Gault – Committee on Climate Change Secretariat
- Mike Thompson – Committee on Climate Change Secretariat
- Sarah Leck – Committee on Climate Change Secretariat
- Steve Robinson – Sciencewise-ERC
- James Tweed – Sciencewise-ERC
- Laura Osborne- Which?
- Dr Louise Strong – Which?
- Phil Downing - Icaro (appointed evaluator)
- Henrietta Hopkins – Hopkins van Mil
- Anita van Mil – Hopkins van Mil

Participants and recruitment

HVM instructed Acumen Fieldwork to recruit a sample of 25 people residing in the Greater London area who were broadly representative of the population of the United Kingdom in terms of gender, life stage, social grade/household income, religion and ethnicity.

The decision to focus on one location – Greater London – was done for good reasons (relating to the short timeframe and budgetary constraints), but does necessarily restrict the ability of the dialogue to reflect any regional perspectives. The following table presents an overview of recruitment criteria and targets agreed by the Oversight Group.

Criteria	Target
Professionally involved with an energy company or in a field related to climate change	Those with this experience should be excluded from the study
Gender	50% male / female
Age	Good age distribution including 20% of 18-35s
Ethnicity	13% black and / or minority ethnic
Current working status and type	A good spread of people in employment / stay at home parents / unemployed / students/ retired
Extent of knowledge of climate change debates	50% describing themselves as highly or fairly knowledgeable; 50% as having little or no knowledge
Extent to which they have followed the debate in the media	50% would say they closely follow the debate in the media 50% who do not closely follow the debate in the media

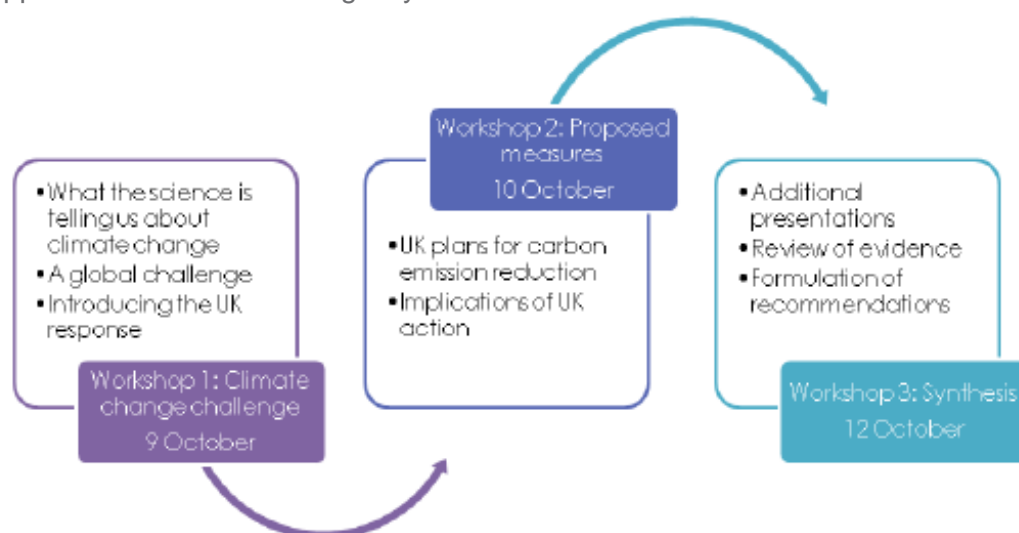
In addition the fieldwork team also included their standard recruitment screener which restricts participation in the dialogue by people who work in journalism and / or have taken part in market research in the last six months.

A 'panel' process

Because of the need to share and deliberate on complex information in a short space of time and within a tight budget HVM designed a dialogue in three parts, adopting elements of the Citizen's Jury dialogue model. To enable deep engagement with the issues the dialogue participants formed a panel that was taken on a journey from exploring the context of carbon emission reductions to making recommendations to the Committee on Climate Change to inform their review of the Government's 4th Carbon Budget.

The events contained a mixture of plenary sessions and small group break-out sessions, whereby the 25 participants were allocated randomly to three mini groups (the Blue, Orange and Green tables). The facilitation team worked with the same small groups of panel members over the course of the three days. Panel members therefore had an opportunity to become familiar with each other's views; work together on solutions and proposals and feel they were in a trusted situation with both fellow panel members and their facilitators.

Using the panel approach participants deliberated on the challenges, implications and opportunities in the following way.



The panel discussions involved a mixture of individual and group reflection – the former through post it exercises, an ‘ideas wall’ and paired discussion; the latter through group discussion, brainstorming and role playing.

Timings

The Committee had agreed to advise the Government on the 4th Carbon Budget in December 2013 and, in order for them to make use of the dialogue findings in its advice to Government, the dialogue process took place within a six week timescale. The three workshops were held on 9, 10 and 12 October 2013. All three sessions lasted around 3-3.5 hours - the first two sessions were held in the evening (18:00-21:15); the final session was held on a Saturday (10:00-13:30).

Information provision

HVM worked in close collaboration with the Oversight Group to make complex scientific information on the climate change challenge accessible for comment and review by members of the public with varying degrees of knowledge of the issue. HVM worked with the CCC team to produce four think pieces, which were sent to panel members in advance of the panel discussions to bring everyone up to speed with the challenges before they considered them in the sessions.

Delegate packs, including the first two Think Pieces, a programme for the dialogue day and Discussion Help Points (including a glossary of terms) were emailed in advance of workshop 1 and provided in hard copy at the venue. The Think Pieces were each limited to 2 pages.

Presentations

Presentations by Expert Witnesses provided the framework for small group deliberation and ensured that panel members gradually gained knowledge about the issues affecting the 4th Carbon Budget.

Wednesday 9 October 2013

- Dr Steve Smith – Climate scientist, Committee on Climate Change Secretariat: The science of climate change
- Adrian Gault – Chief Economist, CCC Secretariat: Global action on climate change

Thursday 10 October 2013

- Adrian Gault – Chief Economist, CCC Secretariat: What is the UK doing to tackle climate change?
- Mike Thompson – Head of Carbon Budgets, CCC Secretariat: Costs and impact of UK action on climate change

Saturday 12 October

During the first two panel meetings panel members recorded what else they needed to know to make informed recommendations to the Committee on Climate Change at the end of the dialogue. Mike Thompson, Adrian Gault and Sarah Leck from the Committee on Climate Change Secretariat prepared answers to the main outstanding issues and questions and delivered a presentation on those at the start of the third meeting.

The CCC sought to provide a balanced overview of information on the science of climate change, including reference in the first presentation to uncertainty in climate models and the role of natural cycles and variability in the climate. It was also noted in the presentation that other people hold the view that observed changes in the climate are more the result of these natural cycles than they are the result of human activity. In the accompanying think piece it was noted that “several factors play a role in Earth's climate” and that “human activity is enhancing this greenhouse gas effect”.

Stakeholder representation at the events

The majority of Oversight Group members, representatives from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and a number of CCC staff, including the Chief Executive, attended the panel discussions as observers.

- Professor Sam Fankhauser – Member of the Committee on Climate Change
- David Kennedy – Chief Executive, Committee on Climate Change Secretariat
- Sarah Leck – Carbon Budgets team, CCC Secretariat
- Nisha Pawar – Communications Officer, CCC Secretariat
- Steve Robinson – Dialogue and Engagement Specialist, Sciencewise
- Phil Downing – Evaluator, Icaro
- Two members of the Carbon Budgets team, DECC, Strategy Directorate

Reporting and dissemination

The dialogue report, CCC's report to Government and its technical report⁴ were all published in December 2013 on the CCC and Sciencewise websites. HVM sent an email link to the dialogue report and CCC technical report to all participants in the public dialogue. Both the Committee's reports refer directly to the dialogue process - the technical report outlines the Panel's key recommendations in full (p27).

⁴ CCC, Sciencewise, Hopkins Van Mil (2013) *UK Response to Climate Change. Final Report: Findings Public Dialogue*. Hopkins Va Mil Creating Connections; CCC (2013) *Fourth Carbon Budget Review - part 2. The cost-effective path to the 2050 target*. CCC, December 2013; CCC (2013) *Fourth Carbon Budget Review - technical report. Sectoral analysis of the cost-effective path to the 2050 target*. CCC, December 2013. <http://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/fourth-carbon-budget-review>

Evaluation objectives

This evaluation had two aims:

3. To provide an independent assessment of the quality and impacts of the dialogue project to demonstrate the extent of the project's credibility, effectiveness, and success against its objectives, covering both the dialogue processes and their outcomes (including an assessment of impacts on policy and those involved);
4. To contribute to increasing the wider effectiveness and use of public dialogue.

It was conducted in accordance with the Sciencewise requirements for evaluation⁵.

Evaluation methodology

The evaluation comprised three key elements that generated a mix of quantitative and qualitative data:

- *Observing the dialogue events* – Icaro attended two of the three events (the first and final sessions).
- *Post-event feedback* - a two-stage approach: (i) a short paper-based questionnaire (asked of all 25 participants), which achieved a 100% response rate; and (ii) an online discussion board (with 12 of the participants), which was held over the course of the week immediately after the dialogue events. This latter approach allowed for in-depth responses and provided a detailed understanding of participants' perspectives. The questionnaire, topline results and online discussion prompts are all outlined in Appendices 1-3.
- *Interviews with key stakeholders* - 15 interviews with key stakeholders, drawn from key policy audiences and funders. The interview guide is included in Appendix 4.

Report structure

This report is structured to provide evaluation findings and lessons on the following:

- i) Design
- ii) Delivery
- iii) Impact
- iv) Governance

The final section outlines our conclusions and overall lessons for the future.

⁵ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/project-guidance/>

02

Design

This section outlines key evaluation findings in respect of the design of the dialogue.

1. Three-stage ‘panel’ process

Early discussions between the CCC, Sciencewise and HVM focused on the best approach and they adopted a three stage process, drawing on elements of a Citizens’ Jury approach. This was considered the best way share and deliberate on complex information in a short space of time and within a tight budget.

Observation and feedback confirmed that this approach was very effective for this topic and arguably led to better outcomes than a more traditional ‘two full days’ approach. In particular, it allowed for four things:

- It avoided information overload in the early, more educative parts of the dialogue. Many participants noted that a full day would have been too much and could not have maintained the group’s energy and focus.
- In breaking the information down into distinct parts it allowed for a deeper focus / level of debate.
- It gave a nice structure to the process, i.e. two events each dealing with a distinct element of the debate (i.e. the first covering the science of climate change; the second on the UK’s plans for carbon emissions reductions) that built towards a final event.
- It allowed participants time in between events to reflect on what they had heard, discuss it with others and revisit the think pieces. It also allowed them the space to bond as a team.

The three different sessions worked well. If it was all done on one day it would have been too long and there would have been far too much information to digest in one go. I think doing it this way gave everyone the opportunity to get to know each other and relax enabling people to speak openly about their views.

Participant

It was excellent as it gave ‘thinking time’ between sessions. It also minimised brain overload in trying to take in too much at once. It was also better having them on three different days also, just to give time to help points become clearer in your mind and made the notes more understandable giving the deeper information the experts gave.

Participant

I thought about the subjects a lot in between sessions and chatted to my husband and children. This helped me to assimilate the information so that by the Saturday session, I had a better understanding and had formed some opinions and questions.

Participant

In spite of the greater time commitment of a 3-stage process, there was no drop off in attendance with all 25 participants present across all three events. Likewise, there appeared – from our own observations – no evidence of participants tiring or diminishing returns by the final Saturday event.

2. The final feedback session

The final (Saturday) event culminated in a session where a selection of participants fed back, on behalf of their table, a series of recommendations to the CCC attendees. This took the form of them moving to the front and sitting in front of the CCC attendees. One CCC attendee (Professor Sam Fankhauser) then, in turn, responded to these recommendations.

While this evaluation goes on, in point 3, to question the process of how the recommendations were arrived at, the premise of the final feedback session itself was extremely effective and, in our view, an example of best practice that could be adopted wherever possible on other dialogue projects. It embodied the purpose of dialogue to facilitate direct interaction between the public and stakeholders and, moreover, to do so on an equal footing.

The participants were very positive about this aspect of the dialogue and their feedback suggests that it was an important means of giving them confidence that their views were important and likely to be both listened to and acted upon. In one participant's words, without it the dialogue would have "all seemed a bit vague". The success of the approach was a function not just of the HVM's effective design and foresight, but also the way in which CCC attendees behaved at the event: they were personable, polite and open. There was no sense of stakeholders appearing distant and unapproachable.

I was one of the representatives and felt slightly anxious beforehand, but the CCC representatives were always polite, kindly and approachable. I think it was a positive way to feedback because there were individual responses to each recommendation and all members of the CCC and other professionals there, always appeared to value the discussion and feedback, and take it seriously.

Participant

I felt it was a great way to end the session as it brought everything we spoke about into one big group. It made the panel feel really worthy and was a great way to close the session.

Participant

The only criticism, such was the value that participants placed upon it, was that there was in fact not more time to continue the discussions with CCC and debate the recommendations with them.

This was probably the best part as it gave all groups the opportunity to present their collective decisions to all representatives of the CCC. I would like to have seen more interaction from the CCC members and probably ask some questions to the groups on why they selected their recommendations – this could have given us another option to explain why we reached certain decisions in more detail.

Participant

The last session could have been longer, I think some of the recommendations could have been discussed at greater length with the CCC, and also maybe a bit of a dialogue between the panel and the CCC. The most feedback that we heard was from the main CCC guy (sorry I've forgotten his name), and it would have been nice to have heard an overall response from Adrian and Steve as well.

Participant

While we found little appetite for a separate fourth event, we conclude that the final Saturday event could have been extended by an hour or two to create the time and space to extend this critical element in the process.

3. Clarity of objectives (and outcomes)

An aspect that could have been improved upon was the clarity of objectives – for both participants and CCC. For example, and from the perspective of participants, several noted that they were not always clear about what the endgame of the process was intended to be. This was in spite of the fact that HVM set this out at the beginning of the first event as well as returning to in the first panel discussion of each subsequent event. This emphasises the need for additional signposting that flags not only how the events link together but also the outcome they are building towards.

I was not fully aware how each session was linked – all I understood was that we would listen to various presentations on the first two days and then make some recommendations on the final day. There was a lot of information to absorb in the initial introduction and I struggled to fully comprehend how the sessions would lead us to final recommendations.

Participant

A lack of clarity in relation to the culminating Saturday event was also echoed by CCC attendees and several stakeholders. CCC noted, for example, that they were not clear how the format for the Saturday would deliver answers to some of their key research questions.

We were a bit unclear exactly how the Saturday would work. And I think that may have been more of a concern here than it was for the contractors – I guess because they've done lots of this stuff before. Whereas we could see that there was information we wanted back but weren't sure how that final day was going to get us that.

CCC interviewee

To an extent this reflects a fundamental question about different types of dialogue approaches and the outcomes that can be expected to flow from them. For example, as an open process that allowed participants the space and time to discuss the issues that were relevant to them, the final session excelled. However, the premium placed on allowing participants to define their own recommendations necessarily restricted the scope for CCC to set specific questions, and likewise meant that the conclusions that participants subsequently arrived at were very broad. This was a concern raised by some participants themselves, who were concerned that their recommendations were 'pretty simplistic' or 'must have been discussed before'.

Of course it is important to note that the balance between 'bottom up' and 'top down' needs is difficult to achieve; and had there been more control in the process to set specific questions this may have restricted time for debate and/or changed the dynamic in the sessions.

It took quite a bit of work to get them [CCC] to focus on what questions they wanted answered through the dialogue. Elements of dialogue should give participants space to address their agendas, but not to the extent that you don't have a clear sense of what you want out of it as well; otherwise the outcomes are too vague and generic.

Stakeholder

The overall aims of the project were really good. They [CCC] might just need to think more about how they can achieve them. If you don't ask the right questions you're just going to get a whole bunch of 'stuff' back that you then have to retrospectively assign to headings or squeeze into the questions you wanted to ask in the first place.

Stakeholder

On reflection, a little more time between the second and third sessions may have allowed more discussion between the CCC, Sciencewise and HVM to clarify the objectives for the final session, and the key questions to be addressed at that event.

4. The Think pieces

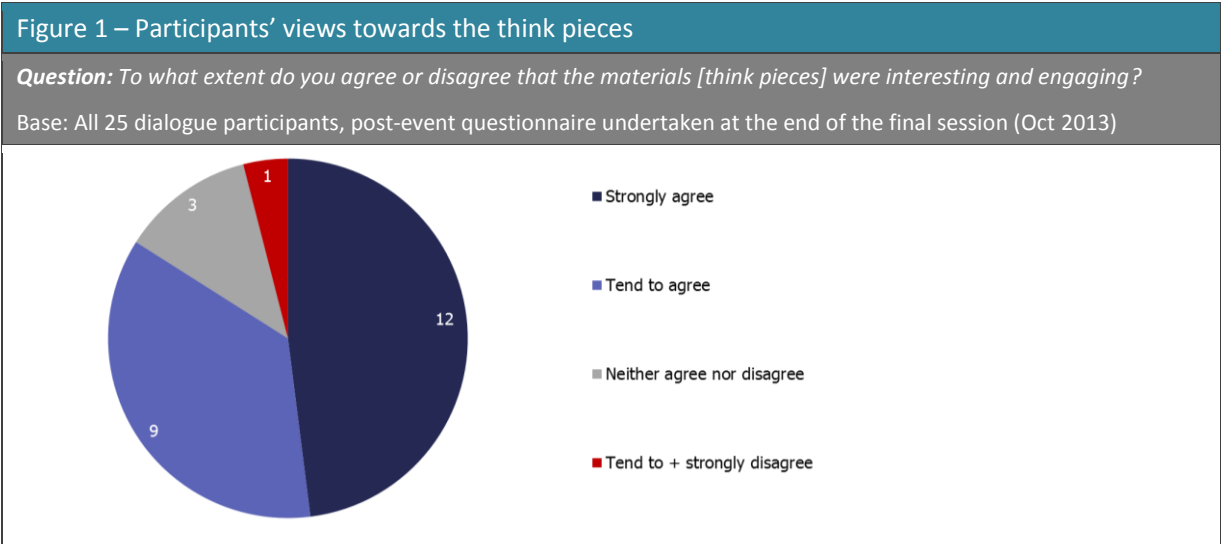
The evaluation evidence demonstrates the success of the dialogue materials that accompanied the presentations. This is particularly noteworthy given the potential for ‘information overload’ and the experience of other dialogue projects where the provision of the right amount and tone of information can be notoriously difficult to get right.

Interviews with CCC staff suggest that HVM and Sciencewise played a key role in ensuring the materials were engaging and user friendly.

We could easily have gone overboard on the think pieces and both they [the contractors] and Sciencewise helped us keep the information short and to the point.

CCC interviewee

The post-event questionnaire shows that the vast majority (21 out of 25 participants) either strongly or tended to agree that the think pieces were interesting and engaging (Figure 1).



It was evident that some of the subjects addressed by the think pieces (and corresponding presentations) were particularly surprising and interesting to participants, for example the UK’s leading role internationally (which was positively received but largely unexpected).

Furthermore, comments from participants in the subsequent online discussions were positive and demonstrate that the materials were both drawn upon as a reference tool following on from the presentations and – through the glossary – a useful way of ‘jargon busting’. Interestingly, the think pieces also appear to have played a role in giving participants confidence/allaying fears prior to attending - suggesting that it was beneficial to send them out in advance.

Initially I was uncertain whether I would have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the issues. However, once I had read the think pieces and then attended the first session, I realised that we all had differing amounts of knowledge and the workshops were about information being presented to us in a way that we could all understand.

Participant

I found that the information given before the talks was a great help and the talk was printed out so we could read it after if we wanted/needed. The figures were not the easiest to get your head round but after re-reading it all made sense. I thought the hand out with the scientific words and their meaning was a great idea and was very helpful.

Participant

The feedback from participants suggests that further improvements on the format are possible – particularly in terms of quoting sources (a point raised by several participants and something that fed into comments – addressed in point 6 – about the perceived independence and authority of the information presented), breaking the information into bite sized chunks, and using images and comparisons to help convey large and abstract numbers/quantities.

It would have been beneficial to quote sources for the facts as I find it hard to trust a statistic without a reference.

Participant

I read mine at speed and maybe others just took a glance and no more. I think maybe that info could have been chunked down individually on cards - which the members of the group could have looked at while the discussion continued.

Participant

I found most of the graphs easy to understand but there were a few where I was a little confused. For example, it's impossible to comprehend how much fossil fuels we use. Maybe if they had converted it into an example (e.g. image or comparison).

Participant

5. Using small groups

The use of three small groups as a mechanism to discuss issues and raise questions in between the presentations and plenary sessions was effective. We noted some early imbalances in the contribution of individuals within some of the mini groups (particularly in those with some louder – and typically male – voices). However, these were resolved through the process (feeding back into our earlier reflection about the benefits of a three-stage process).

At first the men did dominate the group as they were very opinionated but as the time went on everybody spoke equally saying their views as and when they wanted.

Participant

The dynamics were pretty good. Everyone was very chatty and friendly so this made it easier to contribute. I don't think anyone really dominated and because there was a facilitator it meant that everyone got a chance to speak.

Participant

We pose an open question about whether the groups would have been more or less effective had they been split according to pre-existing knowledge about climate change (rather than mixed). When we posed this question to participants in the online discussion, responses were divided.

I think it hindered the development of more complex ideas. I think it probably did on all three groups as all eventually gave quite simplistic recommendations.

Participant

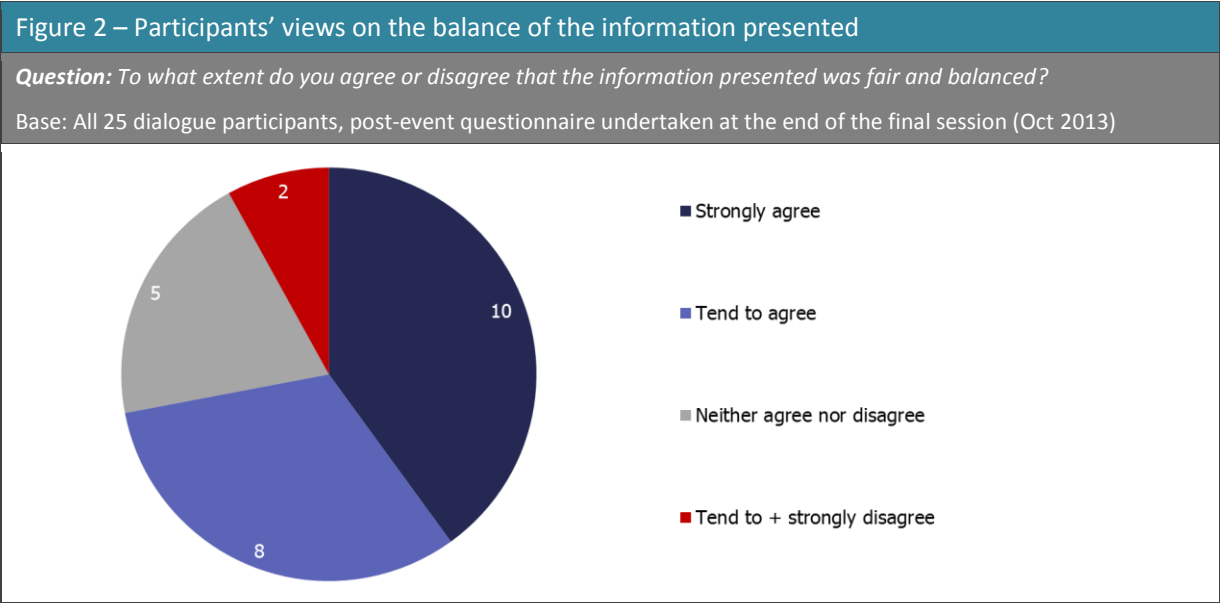
I think this helped as everyone shared their knowledge with each other and the people that didn't know as much gained information from other members of the group. I think if you had placed people in groups a different way it may not have worked well as you may have had one group who completely dominated the wider group discussions.

Participant

It is conceivable that a ‘high awareness’ group could have arrived at a different set on recommendations that tied in more specifically to the 4th carbon budget (although similarly this could have been achieved through retaining mixed groups and setting more directed questions for the final Saturday session, as discussed under point 3). However, we likewise acknowledge that it could have influenced the broader dynamic in the group and hindered participants’ confidence to engage with their peers (and stakeholders) on an equal footing.

6. Neutrality vs. independence

One aspect of the dialogue where the post-event questionnaire and subsequent online discussions do not marry concerns the balance of the information presented. The post-event questionnaire results suggests that participants were, broadly speaking, comfortable with the balance of information presented – 10 participants ‘strongly agreed’ that the information was fair and balanced, while eight ‘tended to agree’ (Figure 2).



However, several participants in the online discussions questioned the absence of a second speaker who was sceptical about climate change, and took this to demonstrate the CCC is not a neutral voice on climate change. Even though other participants in the discussion rejected this view, it nonetheless flags a potentially important distinction between the perceived *independence* of an organisation on the one hand (which the majority of participants acknowledged CCC to be) and its perceived *neutrality* on the issue (which more participants questioned).

Even though alternative perspectives on the climate science were noted by the first speaker (and touched upon in the associated think piece), some participants were of the view that this was insufficient and that it would have been better to have a separate speaker. Other participants were not convinced by the need for this.

My main concern was that the information/speakers were all one-sided. There was no one providing information on the other side of the argument. I felt frustrated because although I aired my views and they were noted they were not really addressed as the process did not have a mechanism to deal with those who had an opposing viewpoint.

Participant

I don't really agree with this, I think it would have changed the direction of the whole process and debate. It would have perhaps turned into a big debate about whether climate change was a pressing concern or not, and I think most people believe that it is. It would have been confusing and a pressure on the time that we had as a whole.

Participant

A second opinion presented by someone who believes in that second opinion is the only way to get a balanced perspective.

Participant

On balance, we conclude that, as the science of climate science was not the primary focus of the dialogue, it is entirely reasonable for there to not have been a strong counter-perspective on this subject. The issue of natural climate variability and questions about the uncertainty inherent to scientific enquiry were both raised and not obfuscated. Indeed, one of the strengths of the dialogue was its ability to fairly outline the climate science, on the one hand, but also to do so in a way that allowed the process to move on to questions about policy responses and the implications for the 4th Carbon Budget on the other.

03

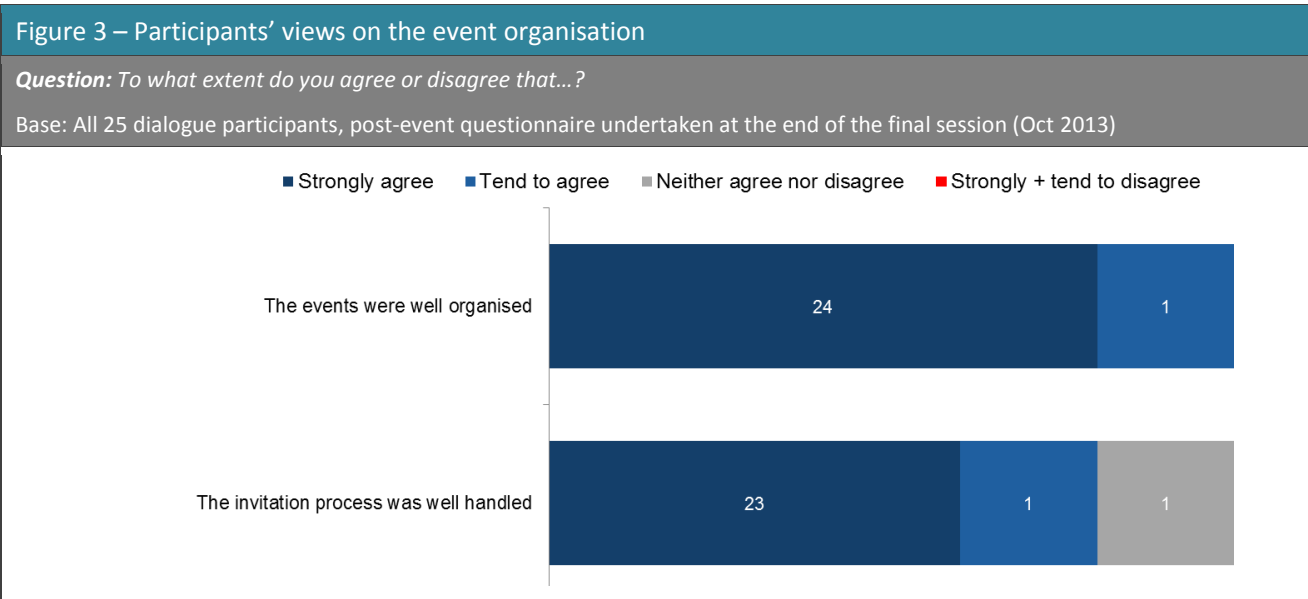
Delivery

This section outlines the key findings from the evaluation in respect of the delivery of the dialogue project.

1. Organisation and venue

No concerns were raised about the event organisation which was exemplary. All 25 participants agreed with the statement ‘the events were well organised’ (including 24 who ‘strongly agreed’); while 24 agreed that ‘the invitation process was well handled’ (Figure 3).

In terms of venue, this was fit for purpose (bar some occasional noise from nearby workmen), although having space for break out rooms for the mini groups may have been useful – particularly in terms of asking them to deliberate on their recommendations to the CCC. However, the fact that participants were all in one room did have the advantage of allowing CCC attendees to circulate very easily and hear conversations from all three mini groups.



2. Facilitation

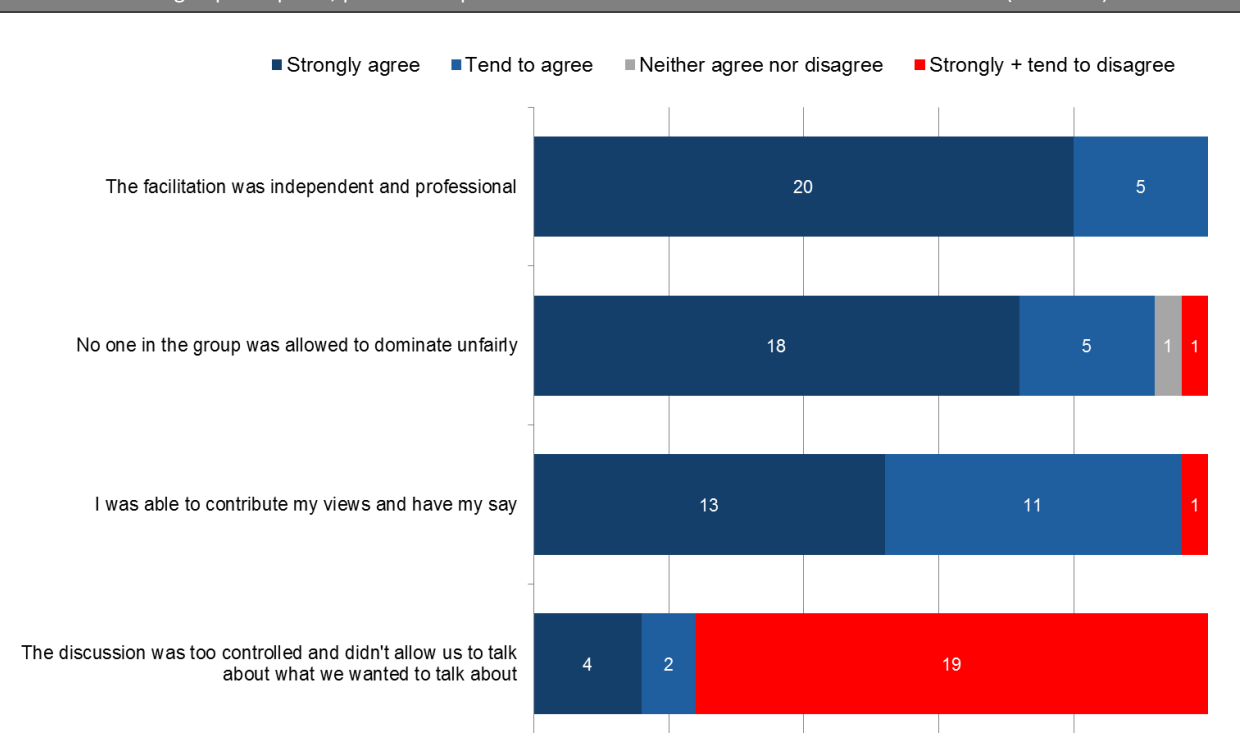
Facilitation was strong throughout the dialogue and this is reflected in the post-event questionnaire feedback (Figure 4). All 25 participants agreed with the statement ‘the facilitation was independent and professional’ (including 20 who ‘strongly agreed’); and 23 agreed that ‘no-one in the group was allowed to dominate unfairly’. The three facilitators adopted different tactics to deal with the particular challenges of individual groups (e.g. a very quiet group needed to be encouraged to speak; and a group with a couple of very dominant voices needed to be managed)

Participants also felt that they were able to contribute their views and have their say – 24 agreed overall – although there is an even split between those who fully agree (13) and those that are more tentative (11). A minority of six participants agreed with the statement ‘the discussion was too controlled and didn’t allow us to talk about what we wanted to talk about’. This appears to have been partly attributable to the way in which questions were generated on the tables (some felt this was overly controlled and that they would have preferred a spontaneous Q&A session in plenary).

Figure 4 – Participants' views on the facilitation

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...?

Base: All 25 dialogue participants, post-event questionnaire undertaken at the end of the final session (Oct 2013)



3. Speakers

The evaluation research highlights two key findings in this respect. The first is that the speakers (all from CCC), and the content of the presentations, was well received by participants. Overall, 23 participants agreed that they were 'interesting and engaging' in the post-event questionnaire (Figure 5), and the first presenter in particular was singled out for praise for his 'natural' and 'conversational' style of delivery. The CCC speakers noted that they were helped to tailor their approach by the contractor, which was particularly useful given they are not typically accustomed to presenting to a public audience.

The speakers were all very good. I must say that I found the scientist very interesting (the first speaker) he was very easy to understand and had such a passion about what he was talking about that it made it so much more interesting and I learnt a lot from him.

Participant

I felt that Steve Smith's delivery and presentation was the clearest and most engaging. I think it was just because he spoke at a natural conversational rate and had more emphasis on some points. I felt that even though some of the topics that others talked about were of personal interest to me their delivery was slow and bland and my mind kept drifting to other things - sorry I don't mean to appear judgemental or insulting by saying this!

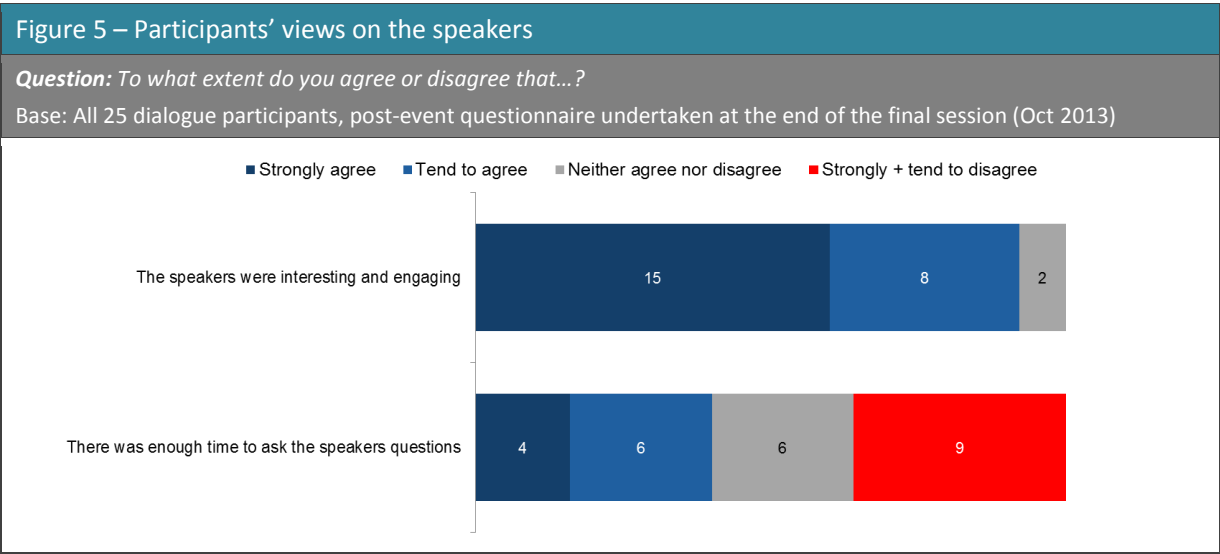
Participant

We did benefit from some helpful guidance from them [the contractors] about what we should present and how. A lot of our presentations to the Committee are quite technical. They were very clear with us how many slides we had and how much time we had.

CCC interviewee

The process of developing questions took place in the small groups, some of which were then asked in plenary (as opposed to a completely open Q&A in plenary only). This approach worked well to allow the majority of participants to input to the formulation of questions (rather than a confident few), and to enable the process to move forward smoothly. It also allowed the clarification of issues to be done in plenary sessions so that all participants could hear the additional information.

However, a criticism from a number of participants was the lack of time to ask the speakers questions – only 10 participants agreed that there was enough time for with this, compared to 9 who disagreed (Figure 5). This appears to stem from the fact that participants found the speakers and material engaging and wanted more time for clarifications. Therefore, there is a clear balance to be struck between controlling the generation of questions in break out groups (which is helpful in many respects) and allowing the participants space to ask ‘their’ questions.



I did feel at times that we were being rushed along. This is understandable with the time, but I think it was crucial for us all to get the right info and clear up any things that we wanted to know more about before retiring back to our smaller groups. I think that there were some unanswered questions that would have helped people to come to faster conclusions.

Participant

Although I think that the overall workshop was great there was never enough time for the panel to ask the speakers questions, which could be really frustrating at times.

Participant

4. Interaction between participants and CCC representatives

The point about the time for speaker Q&A is part of a wider issue about the opportunity to engage the CCC attendees directly (rather than via the facilitators). There was opportunity for this, and there was also a positive atmosphere in the room with participants comfortable talking to CCC representatives (and vice versa). Nonetheless, and perhaps reflecting how much they valued the opportunities that they were given, participants wanted more time for this. Some CCC attendees also noted that they were not entirely clear how much they could engage participants.

It possibly wasn't clear enough how much we could engage with them. We didn't want to engage too much otherwise we'd have interrupted their discussions, but maybe on the Saturday it could have been made clearer we were there to ask questions of in the tea break etc, or we could have given them more information when they were asking questions.

CCC interviewee

My only negative point was that although we were fed great information we never got to ask questions and as a panel I think it is so important. I felt it was very rushed and they should have made more time for the panel to ask questions direct to the CCC people.

Participant

If there could have been a collective Q&A session with the CCC this would have been helpful to both the CCC and representatives. The representatives had only been interacting with the facilitators who were guiding the sessions. But to actually talk and have a discussion/Q&A session for 30-60 minutes would have been brilliant because you would then be engaging with the actual persons on the CCC.

Participant

By contrast, a few participants noted that there were times when it might have been useful to have more distance from CCC attendees, rather than less. This was raised, for example, in terms of final Panel deliberations on the Saturday (prior to feeding back recommendations to the CCC), as well as immediately following on from presentations (with one participant noting that it could be uncomfortable to discuss the merits of a presentation when the speaker was observing their table).

I also think that when we were discussing what points that we wanted to recommend the people from the Committee should have left the room so we as a group could discuss and prepare and be ready to present our recommendations professionally.

Participant

Sometimes it was difficult to discuss a presentation and say what you liked/didn't like or what you understood or didn't, because the speaker was sat behind you.

Participant

04

Impacts

This section assesses the impact of the dialogue in four respects: the first in terms of impacts on policy decisions (in this case on the CCC's advice to Government on the 4th Carbon Budget); and then in terms of the impacts on three different groups – participants, the CCC and wider stakeholders.

1. Impact on policy decisions

The dialogue had a very clear and specific output in the form of its input into the CCC's advice to Government on the 4th Carbon Budget, which was published in December 2013. The technical report supporting that advice makes two direct references to the dialogue process (on pages 2 and 27 – the latter of which outlines the Panel's key recommendations in full). The Dialogue report was published in parallel on the CCC website as an annex to the technical report.

Participants were sent the link to both reports. The dialogue report has also been circulated informally by CCC to colleagues across Government departments.

2. For participants

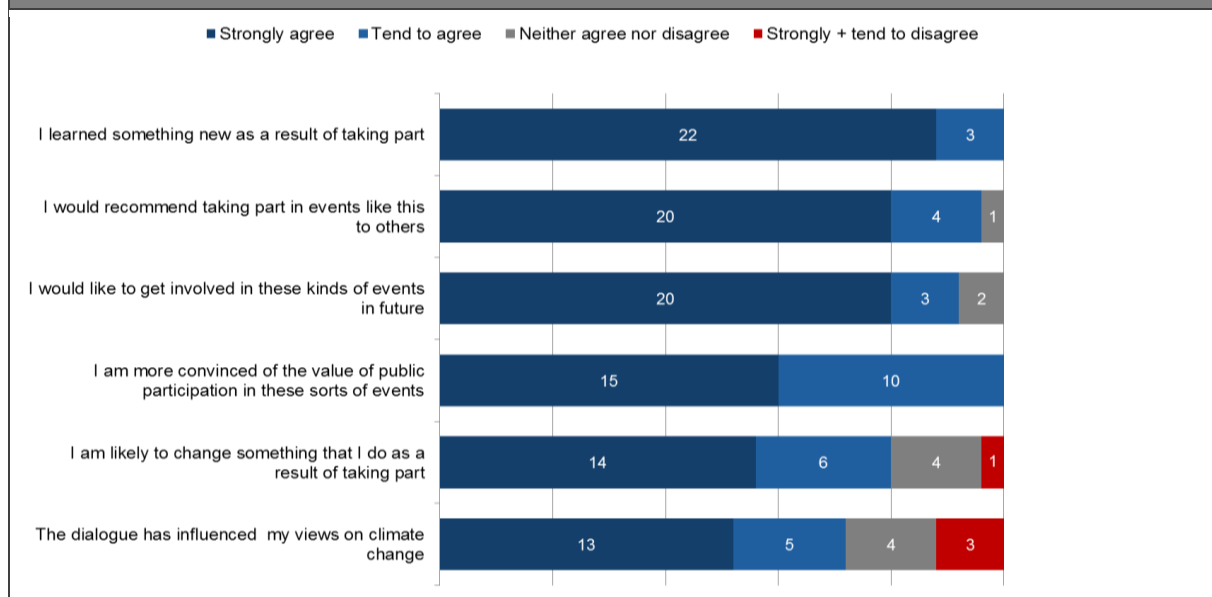
The evaluation finds that the dialogue had a positive impact upon participants (Figure 6):

- All 25 participants agreed that 'I learned something new as a result of taking part', and also that they are more convinced of the value of public participation in these sorts of events.
- 24 of the participants would recommend taking part in events like this to others; and 23 would like to get involved in events like this again in future;
- Furthermore, 18 agreed that 'it has influenced my views on climate change' and 20 said they are 'likely to change something that I do as a result of taking part'.

Figure 6 – Participants' views on the impact of the event upon them

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...?

Base: All 25 dialogue participants, post-event questionnaire undertaken at the end of the final session (Oct 2013)



It was a real eye opener for me. To be educated on the effects that it's having on our future made me realise how serious this problem currently is. I knew about general information on climate change but it was really interesting to hear about the ways we can move forward.

Participant

I would like to say a big thank you for all the things that I have learnt over the sessions, I'm very grateful for all the knowledge and the information. It has made a difference to my lifestyle. It has made me aware of how important climate change is and hopefully I will be able to pass on the knowledge that I learnt at the sessions to all my family and friends.

Participant

I enjoyed it, gained a lot of knowledge and met some lovely people. Thank you!

Participant

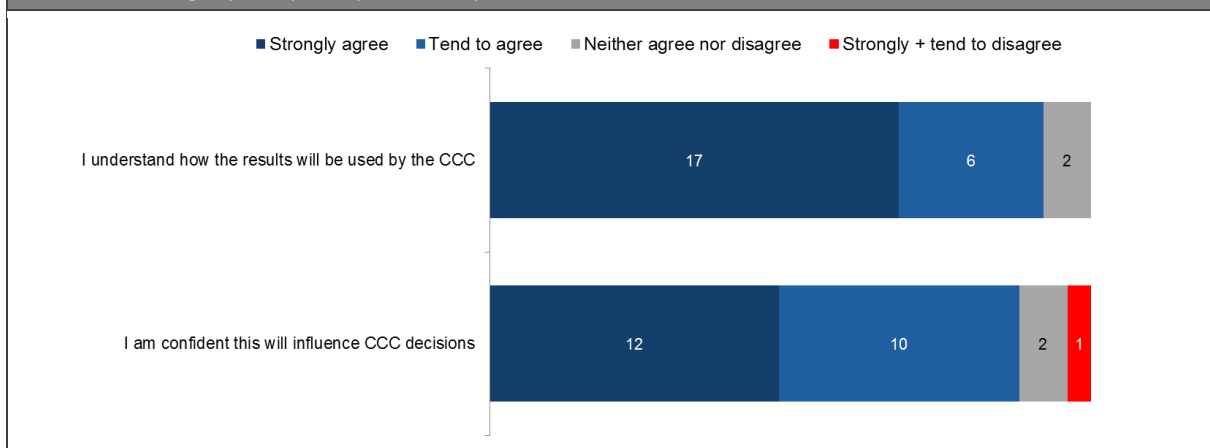
Turning to participants' views on the likely impact on the CCC, the headline results from the post-event questionnaire are very positive (Figure 7). However, the online discussions highlight a level of uncertainty, with some participants' views conditional upon what CCC does next and how it feeds back to participants following publication.

The comments also demonstrate the way in which participants use proxies to judge likely influence. For example, one participant thought that the incentive payment itself was evidence that the findings must be going to be used in some respect (otherwise why would they have been paid); while another formed her view based on the integrity of the CCC attendees/the way in which they listened to participants. The final feedback session, discussed in Section 3, was particularly important in reinforcing a sense that the CCC was taking the recommendations on board.

Figure 7 – Participants' views on what impact the dialogue will have on CCC

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...?

Base: All 25 dialogue participants, post-event questionnaire undertaken at the end of the final session (Oct 2013)



It's difficult to say, but I think our presence will not have any impact on what they report to Government - after all these people are experts in their field. But I feel because we were paid a good sum of money that there must have been a reason we were invited.

Participant

I'm hoping it will make a difference and they took our recommendations on board but I reserve judgement until I see the report.

Participant

I am very confident that the recommendations that the group made will be included in the CCC's advice to Government in the 4th Carbon Budget because of the feedback we were given by members of the CCC in the panel presentation at the end. And all the speakers and members that I met appeared to be very genuine, professional and possessed integrity.

Participant

That would be down to what the CCC's agenda was for the events. I could speculate for hours but without actually knowing it would only be speculation.

Participant

3. For the CCC

The immediate impacts of the dialogue on the CCC – beyond its immediate role in helping to inform the CCC's advice to Government on the 4th Carbon Budget - are likely to be subtle and slow burn.

A key reason for this is the fact that the findings from the dialogue largely supported the CCC's overarching narrative on climate change emissions reductions (i.e. that transition is possible at reasonable costs and the UK should retain its leadership role internationally). In some cases the participants went even further (for example, their real enthusiasm for the UK leading on these issues). If the dialogue had questioned specific measures or challenged the overarching narrative, then arguably the impacts would have been more evident (i.e. the CCC would have been required to address these tensions).

Part of the reason [for not referencing the dialogue more in the technical report] is because of what came through. A lot of it was quite supportive of the approach we already have; it didn't give us something where we'd have to decide whether to change course or not.

CCC interviewee

While the impacts may be subtle, discussions with the CCC suggest that they are still significant. They note, for example, that while none of these are likely to be transformational as such (particularly given the technical nature of the work that it does) the project is thought of positively and has sparked interest internally. They also point to specific impacts, such as:

- Influencing internal discussions about future research needs;
- A stronger role for assumptions about behaviour change in future assessments;
- Flagging potential public concern about specific low carbon or 'bridging' technologies (e.g. Shale gas, Carbon Capture and Storage).
- Feeding into external/public meetings; and
- Informing other forthcoming reports to Government including progress reports to Parliament and the 5th Carbon Budget report.

Internally I continue to pick up positive comments about the work. In our forward planning research meetings it has raised the question for us about whether we should be doing more on behaviour change and factoring this into our analyses and projections.

CCC interviewee

Next July we have to do a progress report for Government about the success of measures and so on, and we could potentially feed some of the findings into that. Some of the messages that came out about the need to engage and acceptance of certain measures are probably more relevant to that review than a discussion about the 4th Carbon Budget.

CCC interviewee

Discussions with the CCC suggest they are not likely to repeat or extend the dialogue in the near future. Public understanding is an important consideration in its work, but that may not extend to undertaking large scale research with the public as a core part of their remit. However, the CCC will want to draw on similar evidence in future and also note their ability to make recommendations to Government about the need for it to undertake further research and dialogue-based work with the public.

4. For partners and wider stakeholders

The evaluation has found little evidence, at this point in time, of any discernable impact beyond the participants and the CCC. The evaluation team were only able to undertake a limited number of discussions about impact given the small number of individuals who have seen the report (and, indeed, some individuals we approached politely declined because they had not yet taken on board any of the findings in their own work). This seems to echo the CCC's own experience of not receiving any feedback on the work externally.

Circulation of the dialogue report to date appears to have been relatively low key, and limited to immediate known contacts of the CCC across Government, or to those individuals who have attended a meeting where CCC have referred to the work. Nonetheless, this element remains a work in progress and impacts are likely to accrue over time. We note, for example, that the CCC are referring to the dialogue work in some of the presentations they give.

Amongst this group, there is acknowledgement that projects such as this are very useful at adding a different layer of understanding about public attitudes (and helping to unpick high level survey findings). However, views were divided on the added value of the findings of the dialogue. Some stakeholders felt that the findings do not add anything new to their understanding of public attitudes on climate change and, in this sense, the process was a missed opportunity to get more detailed feedback on specific issues (e.g. support for 'green' levies on energy bills vs. paying through general taxation). Others disagree, and feel that it is useful to have additional evidence that supports existing work.

An issue raised by all, and acknowledged by the CCC, is the small size of the dialogue and its geographical focus around Greater London. While clearly operating in a qualitative sense (and therefore there is no objectively 'right' answer or minimum sample size), there was a sense that the findings could have been more persuasive had there been three or four of the Panels across the country (i.e. 75-100 participants with greater regional distribution). Several stakeholders saw value in extending the exercise from this one 'pilot' (as they conceptualised it) and asked us if the CCC or DECC were planning to do this.

Dialogue is a really important part of the development of any policy idea. [But] The conclusions were to be entirely expected and didn't really provide any additional insights.

Stakeholder

It's very interesting and there's lots of useful stuff in there that backs up what others have been doing

Stakeholder

I probably wouldn't draw attention to it when I am presenting because it is quite small. Is it meant to be so small or is it a precursor to something bigger?

Stakeholder

There is still an issue for the Committee about the fact it was only 25 people. They had concerns that we might give it too much weight [in the main technical report]. We don't want to be accused of overstating the robustness of the evidence.

CCC interviewee

It is also worth noting the potential for the CCC's main report, which includes references to the dialogue, to influence wider Government thinking. Any such effects are likely to occur over a longer timescale than this evaluation is able to cover. Therefore, we do not preclude the possibility of significantly wider impacts later on.

05

Governance and oversight

Oversight Group

The evaluation research identified two findings:

- On the one hand the Oversight Group appeared to work very effectively as a vehicle for the CCC, Sciencewise and HVM to convene and plan the delivery of the project. Meetings were productive, positive and appeared to help the process of fine tuning the approach. It also allowed the immediate delivery team to form a shared understanding and an open and collaborative working relationship that evidently benefitted the project (particularly the development of presentations and think pieces within the severe time constraints).
- On the other hand, its representation beyond CCC/Sciencewise/HVM was limited and heavily impacted by the timetable constraints. DECC were not able to attend any of the meetings (although had some engagement via email), while Which were only able to attend once the dialogue was over. Both of these organisations would have provided an important perspective given their knowledge of the policy terrain as well as their own experience of running research and dialogue events.

The late involvement of certain members impacted on the functioning of the OG and led to a somewhat disjointed process that, in effect, reflected a ‘two tier’ OG - a small group involved in the direct delivery of the dialogue, and then some additional representation from external organisations who did not have the benefit from being involved from the outset.

This led to some minor working tensions that could easily have been avoided, had the OG functioned better. For example, some of the external members had questions, post-hoc about why certain design decisions had been taken. This was potentially frustrating for both HVM (they were questions that they could not address at that stage) as well as those members joining the process late (they had guidance to offer but could not influence anything by that point).

I think the slight disappointment with it [OG] was that, partly because of the timetable, we didn't get the representation we'd hoped for. So Which came to meetings but weren't engaged from the start, and DECC weren't able to attend the meetings. If we'd had more time we'd have been able to spread the meetings out more and get more external people.

CCC interviewee

We struggled to catch up with why certain decisions had been made. We hadn't been part of those discussions. We would have done it in a slightly different way.

Stakeholder

CCC-Sciencewise relationship

A key finding from the evaluation was the positive nature of the relationship between CCC and Sciencewise. This manifested itself in several different ways, from the basic necessity of funding (without which the project is unlikely to have gone ahead) through to expertise and support. The CCC, by their own admission, had no prior experience of commissioning and/or project managing a public dialogue project. Sciencewise's support fed into all stages from agreement on funding and appointing contractors through to planning and delivering the events. Their experience in this respect was also beneficial to HVM in terms of having another expert view to help develop the approach.

The funding was pretty important. Just because we have a very constrained research budget. We knew we'd have to put time into this, which is fine, but money is tight.

CCC interviewee

Obviously we had no experience at all of doing it, so they've held our hand every step along the way and they had good ideas and templates for us to draw on. For example, they gave us guidelines for writing the tender and helped us setting up the evaluation.

CCC interviewee

Nonetheless, the CCC noted that the length of the project approval process – combined with going out to tender over the summer holidays – did have a significant knock-on impact on the delivery timeline for the dialogue. This fed through to the time available for planning and delivering the events, the formation and functioning of the Oversight Group.

06

Conclusions

We conclude that the dialogue was effectively delivered and sets out some key examples of good practice from which other dialogue projects can learn. These included the 3-stage 'panel' process - particularly the final discussion between participants and the CCC - and the clarity and engagement of the presentations, think pieces and accompanying materials (including sending some of these out in advance).

Perhaps most notable of all was the dynamic of the events and, in particular, the openness of the discussion between participants as peers as well as with stakeholders in the room. The dialogue empowered participants to be comfortable and able to engage with the subject matter on an equal footing with others. These successes are all the more impressive in light of the extremely challenging timescale constraints.

It appears that the impacts from the project will be focused largely on participants and the CCC itself as opposed to wider stakeholders or policy makers across Government, although there is potential for longer term impacts through the circulation of the main CCC report. And we note three key evaluation findings of approaches that could have strengthened the project further and are likely to benefit other organisations undertaking public dialogue.

- The **project timescale** was a significant constraint and had a series of impacts, from materials development and speaker availability through to the establishment and functioning of the Oversight Group. On the latter, the timings both precluded input from external organisations and set up a two tier process. The working relationships of the OG would likely have been improved had there been sufficient time for them to convene together from the outset and make decisions collectively.
- There was a desire among participants for more **direct engagement with stakeholders** in the room, rather than via the facilitators. This was most evident in terms of the space allocated to speaker Q&A and - such was the success of the final Panel debate – participants wanted this session to be extended. In our view this would have been possible with an extension of the third event by about one hour, without the need for a separate fourth event.
- While the style of the dialogue was very effective at creating a participant-led agenda, and one in which participants were clearly comfortable engaging with stakeholders, it is likely that a slightly more directed final session – linked back to some of CCC's original research questions – could have delivered some more specific outcomes.

In summary, we find strong evidence that the dialogue has met Sciencewise's principles of good public dialogue. It was clearly not about one-way communication or 'information gathering', nor was it a talking shop with no policy purpose. It involved gathering public experience in science and technology in an open atmosphere, created by HVM, with strong contributions from both the participants themselves as well as the CCC representatives who were – throughout – committed to the process and open to new and different perspectives.

APPENDICES

1. Post-event questionnaire - copy

We are independently evaluating the events and would appreciate your feedback on how they have been for you. Your responses will be treated anonymously and this form will only be seen by the evaluators. We are also inviting participants to take part in a short online discussion next week to follow up on some of these questions and find out in more detail how people felt about being part of the dialogue – if you are interested see the final page.

Please consider ALL THREE EVENTS overall when you answer the following questions.

What three words would you use to describe your experience of participating in these events?

Q. Please circle one answer for each of the following statements.

1	The invitation process and advance details were well-handled	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
2	The objectives of the dialogue were clearly set out	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
3	I understand how the results of the dialogue will be used by the Committee on Climate Change	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
4	The events were well organised	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
5	The information presented was fair and balanced	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
6	The speakers were interesting and engaging	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
7	There was enough time to ask the speakers questions	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
8	The materials [think pieces] were interesting and engaging	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
9	I was able to contribute my views and have my say	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
10	I am confident that the views expressed by the public in these events will influence CCC decisions	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
11	No one view in the group was allowed to dominate unfairly	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
12	The facilitation was independent and professional	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
13	The discussion was too controlled and didn't allow us to talk about what we wanted to talk about	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
14	Overall I am satisfied with the events that I attended	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know

In your opinion what ONE thing could have been improved?

What was the most interesting or influential fact or opinion that you heard?

What was the main thing you gained from taking part in this project?

What most influenced your thinking during these events e.g. was it the information in the written materials, the speakers, what other participants on your table said?

Q. Please circle one answer for each of the following statements.

1	I learned something new as a result of taking part	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
2	I am likely to change something that I do as a result of taking part	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
3	The dialogue has influenced my views on climate change	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
4	I am more convinced of the value of public participation in these sorts of topics	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
5	I would like to get involved in these kinds of events in future	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
6	I would recommend taking part in events like this to others	Strongly Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Neutral	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know

Any further comments?

To continue our evaluation we would like to hold an online discussion forum next week. This will involve logging on two or three times during the week to answer some questions along with other attendees. **It should take around 30-45 mins in total and you will receive a £20 thank you for your time.** Once again this will be about how the dialogue was for you and your answers will be anonymous. Would you like to take part?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Sciencewise co-funded the dialogue project you are taking part in. It is a national programme that promotes public dialogue on policy issues involving science and technology. Would you like to receive other information from Sciencewise, including opportunities to be involved in other debates in future?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If you answered 'yes' to either of the two questions please provide the following details - these will only be used for the purposes described above and they will not be given to anyone else.

Name:

Home phone number (including area code):

Email address:

2. Topline results

- This document summarises the results from the post-event questionnaire.
- This was completed at the end of the final session by all 25 participants.
- Given the small sample size, results are presented according to 'N' rather than percentages.
- Only the results of closed questions are outlined here. Some of the questions invited open-ended responses which are unique responses that cannot be presented in this form. These responses have been incorporated into the overall analysis.

Q1.	What three words would you use to describe your experience of participating in these events?	
	Interesting	13
	Informative	12
	Enlightening/inspiring/eye-opening/empowering	9
	Useful/effective/valuable	5
	Educational	5
	Enjoyable/fun	4
	Engaging	4
	Beneficial/positive	3
	Overwhelming	1
	Biased	1
	Frustrating	1
	Alarming	1
	Constructive	1

Q2.	Please circle one answer for each of the following statements						
		Strongly disagree	Tend to disagree	Neutral	Tend to agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	The invitation process and advance details were well-handled	0	0	1	1	23	-
	The objectives of the dialogue were clearly set out	0	0	2	7	16	-
	I understand how the results of the dialogue will be used by the Committee on Climate Change	0	0	2	6	17	-
	The events were well organised	0	0	0	1	24	-
	The information presented was fair and balanced	1	1	5	8	10	-
	The speakers were interesting and engaging	0	0	2	8	15	-
	There was enough time to ask the speakers questions	1	8	6	6	4	-
	The materials [think pieces] were interesting and engaging	0	1	3	9	12	-
	I was able to contribute my views and have my say	0	1	0	11	13	-

	I am confident that the views expressed by the public in these events will influence CCC decisions	0	1	2	10	12	-
	No one view in the group was allowed to dominate unfairly	0	1	1	5	18	-
	The facilitation was independent and professional	0	0	0	5	20	-
	The discussion was too controlled and didn't allow us to talk about what we wanted to talk about	11	8	0	2	4	-
	Overall I am satisfied with the events that I attended	0	0	3	2	20	-

Q3.	In your opinion what ONE thing could have been improved?	
	More time for questions	8
	More time for discussion	7
	Better/healthier/greener food	2
	Include other perspectives/those who disagree with CCC	1
	Nothing	7

Q4.	What was the most interesting or influential fact or opinion that you heard?	
	Importance/urgency of the issue	8
	Targets – 2050/2020	4
	UK leadership internationally	4
	No global agreement	2
	Heat pumps	1
	Electric cars	1
	Science of climate change	1
	Regeneration of ozone layer	1
	Action plan to reduce emissions	1
	No answer	2

Q5.	What was the main thing you gained from taking part in this project?	
	Awareness/knowledge	14
	Need for societal change / action/ what can be done	5
	Seriousness of problem	3
	Still time for action	1
	Carbon budgets	1
	CC is considered a foregone conclusions – regardless of evidence that disagrees with CCC	1

Q6.	What most influenced your thinking during these events e.g. was it the information in the written materials, the speakers, what other participants on your table said?	
	Speakers	12
	Other participants	3
	The facts/graphs/data	3
	A mix of everything	3
	No answer	4

Q7.	Please circle one answer for each of the following statements						
		Strongly disagree	Tend to disagree	Neutral	Tend to agree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
	I learned something new as a result of taking part	0	0	0	3	21	-
	I am likely to change something that I do as a result of taking part	1	0	3	6	14	-
	The dialogue has influenced my views on climate change	0	3	3	5	13	-
	I am more convinced of the value of public participation in these sorts of topics	0	0	0	9	15	-
	I would like to get involved in these kinds of events in future	0	0	2	3	19	-
	I would recommend taking part in events like this to others	0	0	1	4	19	-

3. Online board - initial questions

General reflections & objectives

Q1. You've now had a few days since you attended the events. What are your main reflections looking back at the process? This can be anything at all, but please try to be as detailed in your answers as possible.

Q2. When you were recruited how was the project described to you?

Q3. What do you think of the approach of having three separate events?

Q4. At the end of the event on Saturday a few representatives from each group were asked to present some recommendations to the CCC. One of the CCC representatives then responded. What did you think about this approach?

The speakers and think pieces

Q5. How did you find the speakers you heard from? Were some more engaging / clearer than others?

Q6. Do you think the presentations were pitched at the right level in terms of the language and facts/figures they used?

Q7. In the post-event questionnaire several people mentioned a lack of time to question the speakers. Do you agree or disagree with this view?

Q8. Some attendees said that they wanted to hear from different perspectives, e.g. a presenter who is sceptical about climate change. What do you think about this?

Q9. How useful were the think pieces that were circulated? Did you get a chance to read these in between sessions? (don't worry if you didn't!)

Your group

Q10. How was the dynamic in your group? Did everyone talk equally or did some people dominate?

Q11. Each table had a mixture of people in terms of how much they knew about, or were interested in, climate change. Do you think having this difference in interest/knowledge helped or hindered your group discussion? Why do you think that?

How the dialogue findings will be used

Q12. How confident are you that what people said in the dialogue events will make a difference to the CCC's advice on the level of the 4th carbon budget?

Q13. If you could speak directly to a Government minister for 5 minutes, what would you say are

- (a) the priorities for action on climate change?
- (b) the benefits of involving the public in policy decisions about climate change?

Q14. What are your views on the value of public participation in these sorts of topics?

Q15. Is there anything else that you would like to add that we didn't cover?

4. Interview guide for discussions with stakeholders

Introduction

- Interviewer to introduce themselves and Icaro.
- Aims of project: independently evaluating the CCC's public dialogue on the 4th carbon budget – learning what went well, what could be improved, and helping to increase the effectiveness and use of public dialogue.
- Confidential: their name won't appear anywhere; any quotations will be anonymised.
- Interview will last around 30-60 mins.
- Permission to record; explain you'll be making notes throughout – for our memories only!
- Any questions before we start?

Module 1: Background to them and their involvement

- Describe Role
- How and when they got involved in the dialogue
- What their involvement is/has been

Module 2: The Oversight Group (OG members only)

- What has your role on the OG been?
- Where did the idea for a public dialogue come from?
- How much support did the idea receive internally? What about the dialogue prompted enthusiasm or concern?
- What about the dialogue made CCC take the idea forward? What were you hoping it would achieve?
- IF CCC: how was the OG selected? Why this membership?
- IF NON CCC: Why did you/your organisation decide to become involved in the OG and this project?
- How well has the OG functioned?
- What about it has worked well and not as well as hoped? How could it have been improved?
- Did you have an opportunity to comment on/contribute to:
 - The recruitment for the dialogue
 - The presentations and think pieces prepared for participants
 - The speakers
 - The design of the 3-stage dialogue process
 - The structure/topic guide for individual dialogue sessions
 - The emerging findings and report
- How important was the funding from Sciencewise? Would you have done the project anyway, without that funding? How did you find the support from Sciencewise? How did the support they give you make it a better project (or not)? Was there anything else you would have liked Sciencewise to provide?

Module 3: The dialogue process

- Have you had, or heard of, any prior experience of public dialogue? [to be able to compare and contrast as we move through this part of the discussion]
- What are your overall impressions of the dialogue process?
- What worked well?
- What didn't work as well?
- And thinking now about specific elements, what did you think of...?

[PROBE on specific aspects. For each ask: (i) What worked well and why? (ii) What worked less well and why? (iii) If it worked less well, how could this aspect have been improved?

- Recruitment

- The 3-stage dialogue process and time in between the sessions
- Venue
- The think pieces (Probe: accessibility and quantity of information)
- Speakers (Probe: accessibility and quantity of information; how were they decided? Potential for external speakers; time for participants to ask questions)?
- The three break out groups (Probe: having a mix of different levels of knowledge and interest in climate change on each table)
- Establishing / setting out the objectives for participants
- Being able to ask additional questions across the three sessions (If CCC - ask about the final prompts they wanted to introduce in the final session which the contractor did not want to)
- The amount of interaction between public participants and stakeholders
- ASK IF ATTENDED: what, if anything, surprised you about how the dialogue went? And the results?
- ASK IF ATTENDED: what did you think of the quality of the questions, debate etc among public participants and the quality of their contribution throughout?
- ASK IF DID NOT ATTEND: What, if anything, surprised you about the findings?
- How was the dialogue different from other options, e.g. research? What additional benefits are there from a dialogue process? And any additional challenges?
- What are your thoughts on running future dialogues? When would they be most appropriate? When do you think they would not be appropriate?
- CCC ONLY: Would you recommend a dialogue process to others? What advice would you give to other organisations considering public dialogue?
- Did you feel the dialogue process overall was sufficiently credible for you to be able to use the results with confidence in making future decisions? What added to or reduced that credibility?
- The project obviously had financial costs. Do you think that it was money well spent, or not, and why?

Module 4: Impact

- What impact do you think the project has had on CCC? NON CCC - And your own organisation?
- How has (or will) the project changed anything you do in your own work?
- IF CCC - How did the CCC respond to the findings when it was presented to them [ask why the contractor was not invited to present]
- IF CCC - Will the dialogue findings be included explicitly in the final report to Government? How will you ensure that the findings influence the drafting of the report?
- IF CCC - One of the interesting findings from the evaluation with participants is a divided opinion about whether CCC would be take notice of their views/the dialogue. How will the findings lead to you doing something differently (or just more strongly) as a result?
- IF CCC - How will the findings be circulated? And to who?
- IF CCC - What are the plans for feeding back to the participants about the influence of their input?
- Has the dialogue provided any key lessons for specific CCC policies e.g. on shale gas fracking, nuclear, renewables?
- What have you personally learnt about using dialogue processes?
- What do you think has been most special and interesting about this dialogue project overall?

Wrap Up

Thank you for your time today and your contribution to this evaluation: we really appreciate your input. Before we close, is there anything we haven't covered so far that you think it is important for CCC and its partners to understand about the dialogue?

