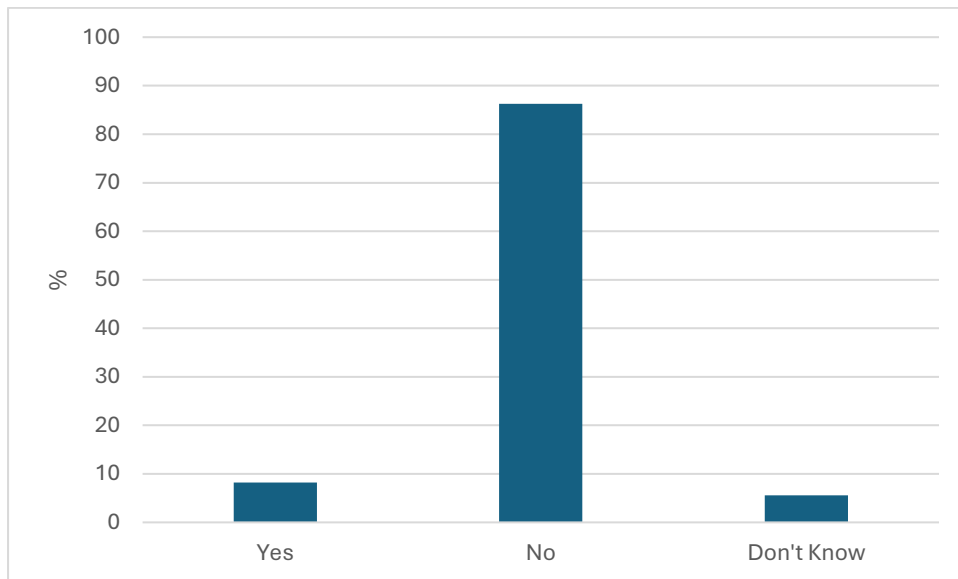
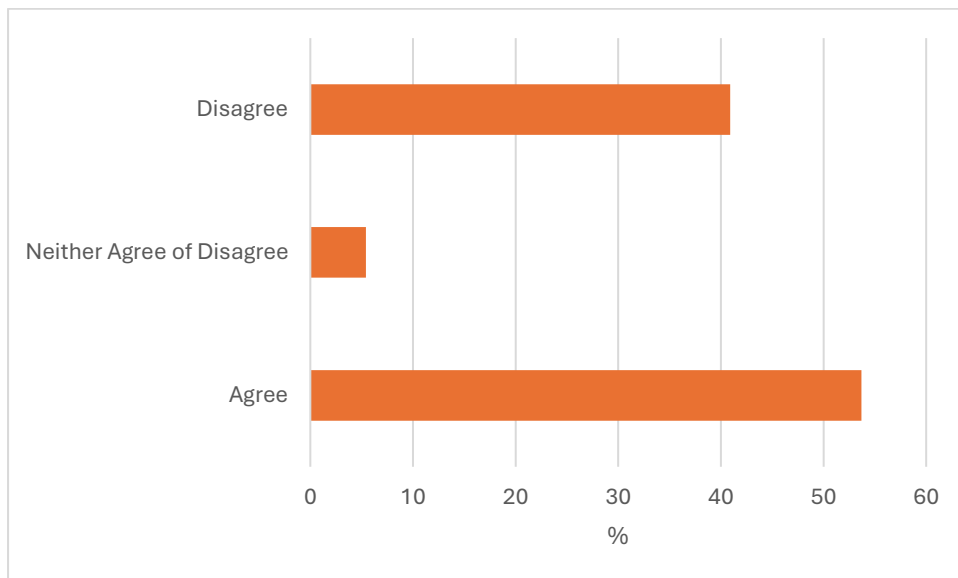


## Appendix C: Public Consultation - Summary of Responses

### Q1: Do you live inside the existing SCA? (772/772)



### Q2: Do you agree with the proposal to expand the existing smoke control areas to cover the entire district of Cambridge? (772/772)



### Q3: Why do you agree with the proposal? (414/414)

Of those that supported the proposal approx. 45% cited the primary reason as they were concerned about impact on theirs or others health, 21.5% consider air pollution a problem in Cambridge or generally concerned about the environment (19%), with approx. 13% citing annoyance. Of the remaining 1.5% whilst typically more specific

concern still focussed around impacts on health and wider impacts on the environment.

**Q4: Why do you disagree with the proposal? (316/316)**

Of those respondents that are opposed to the expansion approx. 41% is around concerns about increased costs of both fuel and upgrades and concerns about supply of suitable smokeless fuel. There is a significant view that air pollution is not a concern in Cambridge (11.5%), burning solid fuel is sustainable (14%) and the problem is not bad enough to curtail peoples freedom (28%) and taking away the pleasure a solid fuel stove provides and that focus should be centred on more important issues, most notably congestion and emissions from cars. Of the remaining 5.5% who responded to 'other' again answers were more personal or specific but focussed around increased costs, curtailing personal freedom unnecessary and question of whether air pollution is a problem in Cambridge and the councils use of powers and priorities. The issues of practicalities of enforcement was also raised.

**Q5: Do you have anything to add about the proposal? (optional) (324/772)**

**Note:** Bonfires / fireworks and role they play is raised frequently across general answers both for and against

Respondents expressed a wide range of opinions on the proposal to expand the smoke control area. A significant number of responses highlighted concerns about the impact on low-income residents, particularly those living on houseboats, who rely on wood and coal for heating and may not have affordable alternatives

Many respondents argued that vehicle emissions and traffic congestion are more pressing sources of pollution that should be prioritized over wood burning

There was also a call for more evidence and clarity on the health impacts of wood smoke compared to other pollutants

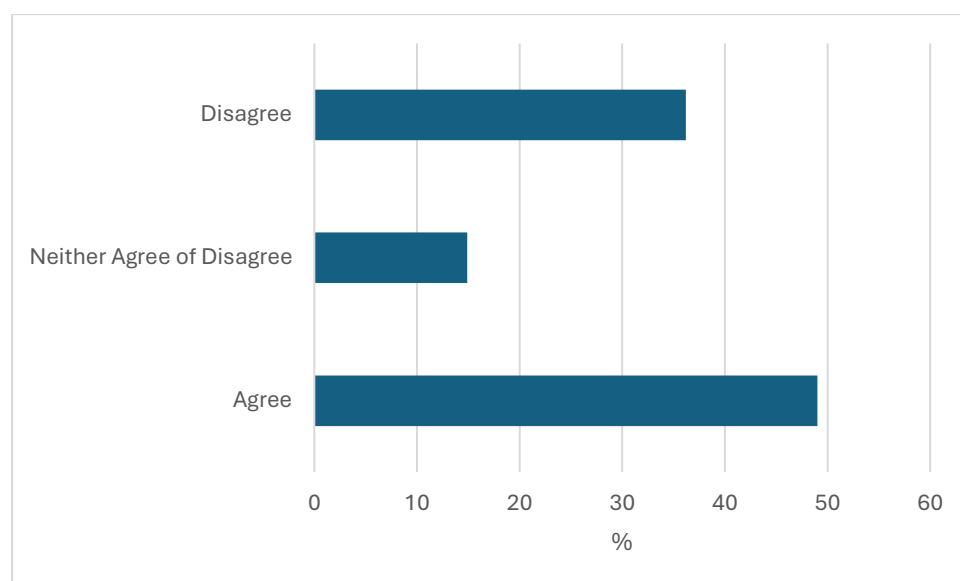
Some respondents supported the proposal, citing health concerns and the need to improve air quality, especially for vulnerable groups like children and those with respiratory issues

Several responses suggested that any changes should be accompanied by financial support or incentives for residents to transition to cleaner heating options

There were also calls for better enforcement of existing smoke control regulations and more public education on the health risks associated with wood burning

Overall, while there is support for improving air quality, many respondents are concerned about the potential socioeconomic impacts of the proposal and believe that other sources of pollution should be addressed first.

**Q6: Do you agree with including permanently moored vessels (houseboats) using the River Cam within the Cambridge City Council district boundary? (772/772)**



**Q7: Why do you agree? (38/772)**

There is a lower response rate of 70% for this question, but of those that responded approx 40% cited fairness for all residents who are polluting, 15% about concerns on health when using the river for amenity or 4% proximity of the boats to their residential premises and subsequent impact on health. Approx 9.5% expressed view that impact of houseboats was greater on the natural environment. Of the 2.5% respondents who gave additional answers whilst there is support for fairness, and the lower chimney height impacts greater on health of those using the river for amenity, there is a clear concern still about suitable viable alternatives and support for the boating community if this were progressed

**Q8: Why do you disagree? (281/772)**

Response rate of 64% to this question. Of those that responded only 2% live on a boat and expressed concerns about costs and practicalities. This was overwhelmingly supported by the wider responses around practicalities and costs (34%) and being proportionate given the small number of boats owners and scale of problem from them (12%). Of the remaining 3% who provided wider answers this focussed primarily again on proportionality, costs and practicality and curtailing peoples freedoms and the way they choose to live their lives

**Q9: Do you have anything to add about including permanently moored vessels (houseboats) using the River Cam within the Cambridge City Council district boundary? (optional) (324/772)**

Respondents expressed a mix of opinions regarding the inclusion of permanently moored houseboats in the smoke control area expansion. A significant number of

responses highlighted concerns about air pollution caused by houseboats burning wood and coal, which affects the health of nearby residents and those using the river paths for exercise

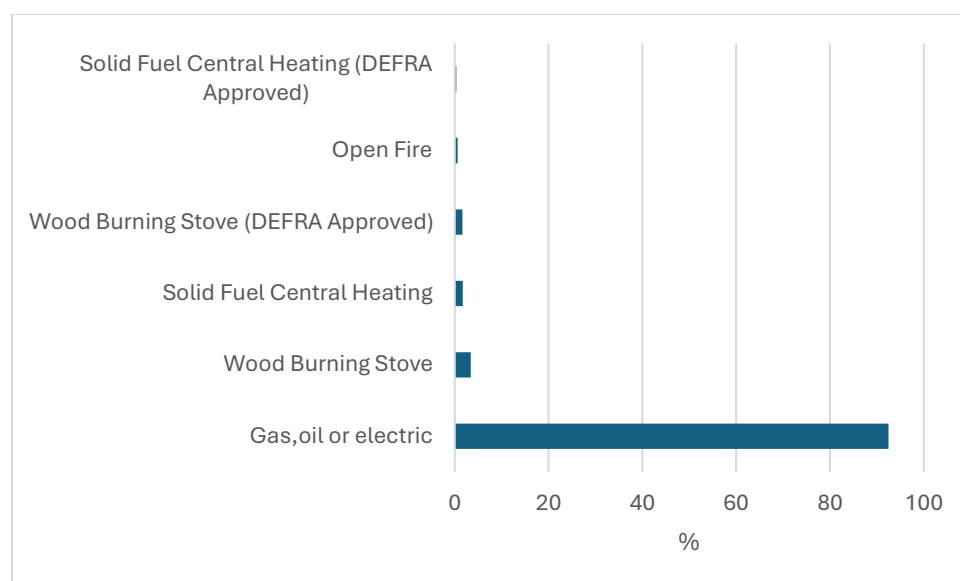
Many respondents suggested that houseboat residents should be supported financially to transition to cleaner heating alternatives, such as providing electrical hookups or grants for new stoves

Conversely, some respondents argued that houseboats are an integral part of Cambridge's character and provide affordable housing options in an expensive city. They emphasised that many houseboat residents are low-income and have limited heating options, suggesting that imposing restrictions could disproportionately affect them

Some respondents felt that the pollution from houseboats is minimal compared to other sources and that the focus should be on more significant contributors to air pollution

Overall, there is a call for a balanced approach that considers both the environmental impact and the socio-economic challenges faced by houseboat residents.

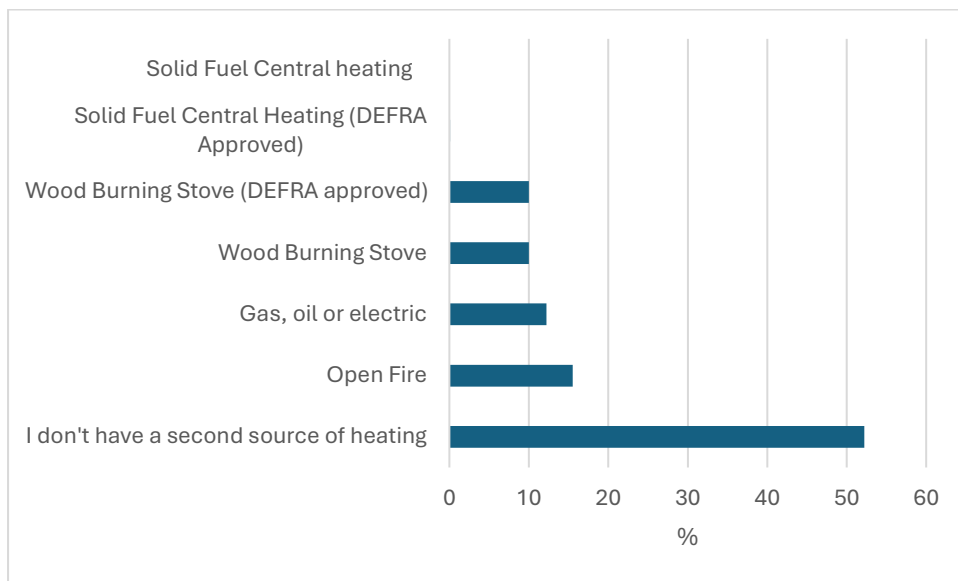
#### Q10: What is your main heating system? (772/772)



**Note:** About 5.7% of respondents (44 residents) responded that a solid fuel system that may not comply with the new SCA rules if the expansion goes ahead was their primary source of heating. Some of them likely live on boats and wouldn't be affected by the changes. However, most of them probably prefer using solid fuel for heating, even though other answers suggest they also have access to gas or electric heating.

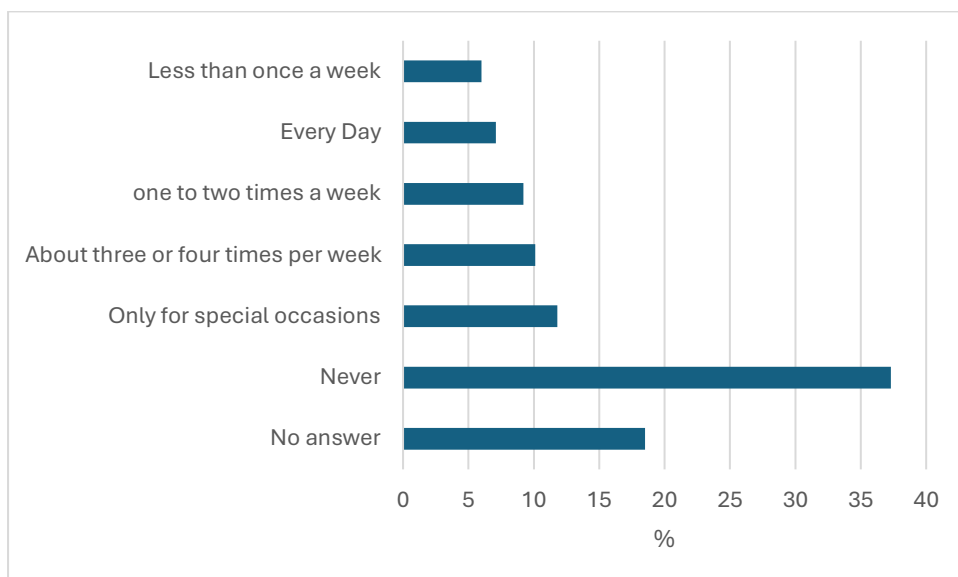
That said, there is a small risk that a few residents rely only on solid fuel for heating. These individuals could be negatively affected by the policy change.

### Q11: Do you have a second source of heating? (772/772)



**Note:** 12.2% (94) stated gas, oil or electric suggesting it is a choice to use solid fuel as a main source, however it is unclear if this is financially driven or preference

### Q12: If you burn solid fuel or wood in your household how often do you use it (during the colder months)? (optional) (629/772)



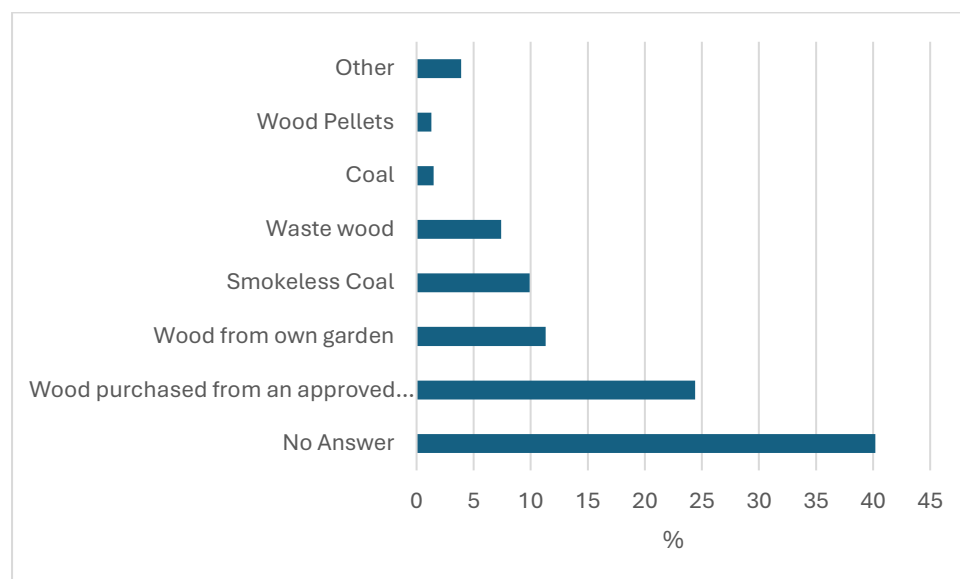
### Q13: If you use a woodstove or open fire as a second source of heating, why do you use it? (optional) (345/772)

41% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Of those that did 19% cited heating only part of the house, 11% cheaper than central heating and comfort 19%. Of the 10% that provided further responses this is mixed with many respondents citing either not having a wood burning stove (we had intended for these residents not to answer this question) or having concerns about air pollution. Among those who do

use them, a significant number mention using them as a backup during power cuts or when central heating fails. Cost-effectiveness is a common theme, with many believing it is cheaper than central heating, especially during cold spells. Some respondents prefer heating only one room rather than the whole house, which they find more economical and efficient. The comforting atmosphere provided by a woodstove or open fire is also frequently mentioned. Additionally, several respondents highlight the use of sustainable or locally sourced wood as a carbon-neutral option.

**Note:** A few responses indicate that woodstoves are used for special occasions or cultural reasons but do not elaborate more widely on specific examples.

#### Q14: If you burn solid fuel or wood, what do you burn? (optional) (374/772)



3.9% or 39 respondents cited 'other' with many of the answers falling within the categories above but the respondent wanting to highlight personal situation. This included sourcing wood from garden, from local businesses, emphasis that they season it appropriately. Throughout all answers there are concerns raised about environmental impacts of using process 'smokeless fuel' versus natural wood. Again there was those that emphasised the health impacts and their choice not to use it for these reasons.

Overall, the responses reflect a diverse range of practices and sources for burning materials, with a strong emphasis on using seasoned and sustainably sourced wood.

#### Q15: If we were to expand the SCA, what changes would you have to make and/or problems might you encounter? (optional) (325/772)

Many respondents indicated that they would not need to make any changes if the Smoke Control Area (SCA) were expanded, as they already comply with existing regulations or do not use wood-burning stoves

However, a significant number expressed concerns about the financial burden of upgrading to DEFRA-approved stoves or purchasing approved fuels, which could increase their cost of living. Several respondents highlighted the potential impact on their ability to heat their homes affordably, with some fearing they would be left cold during winter

There were also concerns about the environmental implications of switching to smokeless coal and the potential increase in greenhouse gas emissions

Some respondents mentioned the cultural and personal value of wood-burning stoves and open fires, noting that they contribute to the atmosphere and enjoyment of their homes

Others expressed frustration with perceived inconsistencies in environmental policies, such as the continued use of vehicles and industrial pollution

There were calls for exemptions for certain uses, such as museums and heritage sites, and for better enforcement and education regarding approved fuels and stoves

Some respondents suggested that the expansion could lead to civil disobedience or resistance due to economic pressures

Overall, while there is support for cleaner air and compliance with regulations, many respondents are concerned about the financial and practical implications of expanding the SCA.

#### **Q16: Do you have any other comments for us? (optional) (224/772)**

Respondents expressed a mix of support and opposition to the expansion of the Smoke Control Area (SCA). A significant number of respondents highlighted health concerns, particularly respiratory issues exacerbated by smoke from wood-burning stoves and open fires. Many supported the initiative as a means to improve air quality and public health.

Conversely, several respondents opposed the expansion, arguing that it infringes on personal freedoms and disproportionately affects lower-income individuals who rely on wood-burning for heating.

Some questioned the evidence supporting the need for expansion, suggesting that vehicle emissions are a more significant source of pollution.

There were calls for better enforcement of existing regulations and for providing support or exemptions for those who cannot afford to upgrade their heating systems.

Concerns were also raised about the impact on boat-dwellers and the need for alternative heating solutions for them.

Overall, while there is recognition of the potential health benefits of expanding the SCA, there is also significant concern about its implementation and impact on certain communities.