Environmental Health

Air Quality Strategy Consultation Report 2025

Test Valley Borough Council

Prepared by the Policy Team
1-31-2025

Contents

Summary

Overall, a broad range of the public engaged with this survey, with different ages, genders and areas being well represented. Respondents identified car idling as a key issue across several different questions but were generally satisfied with the air quality in their local area, and across the borough.

This report is broken into two main sections, demographics and question breakdown. In the question breakdown, where questions are missing, the questions asked were demographic in nature, so are present in the demographic section.

Design

Test Valley Borough Council's Environmental Health team undertook a consultation on air quality in Test Valley. The consultation took the form of a survey, which was live from 25th November to 20th January. During this time, 49 responses were received. All 49 response were received digitally, with most respondents interacting with QR codes on posters across Andover and Romsey. A handful of respondents completed the survey through the TVBC website.

Demographics

Age

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked demographic questions about for their age, gender and disability.

Responses to the survey can be broken down into the following ages:

Age Demographic	Survey Respondents	Test Valley Population[1]
	%	%
18-24	6.7%	9.9%
25-34	13.3%	11.1%
35-44	24.4%	13.9%
45-54	24.4%	14.8%
55-64	26.7%	17.2%
65+	4.4%	33.1%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%

[1] Hampshire County Council's 2022 Small Area Population Forecast for Test Valley. Further information about these forecasts can be found on the HCC website: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/estimates-forecasts.

It should be noted that not all respondents to the survey answered this question. 45 of the total 49 respondents answered. The calculations above are based on the total number of respondents who answered this question.

Each age range was represented in the consultation. The rate of responses from those aged 25-34 is most closely aligned with the population. The age groups most overrepresented were those aged 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64 with the response rate for these groups significantly higher than the proportion of the population they represent.

Meanwhile, respondents 18-24 and those 65 and over were underrepresented. Lower response rates from these age groups are common in consultation exercises.

<u>Gender</u>

Respondents were asked their gender. 44 of the total 49 respondents answered this question. 45.5% identified as female, 50.0% identified as male and 4.5% answered 'prefer not to say'. In Test Valley, the percentage of the population who identify as female is 51.0%, and male is 49.0%. Female identifying respondents were underrepresented in this consultation, which is uncommon in consultation exercises.

<u>Disability</u>

Respondents were asked if they consider themselves to be disabled under the 2010 Equality Act. 46 people answered this question. Of that figure, 6.5% answered 'yes', 84.8% answered 'no' and 8.7% answered 'prefer not to say'. In Test Valley, 15.6% of the population identified themselves as having a disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010. People who identify as disabled were underrepresented in this survey.

<u>Location</u>

Respondents were asked to provide the first part of their postcode. 42 people answered this question. 42.86% of responses were SP10, 26.19% were SP11 and 19.05% answered SO51. SP10 and SP11 includes much of Andover, areas to the north like Charlton and to the west of Andover like Kimpton and Grateley. SO51 is within Romsey.

Lung conditions

Respondents were asked to identify whether they or a family/household member suffered from asthma, COPD, a dust allergy, or bronchitis. 46 people answered this question.
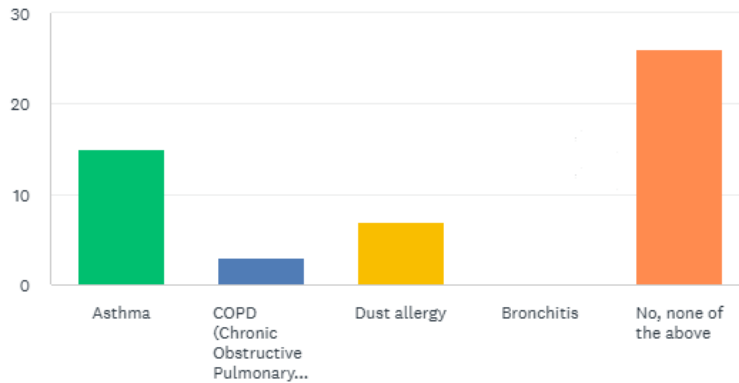
Asthma	COPD	Dust allergy	Bronchitis	None of them
32.61% (15 people)	6.52% (3 people)	15.22% (7 people)	0.00% (0 people)	56.52% (26 people)

Type of heating

People were asked about which method of heating they used. 46 people answered this question. 71.74% responded that they use gas, 17.39% use electric heating, 6.52% use oil and 4.35% use other, which people used a space to write that they used a mix of oil and solid fuel.
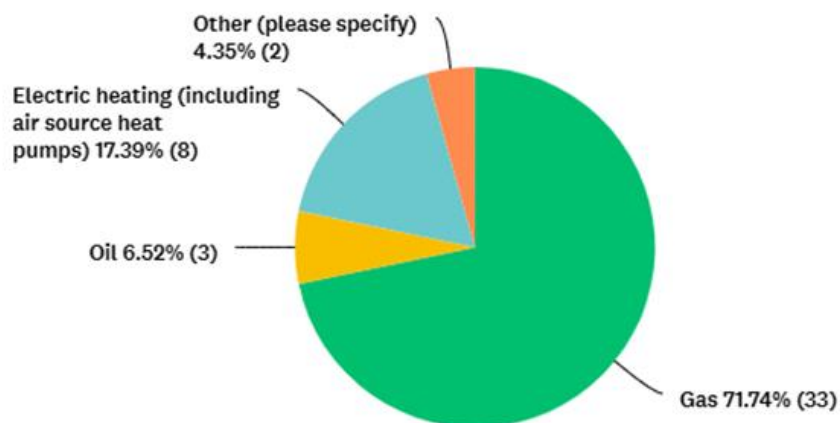
Question Breakdown

Question 1

Question 1 asked at what level air pollution should be tackled. 48 respondents answered the question. 6.25% (3 people) answered it should be tackled at national level only, 6.25% (3 people) answered that it should be tackled at local level only. 81.25% (39 people) answered that air pollution should be tackled in a mix of both local and national levels. A further 6.25% (3 people) answered that they were unsure.

7 people chose to leave comments. Generally, the comments were left be people who answered that air pollution should be tackled at a national level. Comments included 'Major cities yes, local small towns and villages no' and 'there's absolutely nothing wrong with the air quality around the Test Vally area'. One respondent answered that air pollution should be at a local area and commented 'worried about the amount of wood burners in my area'.

Question 2

Question 2 asked respondents to rank sources of air pollution from most to least concerning. The sources were indoor air pollution, industrial emissions, bonfires, vehicle emissions, emissions from domestic boilers, wood fires or stoves and agriculture. 48 of the total 49 respondents answered this questions.

	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd	Ranked 4th	Ranked 5th	Ranked 6th
Indoor Air Pollution	4.17%	12.50%	25.00%	16.67%	18.75%	22.92%
Industrial emissions	47.92%	35.42%	6.25%	6.25%	4.17%	0.00%
Bonfires	6.25%	8.33%	27.08%	27.08%	18.75%	12.50%
Vehicle emissions	33.33%	31.25%	10.42%	18.75	6.25%	0.00%
Emissions from domestic boilers	4.17%	10.42%	12.50%	20.83%	37.50%	14.58%
Agriculture	4.17%	2.08%	18.75%	10.42%	14.58%	50.00%

Below is a chart that contains the above information in a graph, where each option has been given a weighted average.
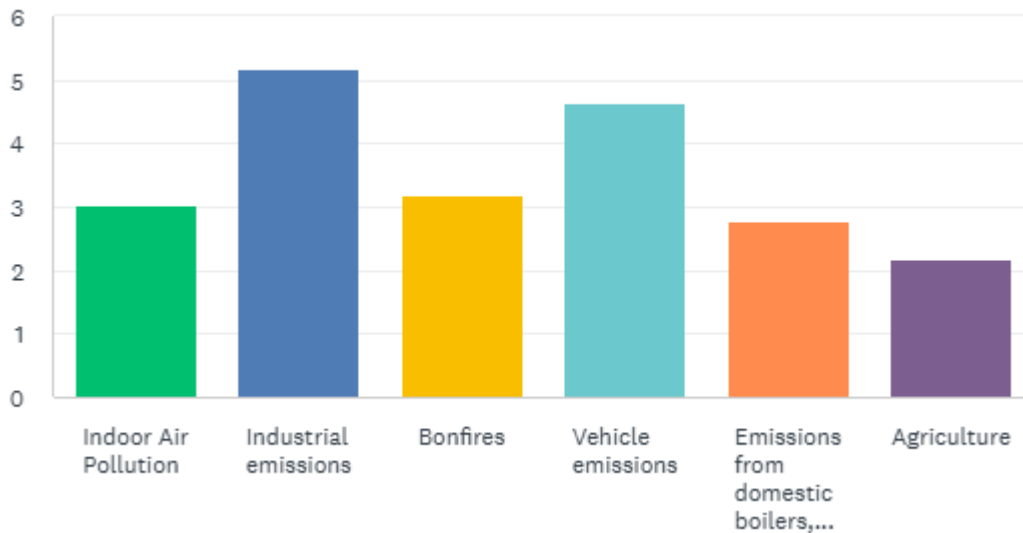
Overall, respondents were most concerned about industrial emissions, which were ranked by the majority of people as the first or second most concerning source of air pollution. Vehicle emissions were overall the second most concerning, followed by indoor air pollution, bonfires and emissions from domestic boilers, wood fires or stoves all at joint third. Agriculture was ranked as the least concerning.

Question 3

Question 3 asked respondents to consider actions that may reduce air pollution, and to rank them from least to most helpful. The actions were investing in renewable energy, improving public transport, increasing active travel, stricter emissions standards, promoting green spaces and afforestation and public education about air pollution. 46 of the total 49 respondents answered this question.

	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd	Ranked 4th	Ranked 5th	Ranked 6th
Investing in renewable energy	32.61%	8.70%	19.57%	17.39%	10.87%	10.87%
Improving public transport	19.57%	23.91%	28.26%	8.70%	17.39%	2.17%
Increasing active travel	6.25%	26.09%	10.87%	23.91%	19.57%	13.04%
Stricter emissions standards	17.39%	8.70%	19.57%	28.26%	15.22%	10.87%

Promoting green spaces and afforestation	17.39%	17.39%	13.04%	8.70%	23.91%	19.57%
Public education about air pollution	6.25%	15.22%	8.70%	13.04%	13.04%	43.48%
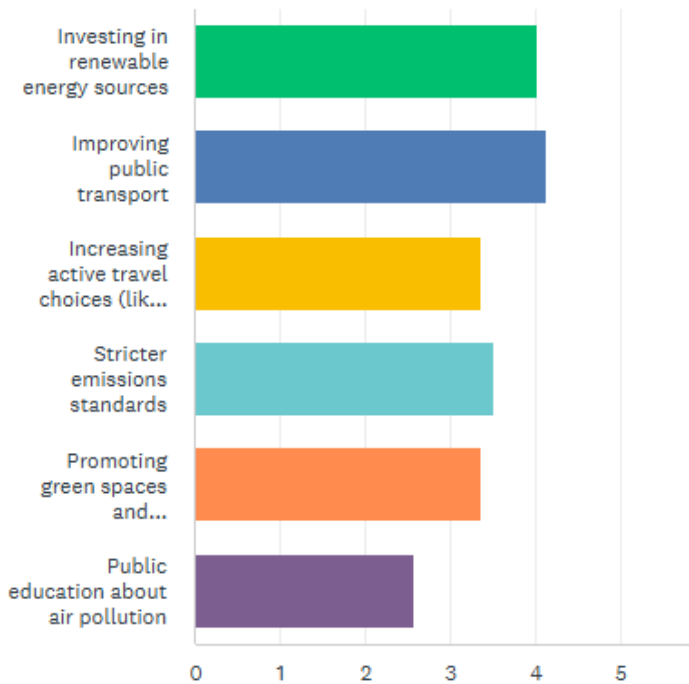
Overall, improving public transport was noted as the most helpful action, followed by investing in renewable energy sources. Stricter emission standards, increasing active travel and promoting green space all received similar scores, and public education about air pollution was ranked as the least helpful.

Question 4

Question 4 asked respondents to comment on what they would like to see done to improve air quality. 33 people responded to this questions. The most common responses related to vehicles, including congestion, and idling. Comments included 'Improved traffic management particularly to avoid congestion around public spaces such as schools', 'Stricter enforcement/fines for cars sitting idle with engines on' and 'Cut down unnecessary vehicles in residential areas.' The next most common response centred on green spaces. Comments included 'better green space', 'more trees and green spaces planted and maintained' and 'more greens spaces!'. Other responses were varied, and included 'no issues with air quality', 'restrict log fires' and 'improving rural public transport.'

Question 5 and 6

Question 5 asked people to rate the air quality where they live out of 5. 45 respondents answered this question, with the average rating being 3.5/5. Similarly,

	Very Poor	Poor	Neither Good nor poor	Good	Very Good
Question 5 (in your area)	4.44%	15.56%	24.44%	37.78%	17.79%
Question 6 (Test Valley)	2.22%	11.11%	20.00%	51.11%	15.56%

question 6 asked people to rate the air quality in Test Valley generally. The average rating in response to question 6 was 3.7/5.

In response to question 5, of those who responded that the air quality was poor or very poor, all except one lived in the SP10 or SP11 area. The other respondent lived in the SO51 area.

Question 9

Question 9 asked respondents to select the group or groups you believe are most vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution. The groups were children, the elderly, people with respiratory conditions, pregnant women & unborn children, all age groups. The majority of respondents identified people with respiratory conditions as the most vulnerable, followed by children and the elderly. The group identified as least at risk were pregnant women and unborn children. Four respondents chose 'other' and wrote that they believed no one group was more vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution.
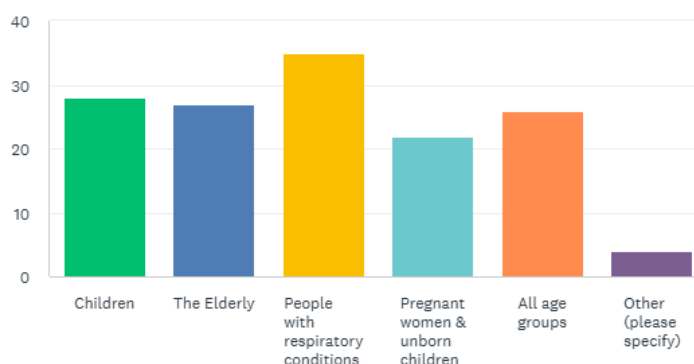
Children	The elderly	People with respiratory conditions	Pregnant women & unborn children	All age groups	Other
60.87%	58.70%	76.09%	47.83%	56.52%	8.70%

Question 10

Question 10 asked respondents if they had made any changes to their lifestyle to protect themselves from pollution. 46 people answered this question. 50.00% of respondents answered yes. The themes that emerged from their comments were:

- Walking or cycling more often
- Using an electric vehicle
- Installing air purifiers at home

37.00% responded that they had not made changes, and a further 13.00% answered that they were unsure if they had made changes or not.

Question 11

Question 11 asked respondents to select areas which concerned them most, out of engine idling, people smoking or vaping in public, chimney smoke, garden bonfires or other. 42 people answered this question.

At 52.38%, engine idling received the most votes, followed by people vaping or smoking in public at 33.33%. 30.95% selected other, and their comments fall into the following themes:

- Traffic, including lorries in small villages
- None of the issues named
- Wood burners
- Sewage in rivers

26.19% identified garden bonfires as a key issue, 23.81% answered chimney smoke.

Question 18

Question 18 gave people the opportunity to make any comments that they had not been able to make anywhere else. 15 people responded to this question; their answers can be grouped into the following themes:

- Considering air quality when planning new developments and transport links
- Working to reduce idling around schools and areas where children play
- Providing access to local air quality data