

Appendix 4 Expanding Smoke Control Areas in the city most recent consultation closed 1st March 2026.

Summary

95% of respondents identified as Brighton & Hove residents (>82% homeowners and 9% renters, (9% did not say which). 2% were people working in the area and 1% Trade. 2% other (former resident, possible future resident, visitor, neighbouring authority).

The main trend across the feedback received is strong support for expanding smoke control areas in Brighton & Hove (to a larger area than the existing five, to include all the urban Local Planning Authority: close to 60% of BHCC's total area), with concerns frequently raised about air quality and public health. Several respondents highlighted the negative impact of wood burning and other forms of domestic smoke (indoor fireplace solid fuel burning, waste and coal) on respiratory health, particularly for vulnerable groups and other health matters such as children, elderly and those with pre-existing conditions like asthma. The feedback refers to indoor and outdoor air quality.

. There is also a recurring theme of frustration with current enforcement, with some suggesting that existing regulations are not adequately policed or publicised

. A few comments mention the need for clearer guidance and support for residents to transition to cleaner heating alternatives

. Overall, the responses reflect a community desire for stronger action and more effective communication regarding smoke control measures.

- Recurring call for stricter enforcement and clearer guidance for residents
- Some respondents highlighted the need for public education about the dangers of domestic burning and alternative heating options
- A minority raised concerns about the impact on personal freedoms and questioned whether restrictions would be effective or fair
- Overall, the dominant trend was strong support for measures to reduce smoke pollution, with emphasis on health, enforcement, awareness raising and education.

Many respondents highlighted that vehicle emissions and traffic pollution are a much greater concern for air quality in Brighton & Hove than domestic wood burning, with several calling for more focus on restricting vehicles, introducing clean air zones, or addressing traffic management schemes.

There was significant criticism of the council's 'Cosy Killer' campaign, with multiple respondents describing it as scaremongering, misleading, or alienating, and calling for more balanced, factual, and educational approaches instead of fear-based messaging.

Several respondents, including a local chimney sweep, stressed the need for clear, practical education about what is and isn't allowed, rather than blanket demonisation of all wood burning.

Respondents expressed strong support for expanding smoke control areas, citing health impacts (especially for those with asthma) and the unnecessary nature of wood burning in urban areas with alternative heating options.

However, others argued that outright bans are excessive, especially given the cost of gas and electricity, and that responsible use of modern, compliant stoves should be permitted.

Some suggested targeting only the oldest, most polluting stoves and fireplaces or limiting fuel sales, rather than blanket restrictions.

There were also calls for the council to prioritise basic services such as road maintenance, waste collection, and recycling, with some expressing scepticism about the council's priorities and the accuracy of pollution statistics.

Answer re pollution science: *Additional air quality monitoring has been connected 2024 and 2025 and this has established verification procedure with quality control. Further information is available in the Annual Status Report for air quality appraised by DEFRA, Department for the Environment. All solid fuel burning produces smoke indoors and outdoors. The best environmental option is to encourage and fund home heating without combustion and emissions.*

In summary, the main trends are: a strong call to focus on vehicle emissions over domestic burning, criticism of current council communications, a split between those supporting stricter controls on wood burning and those defending responsible use, and a desire for more practical, educational, and nuanced approaches rather than blanket bans or alarmist campaigns.

Answer: *In Brighton & Hove, during winter solid fuel burning is the number one contributor to outdoor concentrations of Particulate Matter. Diesel vehicles are the dominant source of Nitrogen Dioxide in the city, especially along urban transport corridors. Lorries and buses can reduce their emissions substantially with exhaust mitigation. Video calls save the need to travel. Many city centre developments generate fewer vehicle trips than the previous planning permission. Active travel and electric trips (bike, car, van, bus) are helping to improve local air quality for residents and visitors.*

The Your Voice consultation (2026) complements face to face events at libraries and the Air Quality Action Plan consultation that ran for twelve weeks. 2022, 87% of respondents agreed with reducing emissions from buildings and developments. Awareness raising communications campaigns about the health risks for solid fuel burning have been run by Brighton & Hove City Council every winter since 2020. [Please think twice about fires - indoors or outdoors!](#)

2026 at libraries: Some people with wood burners were keen to blame cars for pollution. A Patcham resident wanted to know how many minutes smoke can be emitted from a chimney if it is often and recurring. A Queens Park resident wanted to know which fuels can be burned in an open fireplace on family occasions about eight times a year. [Smoke control areas: the rules - GOV.UK.](#)

Other consultation questions responses not covered above:

Qu4 Does anyone in your household have a health condition that could be affected by air quality?

For example, asthma, lung or heart disease. Of those that gave an answer:

No	64.6%
Yes	35.4%

Qu5 Have you noticed smoke from chimneys near your home?

Of those that gave an answer:

Occasionally	54.8%
Often	21.1%
Never	24.1%
Total Yes	75.9%

Qu6 Would you support reducing visible smoke from household and commercial chimneys in your neighbourhood?

Of those that gave an answer:

Strongly Support	41.4%
Support	5%
Neutral	7.3%
Oppose	10%
Strongly Oppose	36.4%

Qu7 What is your view on reducing solid fuel burning in urban areas?

Of those that gave an answer:

Strongly Support	40.1%
Support	7.6%

Neutral	8.6%
Oppose	10.4%
Strongly Oppose	33.3%

Qu8 Would you support stricter enforcement of smoke control regulations?

Of those that gave an answer:

Yes	51.2 %
No	48.8%

Qu10 Should the council signpost financial support and grant schemes to help households upgrade cleaner heating systems?

Of those that gave an answer:

Yes	74.9%
No	25.1%

Qu11 Would you support more education and awareness measures to help residents understand the health impacts of smoke?

Of those that gave an answer:

Yes	67.4%
No	32.6%