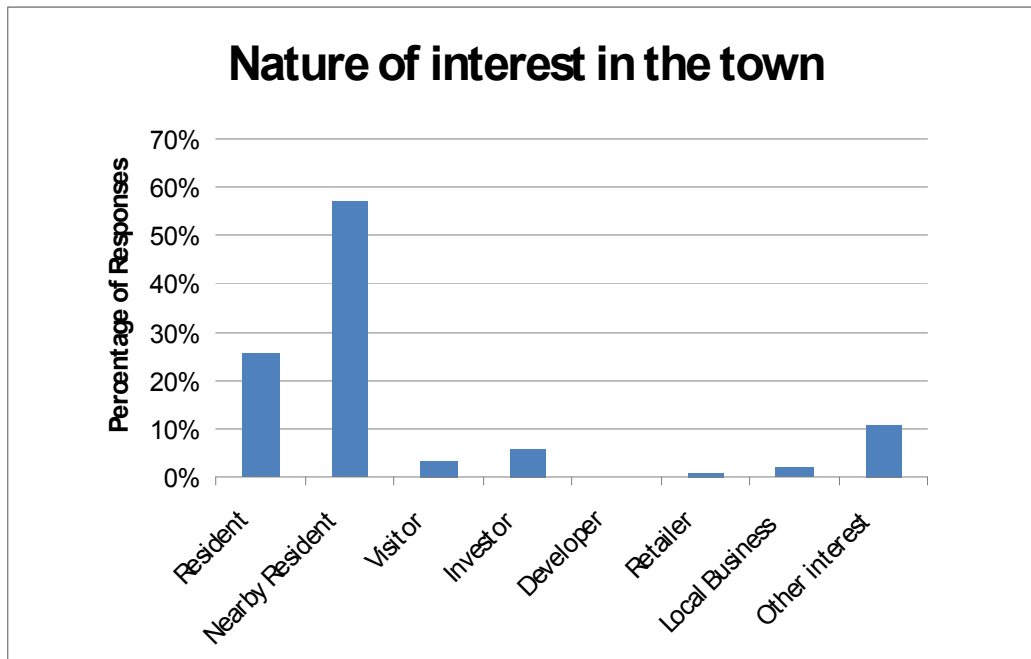


4th November 2009 Cabinet Report Appendix 1

Responses to the short questionnaire received as part of the consultation on the Emerging Strategy for the Central Area Action Plan. Consultation Period 7 August – 18 September 2009

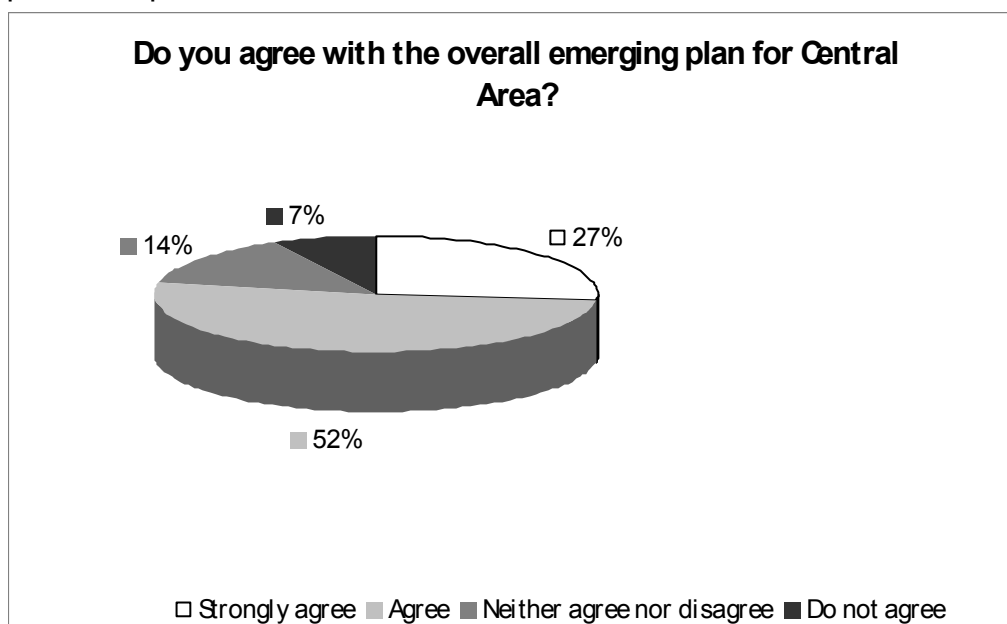
1 Profile of Questionnaire Respondent

1.1 Response to question 1:

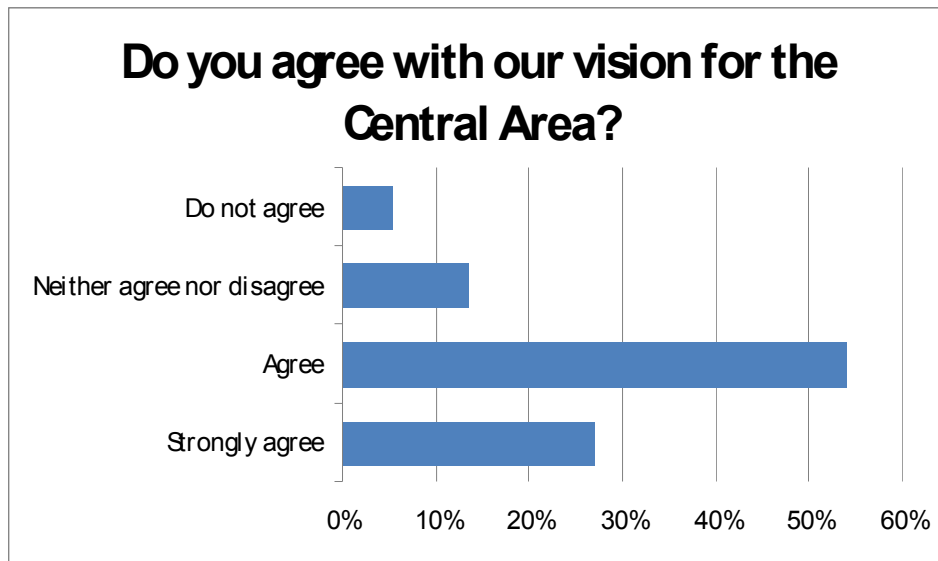


2 Vision and Objectives

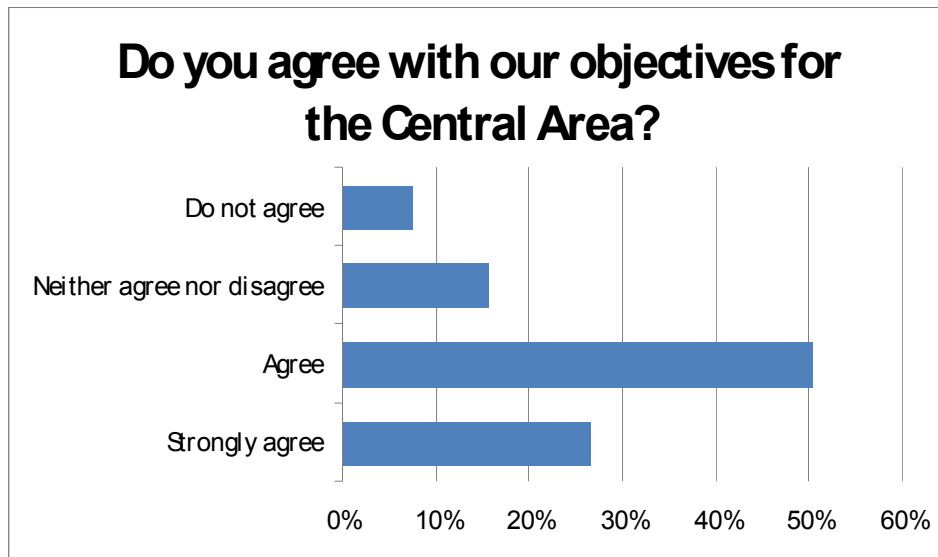
2.1 Response to question 2:



2.2 Response to question 3:

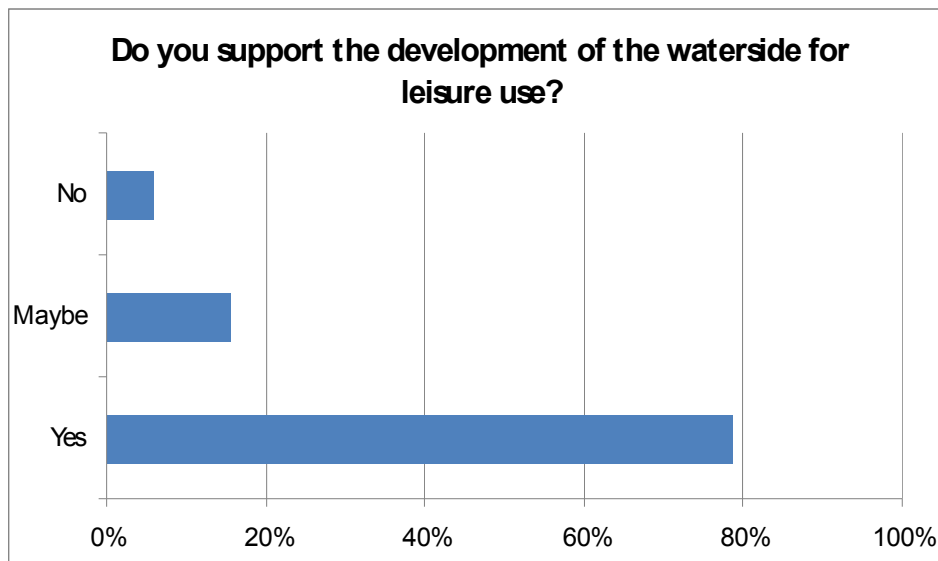


3 Response to question 4:



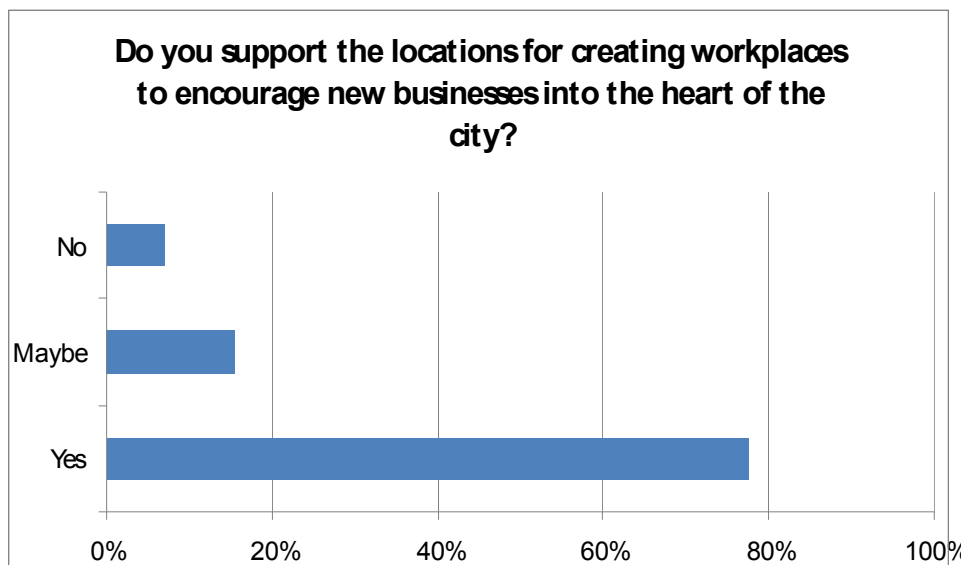
4 Culture, Leisure and Heritage

4.1 Response to question 5:



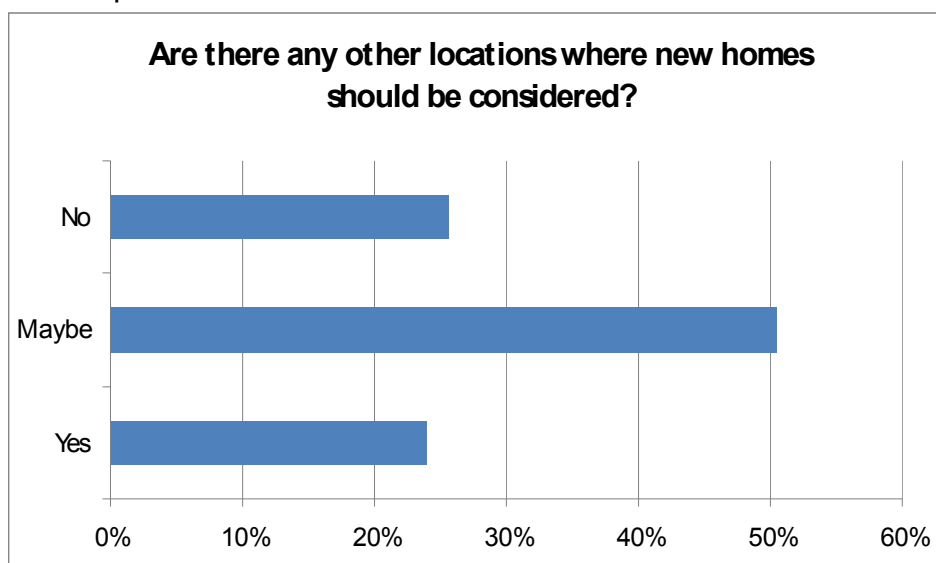
5 Providing Jobs

5.1 Response to question 6:



6 Housing and Community Facilities

6.1 Response to question 7:



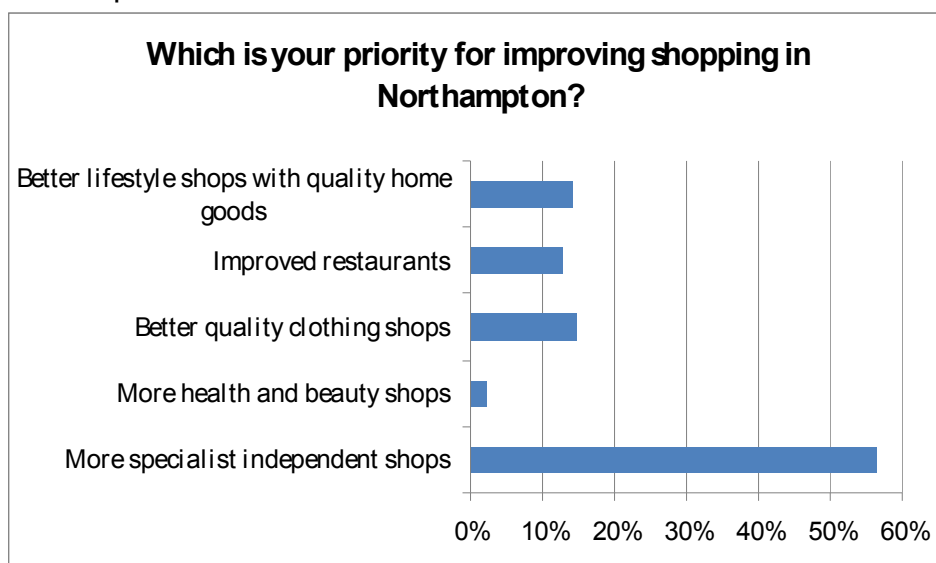
6.2 Other suggestions for locations for new homes:

Specific Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duston, Kingsthorpe, Dallington, Kings Heath, Hardingstone • To the North of Northampton • Semilong • The Wellingborough Area • London Road & Bridge Street • Hanraghans Café /wine bar St Peters Way • Freeschool St and St Peters Way • Whitehill, Eastfield, Poole St (old military and school site) • Wootton Fields • The length of St Andrews Road • Re-develop eastern district around sustainable shopping at Weston Favell • Further development on land around Upton • The Castle Station site is so big, it could support a substantial residential scheme alongside the transport and employment elements
Wider Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 25 miles away • Other side of M1 junction 15 and 15a • Satellite residential zones • South Northants • Yes villages. We are losing our villages, no post offices, no shops, help them. Lovely villages (scenery) • No more factory conversions, new homes outside immediate town centre • Additional homes to villages that surround Northampton to boost rural communities • East Northampton along the A428 between the A45 - Bedford Rd and Houghton area
Brownfield Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grafton industrial estate - not suitable in location, creating area for crime. Residential more suitable maybe?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The former power station. Land behind B&Q DIY Shop • Brownfield sites close to / in Central Area x7 - Suggestions being: Kingsthorpe Hollow, old factories, Martins Yard, the councillors are ignoring [these sites] all the time, the old shoe factory in the town centre • In derelict industrial property in St Michael's Road x2 • St Edmunds hospital site x3 • Expense of living centrally - is the big no no! • Abington Vale, Middle School old site and other middle schools • The garage site on the Wellingborough Road near Weston Favell village etc. • Possibly on edge of central area boundary in old Victorian residential zones e.g. converted shoe factories to preserve integrity of these important industrial heritage buildings - notably Hawkins (Overstone Road area)
No more housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not needed too many empty properties already
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am concerned about the amount of proposed housing in the flood plain

7 Shopping

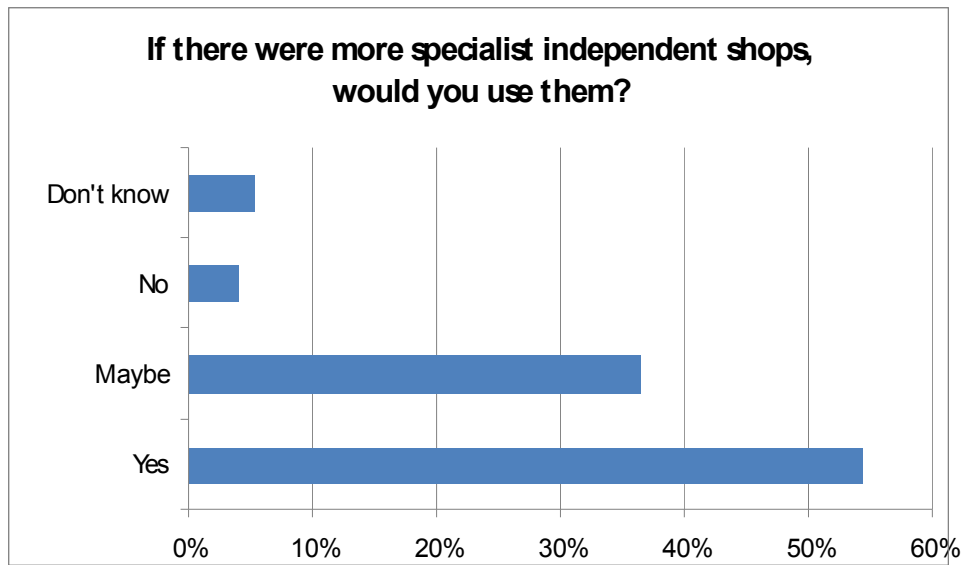
7.1 Response to question 8:



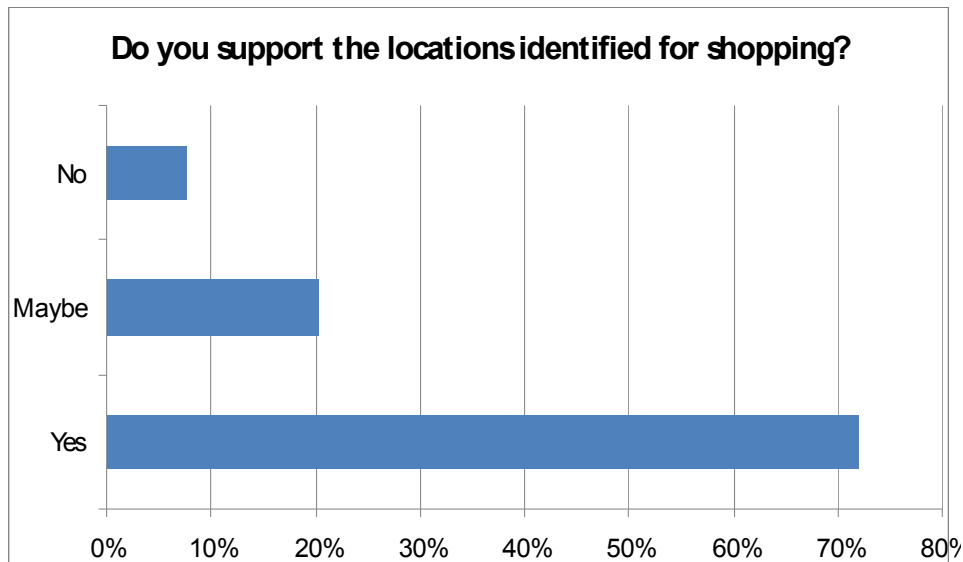
7.2 Please note that respondents were asked to tick one priority option, 40 ticked either one more or a combination of options, therefore this needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the feedback. Other comments included:

- To be able to walk to shops for weekly food and household shop.
- Affordable rents
- Lower rents on town centre offices and shops to attract businesses into the centre instead of forcing them away.

7.3 Response to question 9:

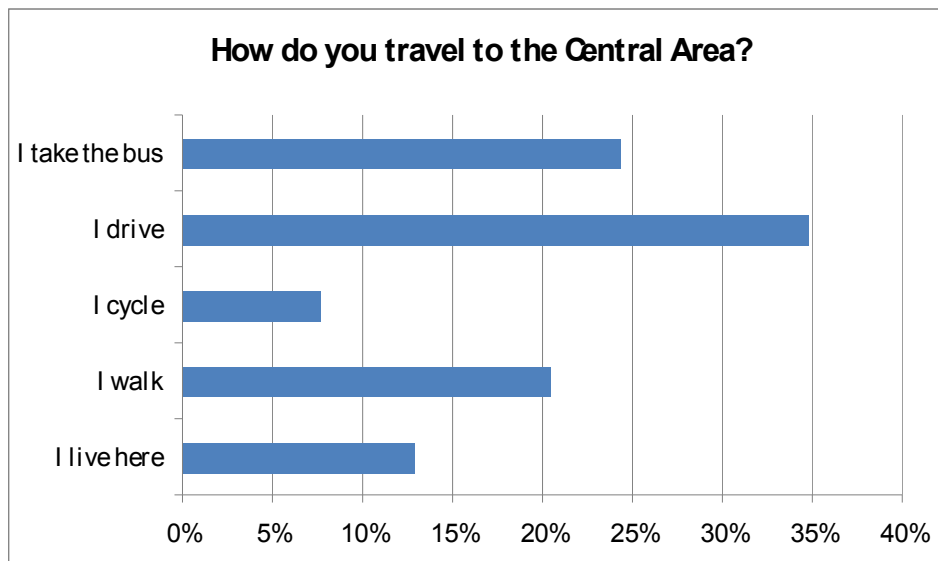


7.4 Response to question 10:

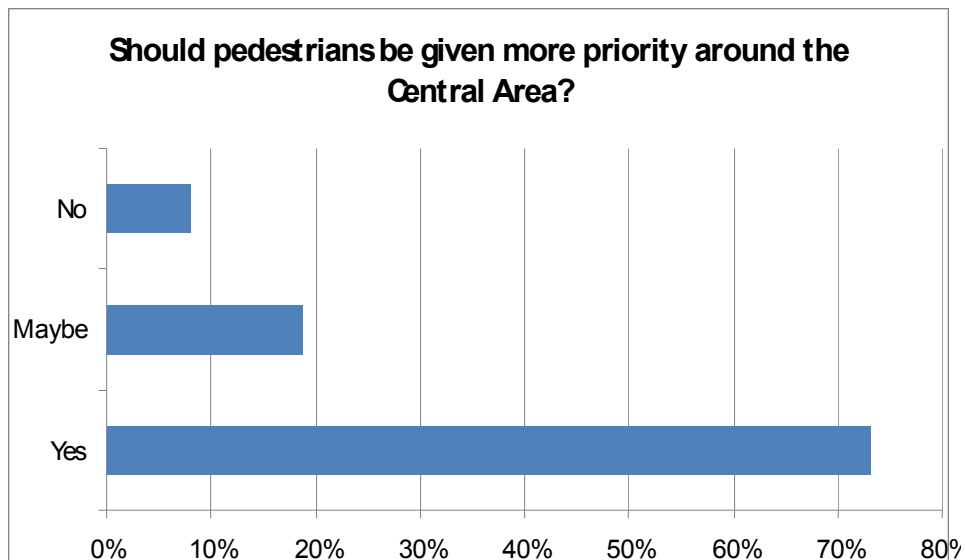


8 Transport and Movement

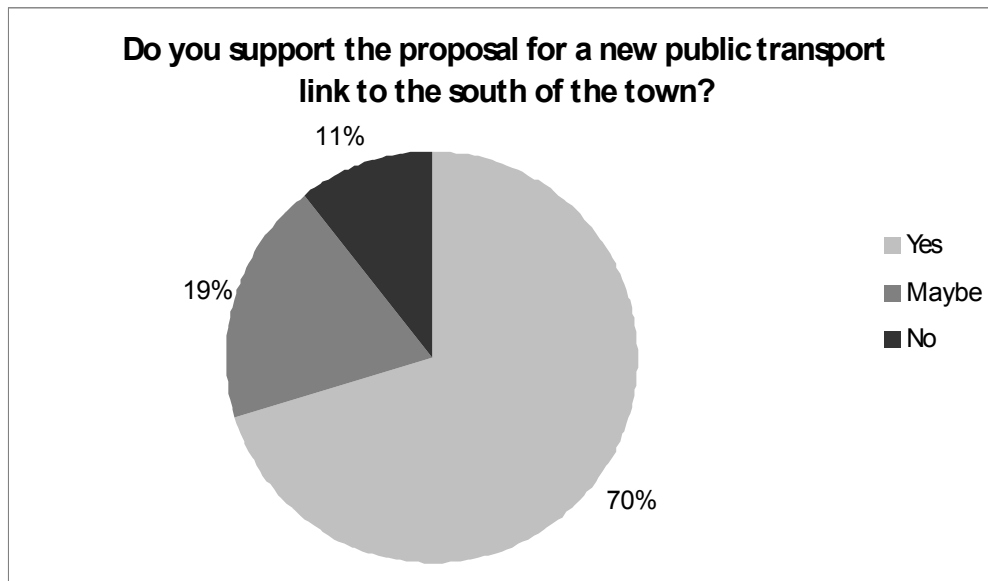
8.1 Response to question 11:



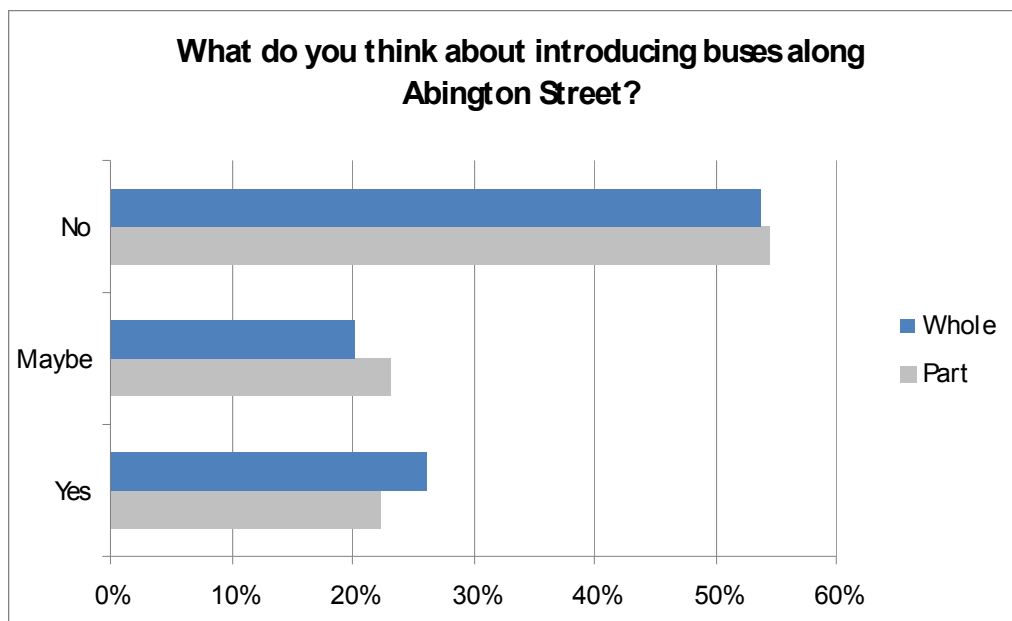
8.2 Response to question 12:



8.3 Response to question14:



8.4 Response to question 15:



9 City Status

9.1 Response to question 16: Question 16 asked respondents 'what else does Northampton Central Area need to reflect its future City status? The following table details the 'issue' areas that the majority of comments fell into. It does not include all the comments made to this question.

Greenspaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of trees and plants or grass areas. X 4, - trees in central shopping areas. Improved access and marketing of Becketts Park as green space to compliment retail development.
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellence in Clean, green, safe themes x2 - ecologically responsible Imaginative modern architecture I think if these proposals are delivered to an excellent standard,

	<p>Northampton will fulfil the vision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landmark, architecturally significant buildings (new builds) • Twenty first century quality architecture • Less ugly block brick paving!
Maintaining history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and make better use of historic buildings and natural assets x4 - do not demolish, remember market town roots and keep a lot of its original stuff, the Market, Fish Market, River Nene and parks), preservation and reconstruction • Respect for its historic buildings and spaces – need to consider views into town – All Saints views marred by modern buildings – car parks etc.
Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality street furniture x2 – i.e. including recycling bins and plants hanging or otherwise. • More street art/sculptures by local artists x2 - a 'Diana' monument. • Public seating x2 - with some rain/dry protection. • Public conveniences that are open! • Improved public realm, which can be maintained.
Attracting Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should be able to attract people from outside Northampton with something other nearby towns and cities do not have. • Tourists encouraged to visit. • Large tourist office, more guided tours, printed town guide • Better advertising / signage x4 re: What's on in Northampton, good quality signs
Cleanliness and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanliness x6 - it is it disgrace to visitors there is litter everywhere, someone to remove the litter, fly tipping etc • Plenty of street wardens to keep it looking presentable
General contributions to what makes a city distinctive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cathedral x3 • Improved national status - examples are recognised national institutes of excellence or sports institutions. • It needs to be distinctive • I thought it would take an act from Queen to make us a City because of Civil War. Didn't we imprison the Charles 1st here?
Reducing pubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in pubs and clubs x3
Cultural offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of facilities: a vibrant Art Gallery x3, museum complex and more museums and tourist attractions, a new library, sculptures, photography etc, theatre tickets at a more reasonable price. • Add culture x2 - to balance the binge drinking perception • A more up-market feel
Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the market traders with lower rents to bring the market square back to life • Options for the Market - a farmers market on Saturday when working people go shopping, fish and meat market for independent stalls • Vibrant market area x3 - no political interest in what the electorate really wants, proper market square • It was ideal in my youth! Centred around market with small specialist shops in arcade.
Type of shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A starbucks Please!!!! Maybe two starbucks....

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No empty shops • Remove / stop - 'Pound' shops, future pubs, bingo halls, amusements arcades • More shops x3 - diverse retail offered, clothes shops (higher quality/independent), quality • Shops to promote the sale of local produce, perhaps for those who can't afford own premises • Food stores - catering for elderly people. • Not to be a 'city' – but to retail it's identity as a County Market Town. • Lots of restaurants
Leisure Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more balanced leisure offer and major national attraction - footwear industry museum (over and above central museum) - old Hawkins factory perhaps. • Things to do or visit informally. Better facilities for mums and kids. • Customer focused information café to meet people and have a general chat.
Car Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate and cheap car parks x5 - to encourage people like me from out of town to come into central Northampton, located around perimeter of the Central Area • Free car parks • More disabled parking along Abington Street around Marks & Spencer • A multi storey car park close to station • Better parking enforcement like a good city • Good road access and free parking
Public Transport and Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective park and ride x2 • More pedestrians and cycle routes x2 • Better transport x4 - reliable!, reflect a better image of town, no [buses] after 8pm in most areas. • A new bus station x2 - needed centrally, not at the railway station • Maintain the bus station as is x3 - refurbish it, spend money on it as promised • Cheaper public transport to get people out of cars
Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater use of public parks - please see Milton Keynes • Pedestrianisation of town centre x3, whole of town, no cars in bridge street and around All Saints Church, where possible, shopping areas (like Gold Street)
Leisure Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More leisure facilities x2 - to promote a leisure economy, boosting football and improvement of leisure facilities • Another decent sized flat open area (other than Market Square) - in summer for new workforce to use, winter ice skating etc. • A new state of the art sports centre/leisure centre – a new swimming pool x2 - with chutes/river runs/waves (now Danes Camp is far too busy)
Disagree with City Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly disagree with "City" description x3 - Northampton must develop a unique identity to differentiate itself from Milton Keynes, more of the same wont work, no benefit to us if it

	<p>becomes a city! Only increased taxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like Northampton Town • What city status?
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10 General Feedback

10.1 Response to question 17: Respondents were also asked 'is there anything you would like to tell us to support your answers', this question elicited quite a lot of qualitative feedback which will be included in the consultation report.