

# PANiC Stations

## People Against New Coal Stations

## Who wants the power station? Survey Results.

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### **Not us, and not the Public.**

PANiC Stations undertook a street and web survey of public opinion towards the proposed power station. This document summarises the findings of the survey, and finds no support for the RWE N-Power proposed power station at Cambois, Blyth. However, there was strong support for the development of renewable energy at the site.

Around 90% of people questioned are concerned about climate change and global warming. Overwhelmingly (96%) people consider it necessary to produce power using non-polluting means, and renewable power resources were very heavily favoured by the respondents (70%). Just over half of the people (52%) were aware of the plans for a new power station but relatively few (20%) realised the size of the scheme suggesting a failure of the 'consultation' that RWE N-Power state they have undertaken with the public in this area.

A majority of people (52%) recognised that Coal is the most environmentally damaging of the main fossil fuels. Over 8% of respondents did not answer this question. These results suggest that there is a good understanding in the general public that there is no such thing as 'clean coal' and that coal is a serious pollution source.

Most people believe that the solutions to the environmental problems from power generation need to be developed and implemented by all (Industry, Government and Individuals) working together. It is not therefore sufficient for industry to demand that Government provide the solutions to the problems or fund the development and implementation of CCS schemes. This combines with the 72% response in favour of development of a renewable energy resource in preference to the proposed coal fired power station.

The majority of respondents were in the upper two age groups with under 30% of the respondents being under 45 years of age. This is a skewed population but does not seem to have had serious effects on the final results – as shown by the separate analysis of the results by age group. Likewise the gender split of the population is also not a perfectly even split but the 60:40 divide is not severely skewed. The majority of the gender imbalance comes from the over 65 age group in the local population. Only c12% of the people that took place in the survey were from outside the region. The main groups were roughly equally divided between the local area and the region.

Although full formal statistics have not been undertaken on these data the results are very clear in those areas commented on and if requested a more detailed analysis can be made available.

#### *Note*

This document is based on information obtained by surveys undertaken by PANiC Stations supporters and over the PANiC Stations website. Proper survey protocol was observed but it is noted that PANiC Stations is not a member of any polling organisations. Similar surveys have also been undertaken in other parts of the country with similar results.

## Background to the Survey

The survey questions were based on similar surveys being done by different groups round the country, at various sites where power stations have been proposed. It is important to note that the survey results clearly show this is not a NIMBY (not in my back yard) reaction as the people who took part expressed clear desires for the site to be re-developed for renewable energy projects. The need for power generation (in the context of Climate Change and other development objectives) has clearly been appreciated by the people at Cambois. The same people also have a clear understanding of what a power station as a neighbour means since the last power station was only closed and demolished within the last 10 years.

## The results

In considering the results it is necessary to look at the quality of the data, the general answers and at least some of the specific issues that stem from age and geographical spread of the respondents.

### Data quality

There were 313 surveys forms completed with a very good rate of completeness. The lowest level of completion for any of the questions was 95% with the proposed energy source for any power station to be developed. This is because several respondents proposed options that were not on the list including the burning of waste. Of the ten questions asked only three failed to score 98% or above with all respondents providing an age range and geographical location.

The results presented in this report are all in the form of percentages of the responses received. In some cases the numbers will not add up to 100% because there were several ways that people answers did not get counted. These were mostly as follows:

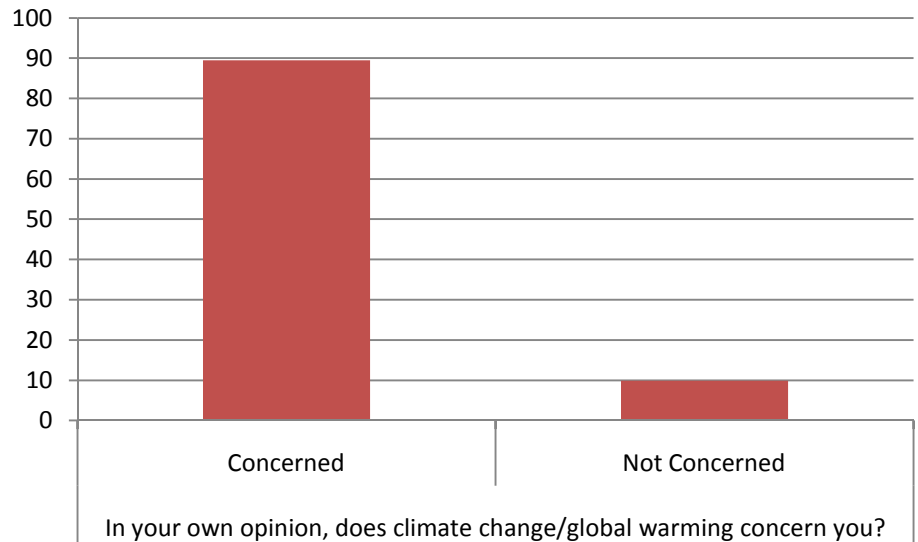
- No answer provided (None of the questions required answers and null responses were especially common with some questions.)
- Answers provided that were not on the questionnaire (This was only possible on the paper street questionnaires and where the answer clearly matched one of the options it was counted. On occasions the answer matched more than one option and was then not counted – as this could have produced replies with over 100% reply levels which are statistically void.)
- Answers provided were ambiguous (On the paper form there were a very few cases where the form had been completed in such a way as it could not be determined which reply was intended.)

## Basic results

### Question 1

#### In your own opinion, does climate change/global warming concern you?

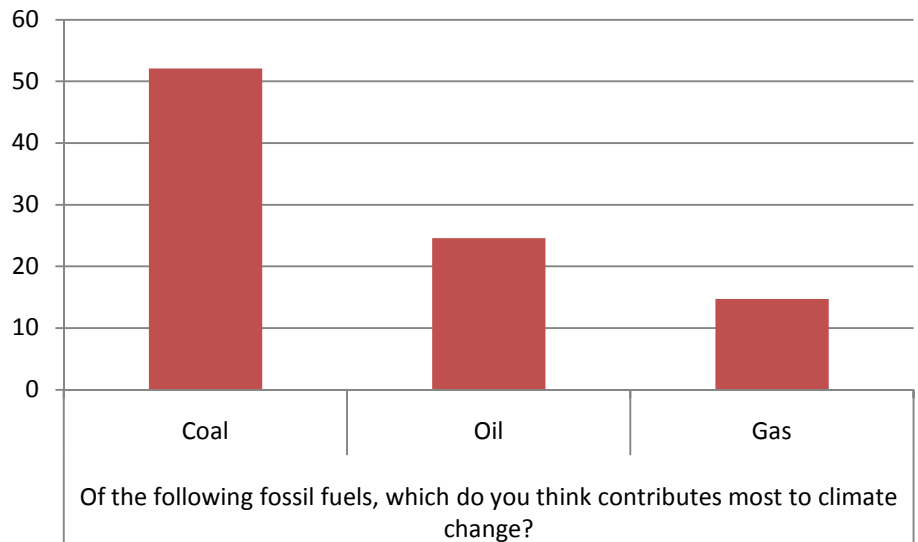
90% of the respondents stated that they were concerned about the effects of climate change. This is a dramatic change from some ten years ago when the last power station was still operating and when knowledge and interest of this issue amongst the general public was much poorer.



### Question 2

#### Of the following fossil fuels, which do you think contributes most to climate change?

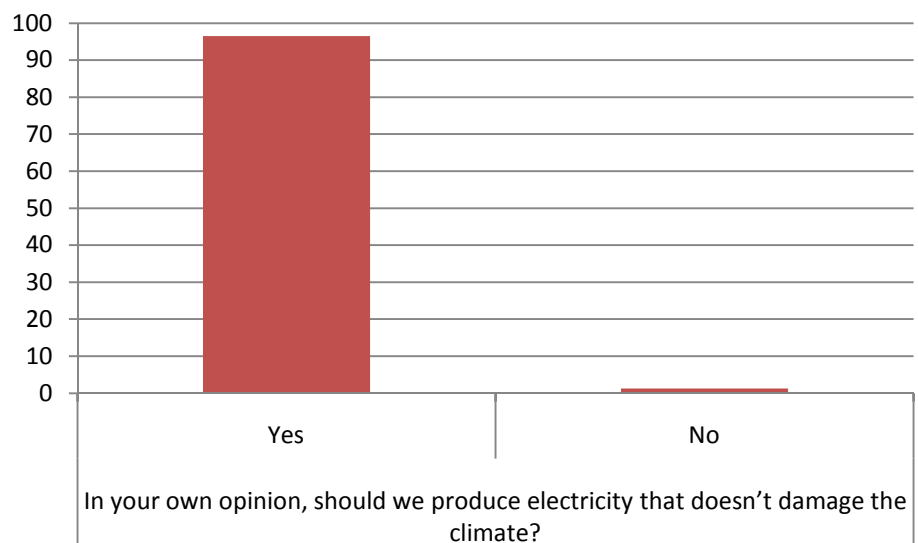
The contribution to climate change from different fuel sources was less well understood with only half of those questioned knowing that coal is the most damaging fuel with respect to carbon dioxide production.



### Question 3

#### In your own opinion, should we produce electricity that doesn't damage the climate?

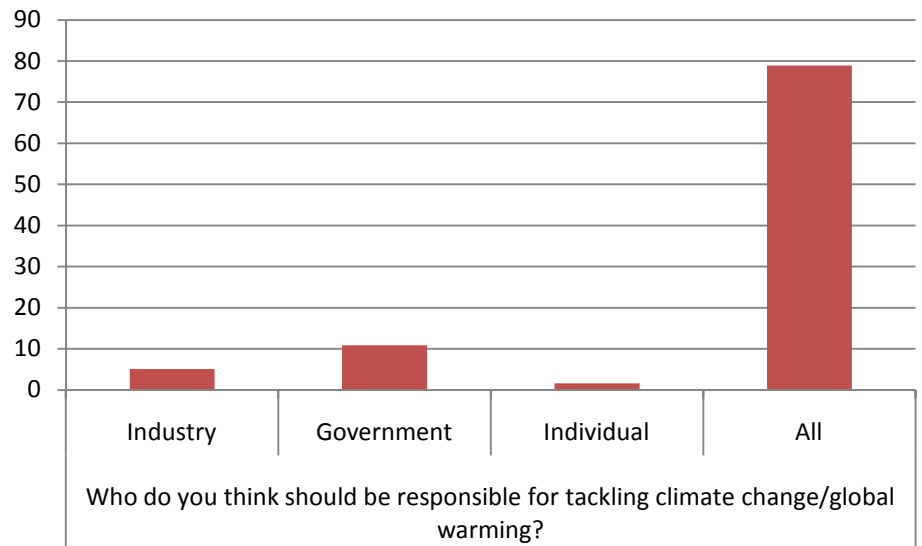
The general replies were so overwhelmingly positive as to be nearly absolute. This again accords with the dramatic change in public opinions over the last decade since the former power station at Cambois / Blyth was last running.



Question 4

**Who do you think should be responsible for tackling climate change/global warming?**

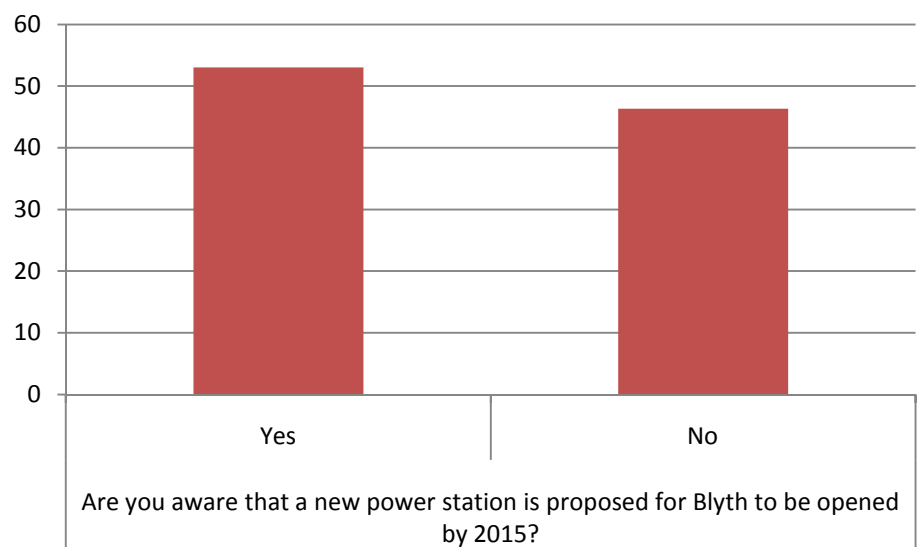
The general consensus was that everybody needs to do something about climate change and to make an impact. However of the quarter who did not see it as everybody's responsibility the majority saw management of this issue as mostly being a matter for Government.



Question 5

**Are you aware that a new power station is proposed for Blyth to be opened by 2015?**

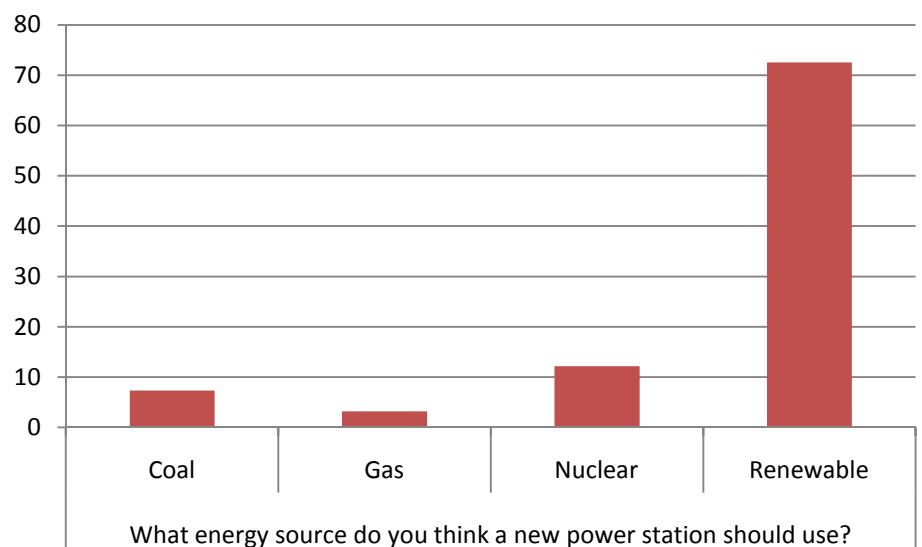
The scale of awareness of the proposed power station shows that the company, the media and PANiC Stations have managed to ensure that people are generally aware of the issue. However this compares badly with the subsequent answers about the scale of the power station.



Question 6

**What energy source do you think a new power station should use?**

With three quarters of people favouring renewable power generation and less than one tenth (fewer than for nuclear) being in favour of a coal power plant this shows that there is a clear basis for opposition to the proposals on the climate effect not just NIMBY principles. Indeed with one tenth of people preferring a nuclear plant the NIMBY element is clearly very much a minor component of the opposition.

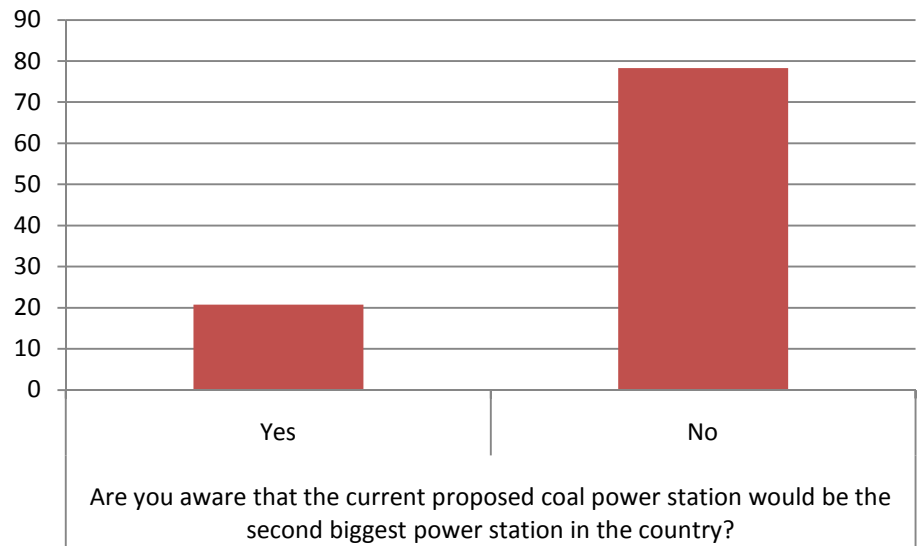


Question 7

**Are you aware that the current proposed coal power station would be the second biggest power station in the country?**

The clear lack of awareness of the size of the proposal makes it clear that RWE N-Power have failed in their 'consultations' to make people properly aware of their proposals.

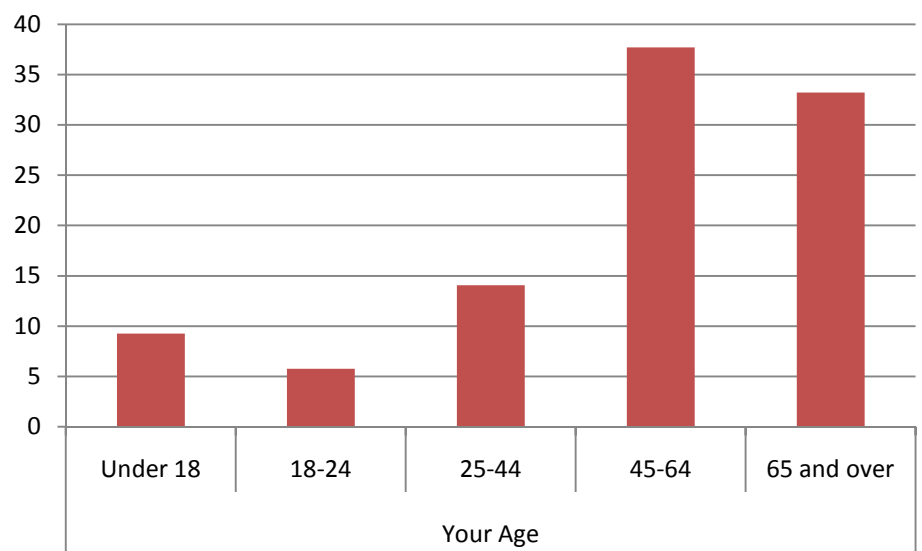
The data on size was taken from the government published industry statistics and the RWE N-Power proposal document.



Question 8

**Your Age.**

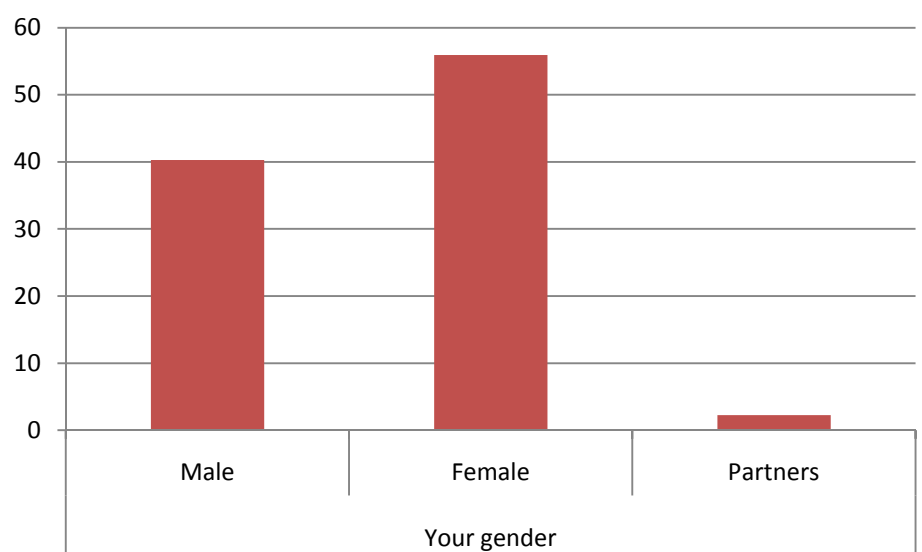
This question has been used for additional analysis to check that there is not an age bias in the results and to ensure that there is a reasonable cross representation of the actual populations of people in the area.



Question 9

**Your Gender**

This demonstrates that there is not a serious gender bias in the survey. There were some street surveys that were filled in by couples and these have been indicated as 'partners' in this data.



Question 10

**Where do you live?**

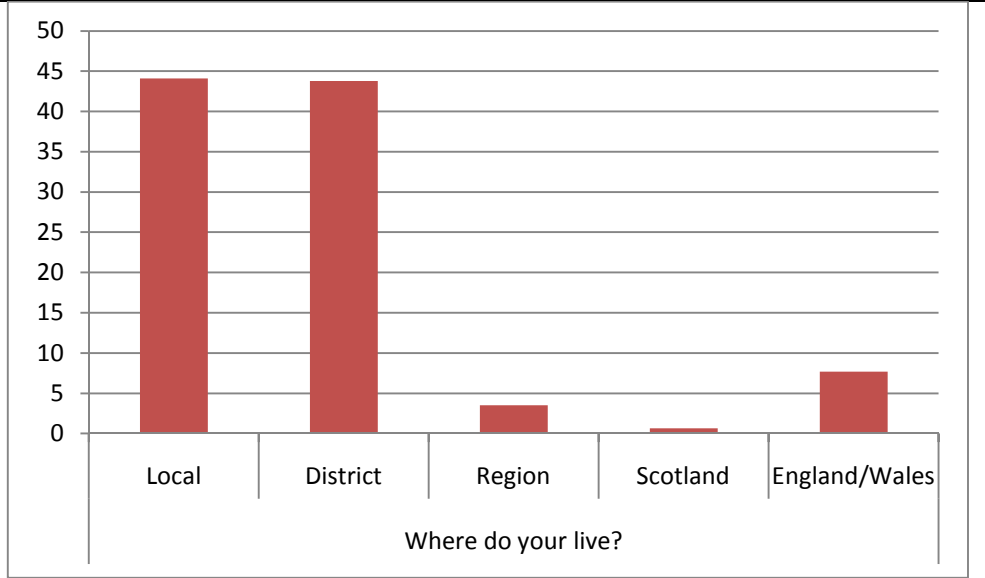
Most of the surveys were undertaken in Cambois, Blyth, and Tynemouth. However there were also a substantial number of other surveys collected in other locations and via the website.

The definitions of Local, District and Region were as follows:

Local – Blyth, Bedlington and Ashington.

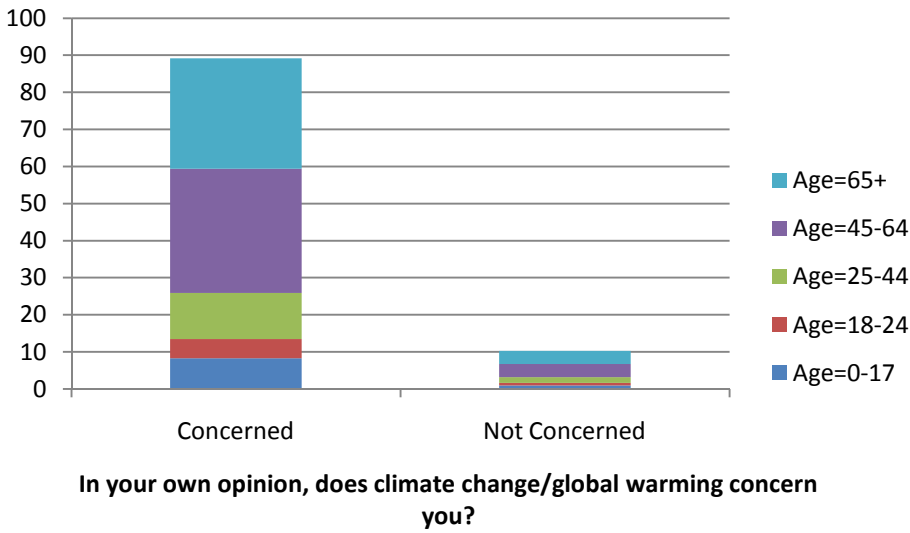
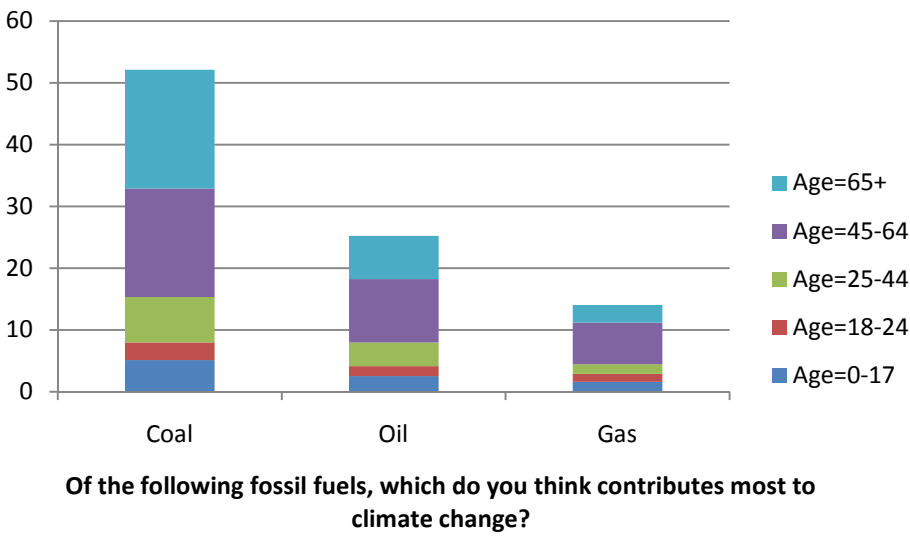
District – Northumberland and Tyne & Wear.

Region – Cumbria, County Durham and Teeside.



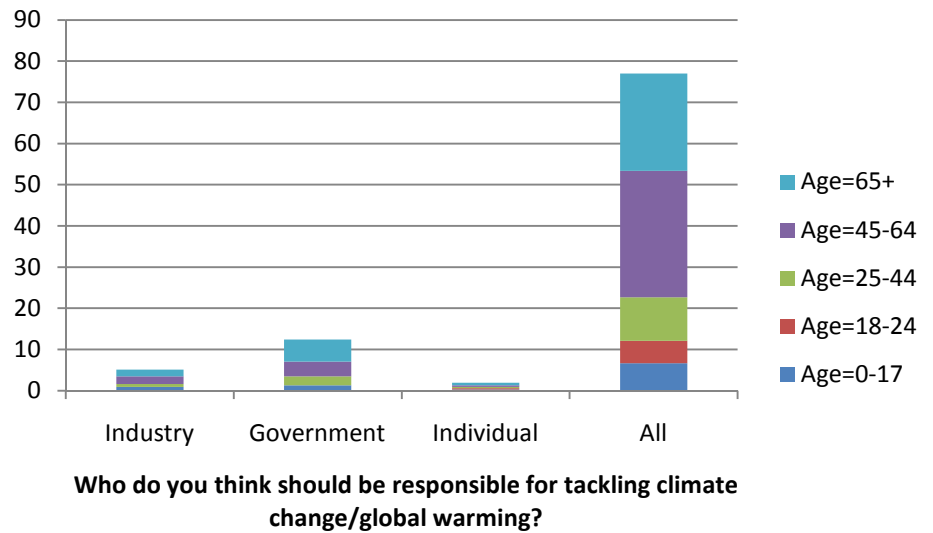
## Basic Age Group Results and Analysis

The following graphs have been generated from the same basis data set but with the question answers analysed separately for each age group. These graphs should look the same as the graphs in the Basic section above but with the age profile for each answer shown in the bar. The ages are given as

<p><b>Question 1</b></p> <p>There is no significant difference in the concern factor when looked at by Age of respondents.</p>	 <p><b>In your own opinion, does climate change/global warming concern you?</b></p>
<p><b>Question 2</b></p> <p>There is a very slight increased probability for older people to state that Coal contributes most to climate change. This is not a 'significant' probability.</p>	 <p><b>Of the following fossil fuels, which do you think contributes most to climate change?</b></p>
<p><b>Question 3 – no analysis undertaken</b></p>	<p>Over 96% of respondents stated Yes of a yes no choice.</p>

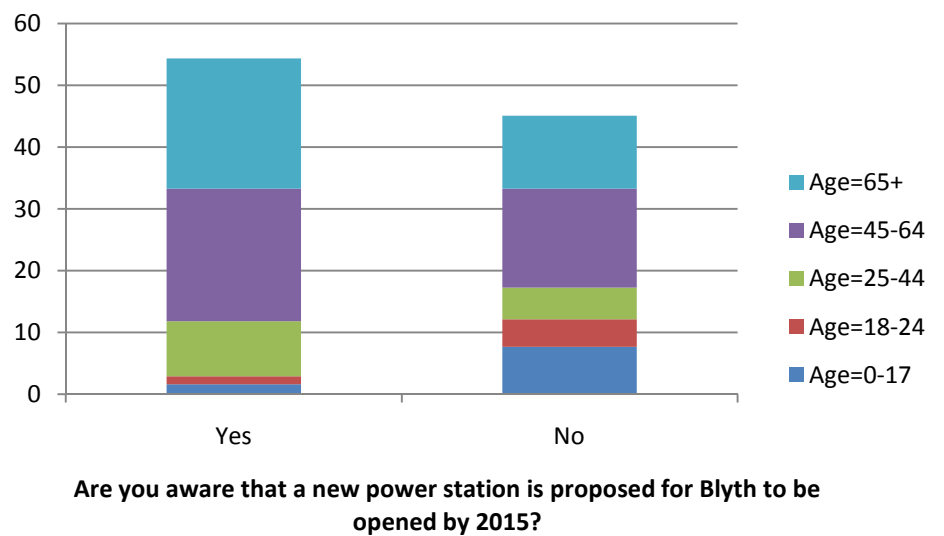
**Question 4**

No apparent significant differences resulting from age profile.



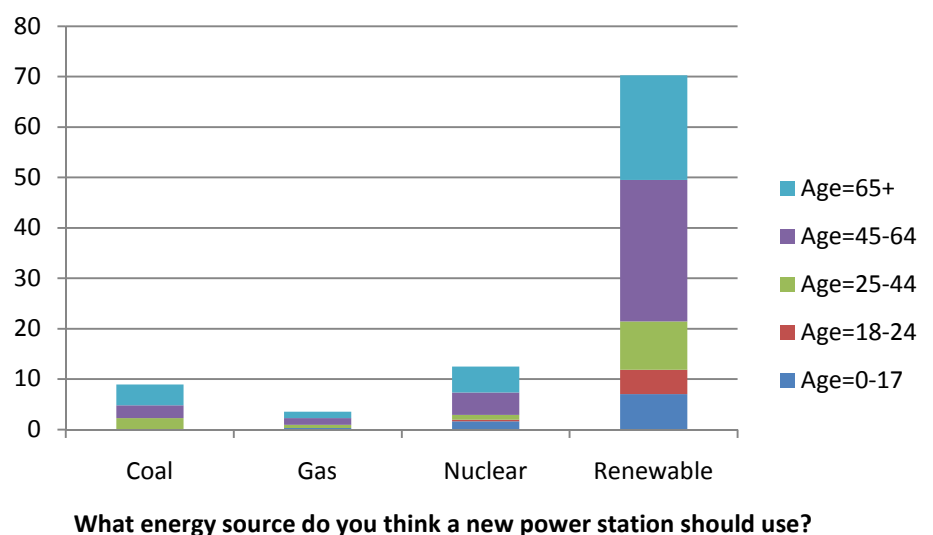
**Question 5**

Younger people responding to the survey were substantially less likely to know about the plans for a new power station. This seems to fit other trends with young people being less likely to be 'news aware'. By age group 25 to 44 this situation is reversed.



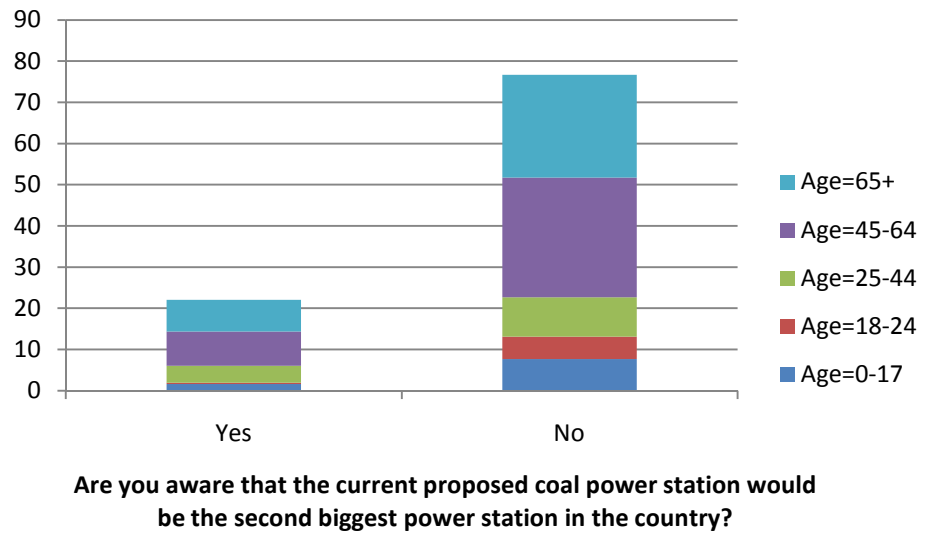
**Question 6**

Coal and Gas are not seen as a desirable power sources by the younger respondents.



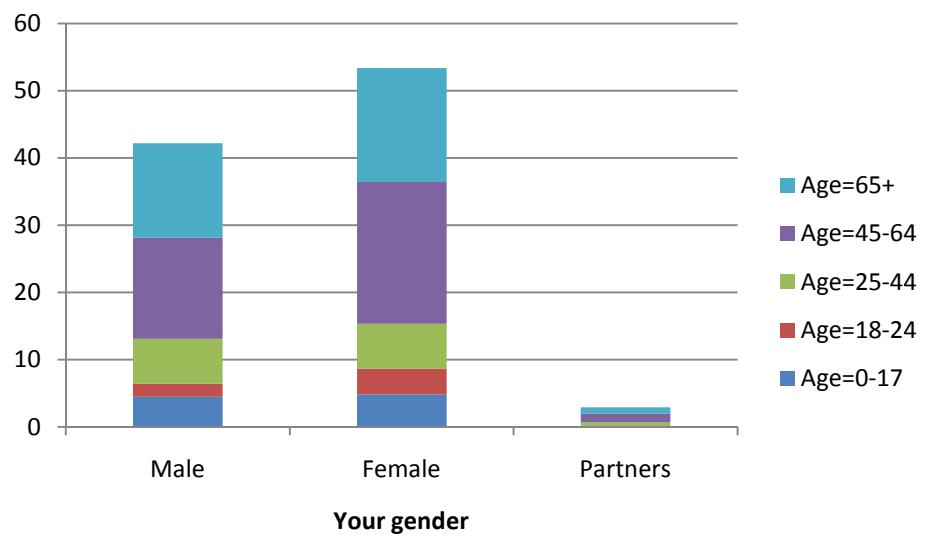
**Question 7**

There is no age bias in these data.



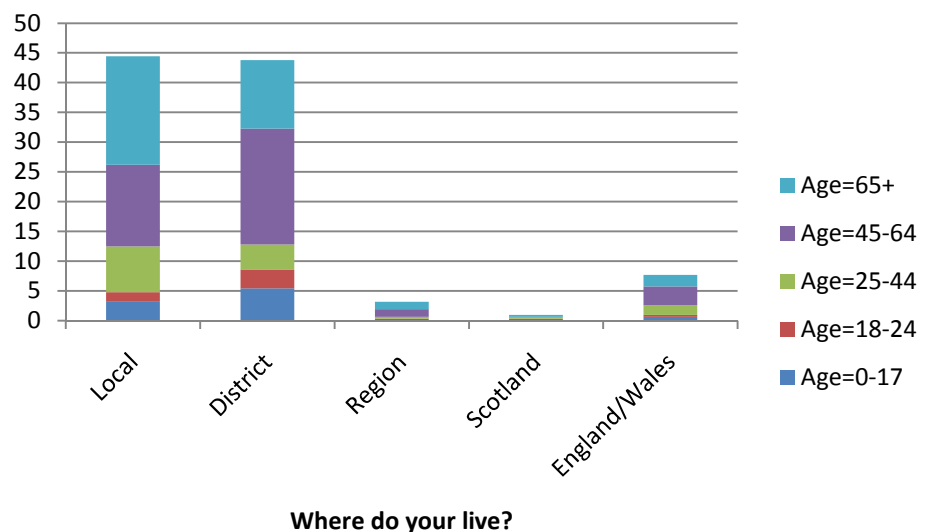
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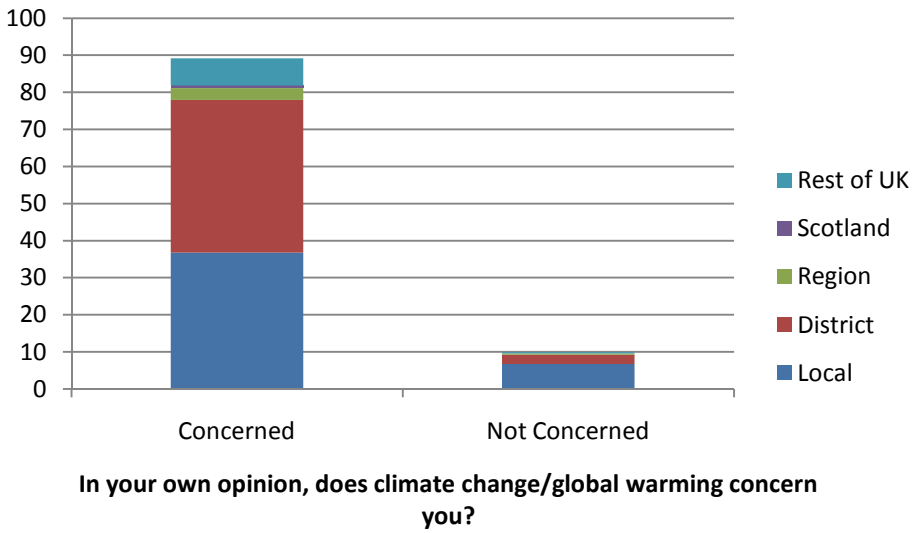
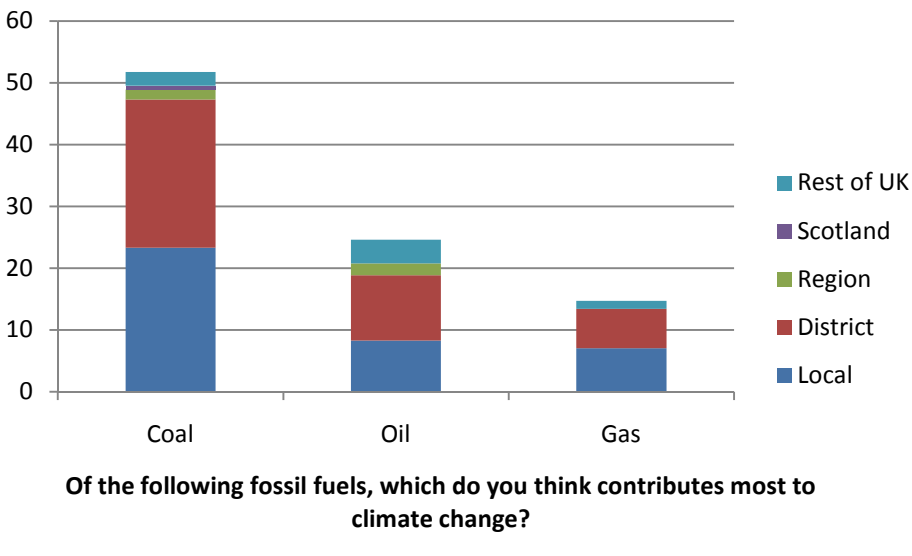
**Question 10**

There is a slight bias for the 65+ age group in the local sample group. However all age groups are reasonably represented in both Local and District groupings.



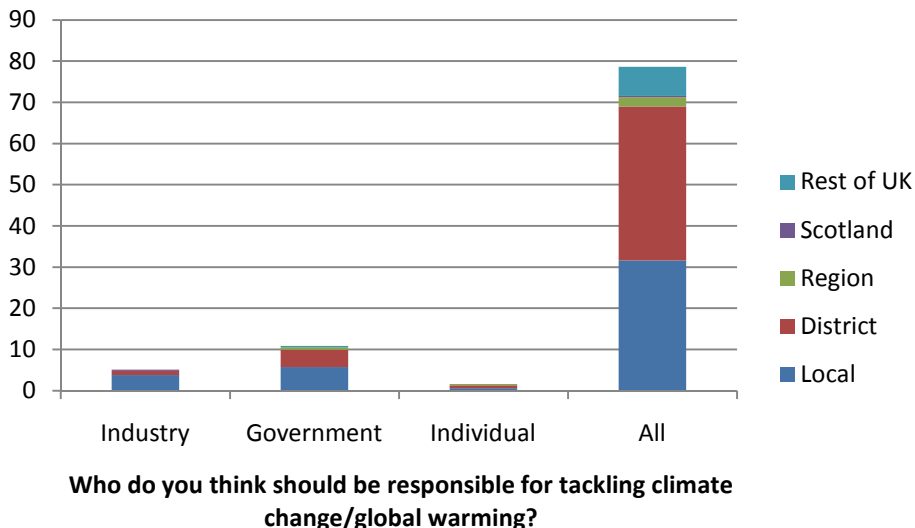
## Basic Geographic Group Results and Analysis

The following graphs have been generated from the same basis data set but with the question answers analysed separately for each age group. These graphs should look the same as the graphs in the Basic section above but with the age profile for each answer shown in the bar. The ages are given as

<p><b>Question 1</b></p> <p>People outside the district are almost entirely concerned with global warming and climate change. This is not affected by the web responses as only three web forms were completed by people outside the district.</p>	 <p><b>In your own opinion, does climate change/global warming concern you?</b></p> <p>The chart shows two bars: 'Concerned' and 'Not Concerned'. The 'Concerned' bar is significantly higher, reaching approximately 88% on the y-axis. The 'Not Concerned' bar is much lower, around 10%. The bars are stacked by geographic group: Local (blue), District (red), Region (green), Scotland (purple), and Rest of UK (teal). The 'Concerned' bar is dominated by the Local and District groups, while the 'Not Concerned' bar is dominated by the Local group.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Concerned (%)</th> <th>Not Concerned (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Local</td> <td>38</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>District</td> <td>42</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Region</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scotland</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rest of UK</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>88</b></td> <td><b>10</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Concerned (%)	Not Concerned (%)	Local	38	8	District	42	2	Region	2	0	Scotland	0	0	Rest of UK	6	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>10</b>			
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<p><b>Question 2</b></p> <p>There is virtually no bias in the survey results on this factor resulting from the location. It is noticeable that the results with respect to Local and District are in almost identical proportions across the range.</p>	 <p><b>Of the following fossil fuels, which do you think contributes most to climate change?</b></p> <p>The chart shows three bars: Coal, Oil, and Gas. The 'Coal' bar is the highest, reaching approximately 52% on the y-axis. The 'Oil' bar is around 25%, and the 'Gas' bar is around 15%. The bars are stacked by geographic group: Local (blue), District (red), Region (green), Scotland (purple), and Rest of UK (teal). The 'Coal' bar is dominated by the Local and District groups, while the 'Oil' and 'Gas' bars are dominated by the Local group.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fossil Fuel</th> <th>Local (%)</th> <th>District (%)</th> <th>Region (%)</th> <th>Scotland (%)</th> <th>Rest of UK (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coal</td> <td>24</td> <td>23</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oil</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gas</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fossil Fuel	Local (%)	District (%)	Region (%)	Scotland (%)	Rest of UK (%)	Coal	24	23	2	0	3	Oil	9	10	2	0	3	Gas	7	6	0	0	2
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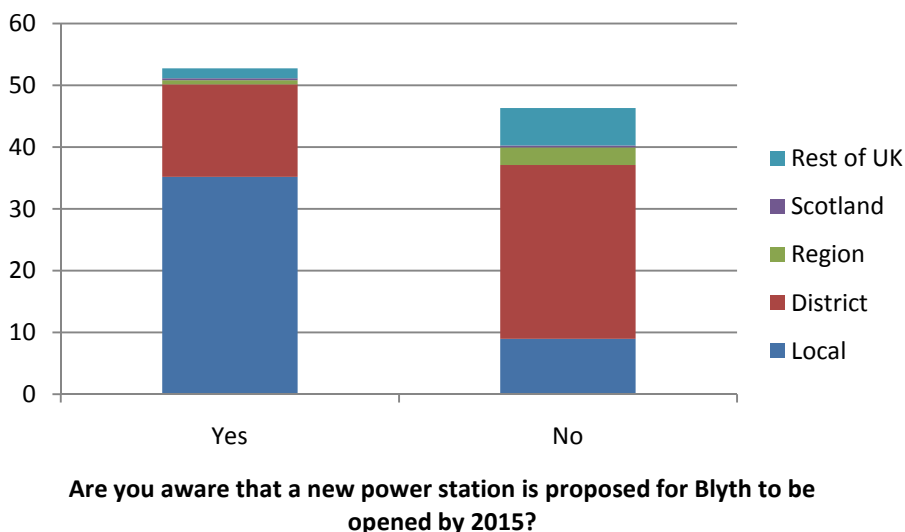
**Question 4**

No apparent significant differences resulting from geographical profile.



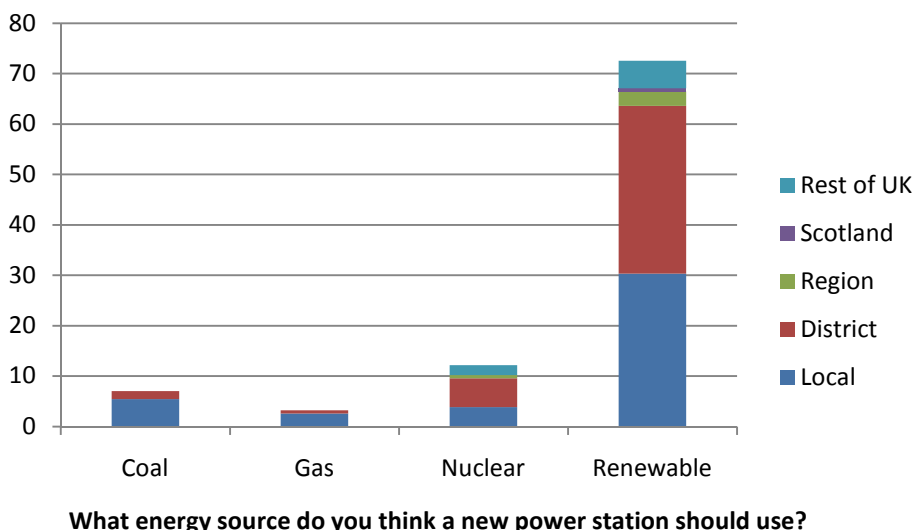
**Question 5**

There is a substantial increase in awareness of the proposals in the very local area (with four times more locals being aware than not). The lack of awareness in places in the District (very close to the locality) suggests that there has been very little communication outside the zone of immediate impact of the construction.



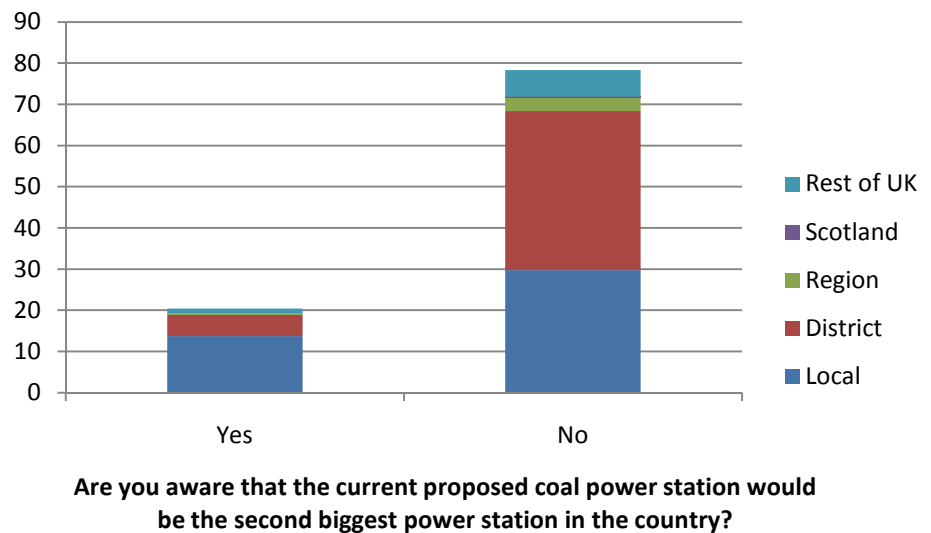
**Question 6**

Nuclear power is noticeably preferred by people from outside the local area whilst coal is substantially preferred by people from the local area who already have experience of a previous coal fired power station. The backing for renewable is roughly equal between the local and district groups and being clearly backed by the non district people who can be assumed to be more activist in nature.



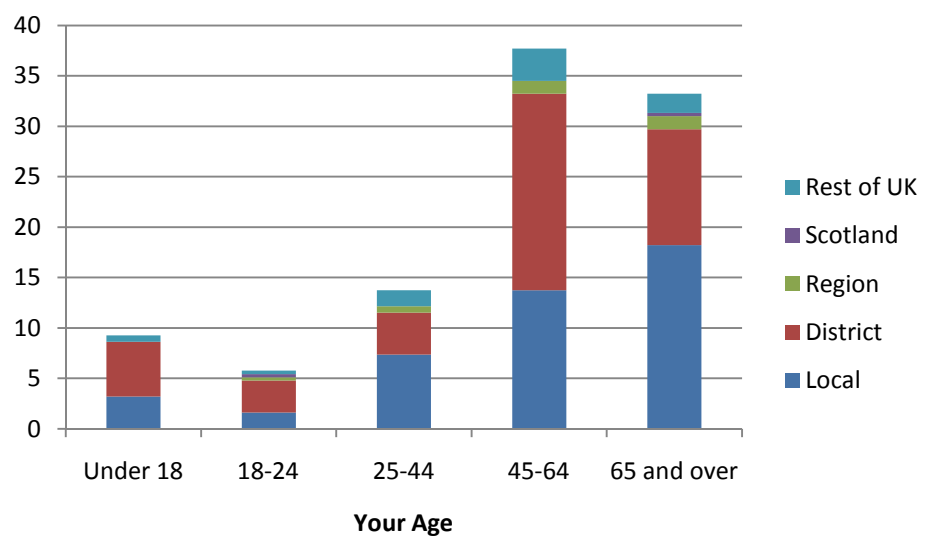
**Question 7**

There is a slight improvement in the local group of the size of the power station. There is still about 2.5 to 1 ratio of local people not being aware of the size of this station.



**Question 8**

The younger age groups are reasonably well represented in the local and district populations. There is a bias for older people in the local group. This does not seem to have made any significant impact on other data sets (see the age analysis).



**Question 9**

There is a slight bias for the women in the local age group – which roughly equates to the excess of females represented in the data set. All partners are from the local geographical group.

