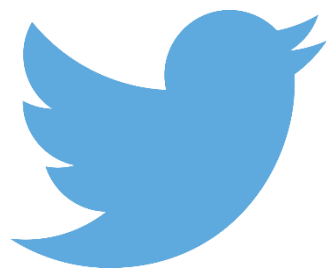


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APSE State of the Market Survey Parks and Greenspaces 2020

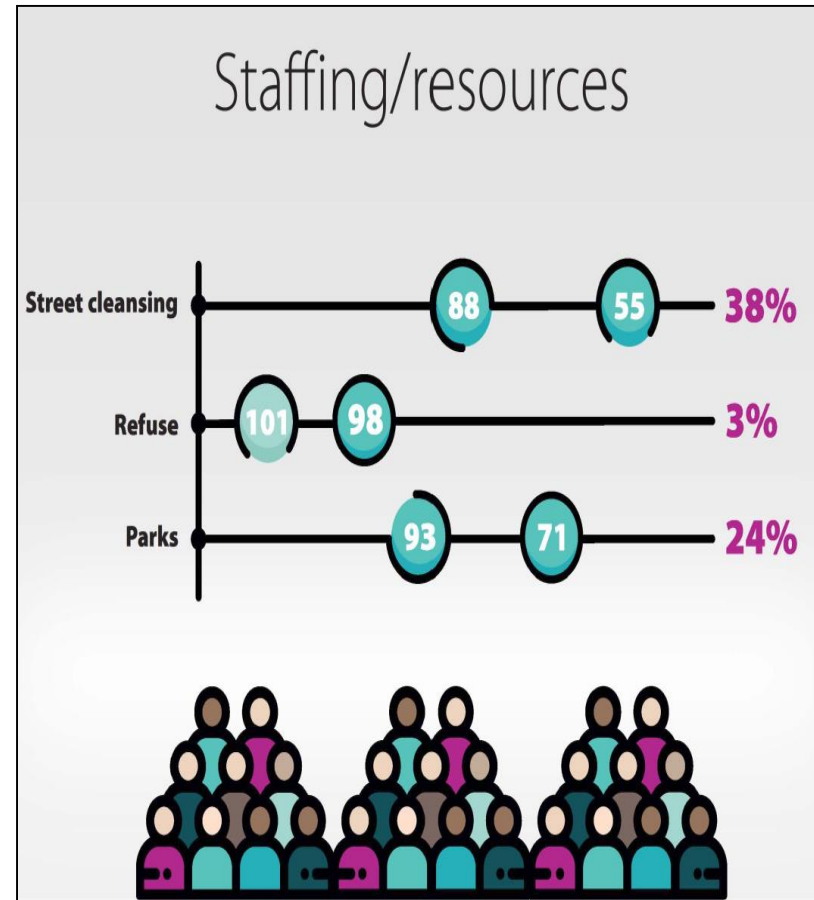


State of the Market Surveys

- State of the Market Survey now in its 11th Year
- Local authority service areas
- Similar questions are asked to allow for trend comparisons
- Identifies common problems, innovation and best practice
- **Insight into the future direction of the service**
- All APSE member authorities across the UK
- Key findings of the survey are expressed
- Use full for benchmarking and performance management
- Used by National Government and in APSE research documents
- National Litter Strategy, HLF, **Parks Action Group**, School Food Plan, Press and trade and national media to enhance knowledge of local government services.

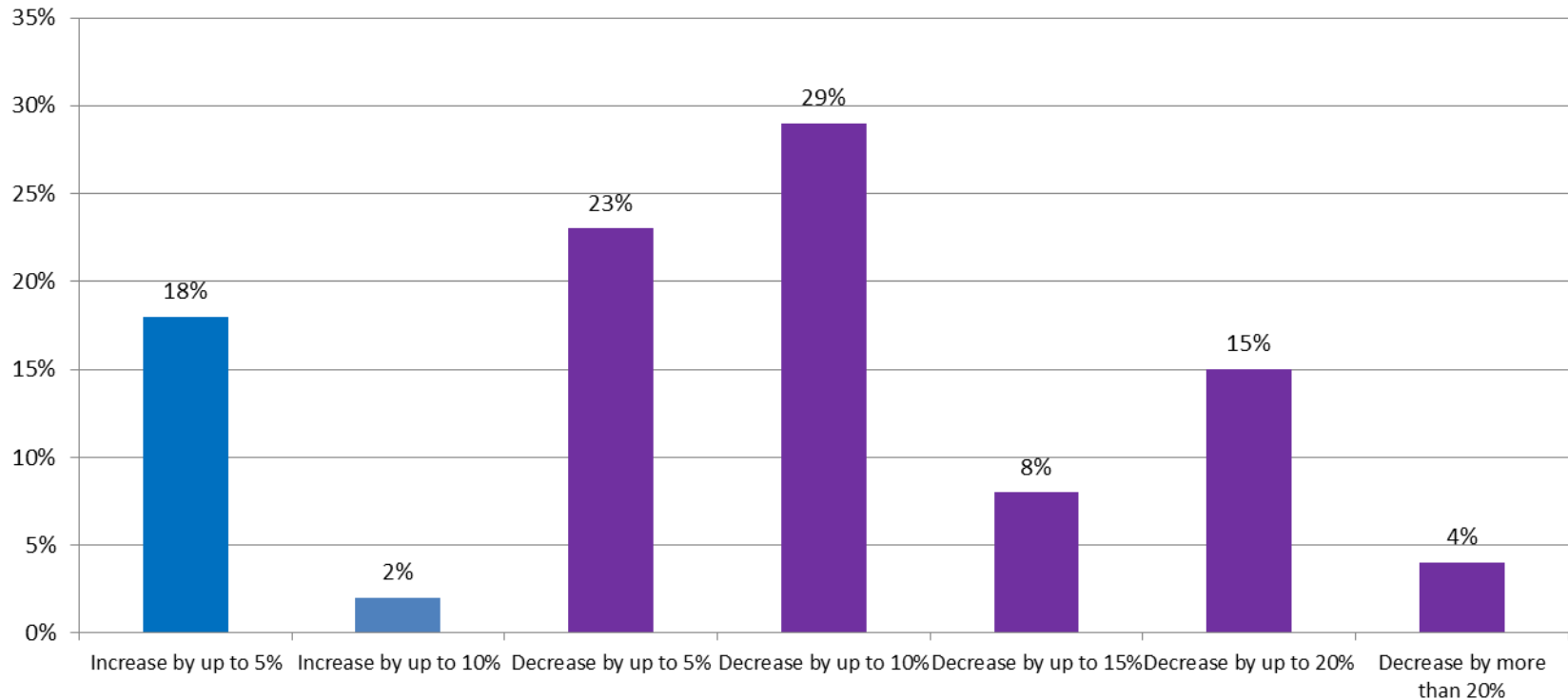
Austerity, Cuts, Savings, etc. etc.

- UK local government spending as a share of GDP: current spending, already below the 1979-2014 minimum, is projected to go on falling to 2020.
- RSG shrivels beyond London and the Mets, most LA funding will come from council and business tax.
- Neighbourhood services have been the hardest hit of all local government services.
- Spending on neighbourhood services in England fell £3.1bn or 13 per cent between 2010/11 and 2015/16 while spending on social care rose £2.2bn.
- The worst hit neighbourhood services have seen spending fall by 50 per cent, and most services have seen falls of at least 20 per cent.



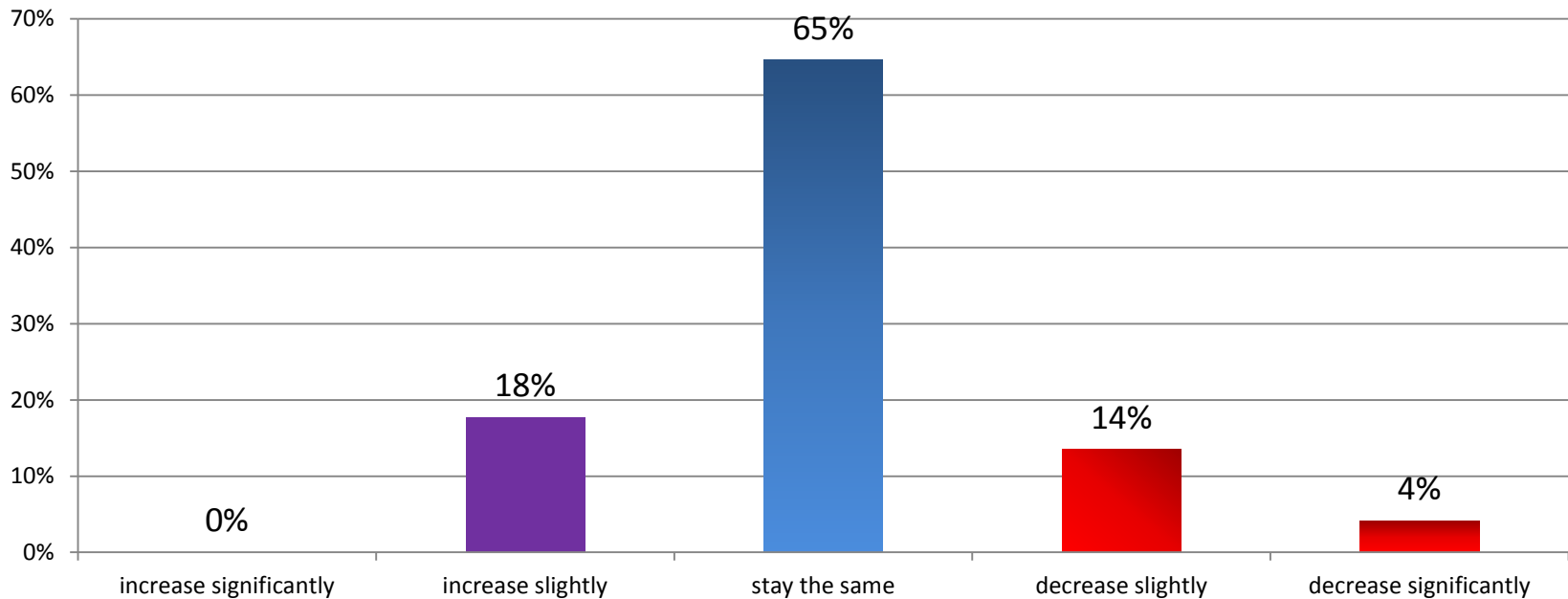
Is the situation about to change?

What is your expectation of the level of funding in your service budget in the coming five years?



How safe are our parks?

Overall how do you expect the total number of formal parks (including playgrounds) to change over the next year



Service Efficiency- is there anything else left?

Rethinking staffing levels

- reducing management tiers, cutting administrative staff, r
- reducing IT/communications systems updates,
- introducing larger seasonal staffing to replace core workforce,
- **increasing volunteering opportunities**, introducing role flexibility)

Operational changes

- self-management of allotments,
- changing horticultural standards to deliver better biodiversity,
- reducing grass cutting and increasing tree planting,
- reductions in bedding plants and replacing them with use of wild flower meadows,
- replacing annual planting schemes with perennials,
- prioritising maintenance on greatest need/impact on Council priorities)

Bringing services back in-house to reduce contractor costs and increased flexibility opportunities.

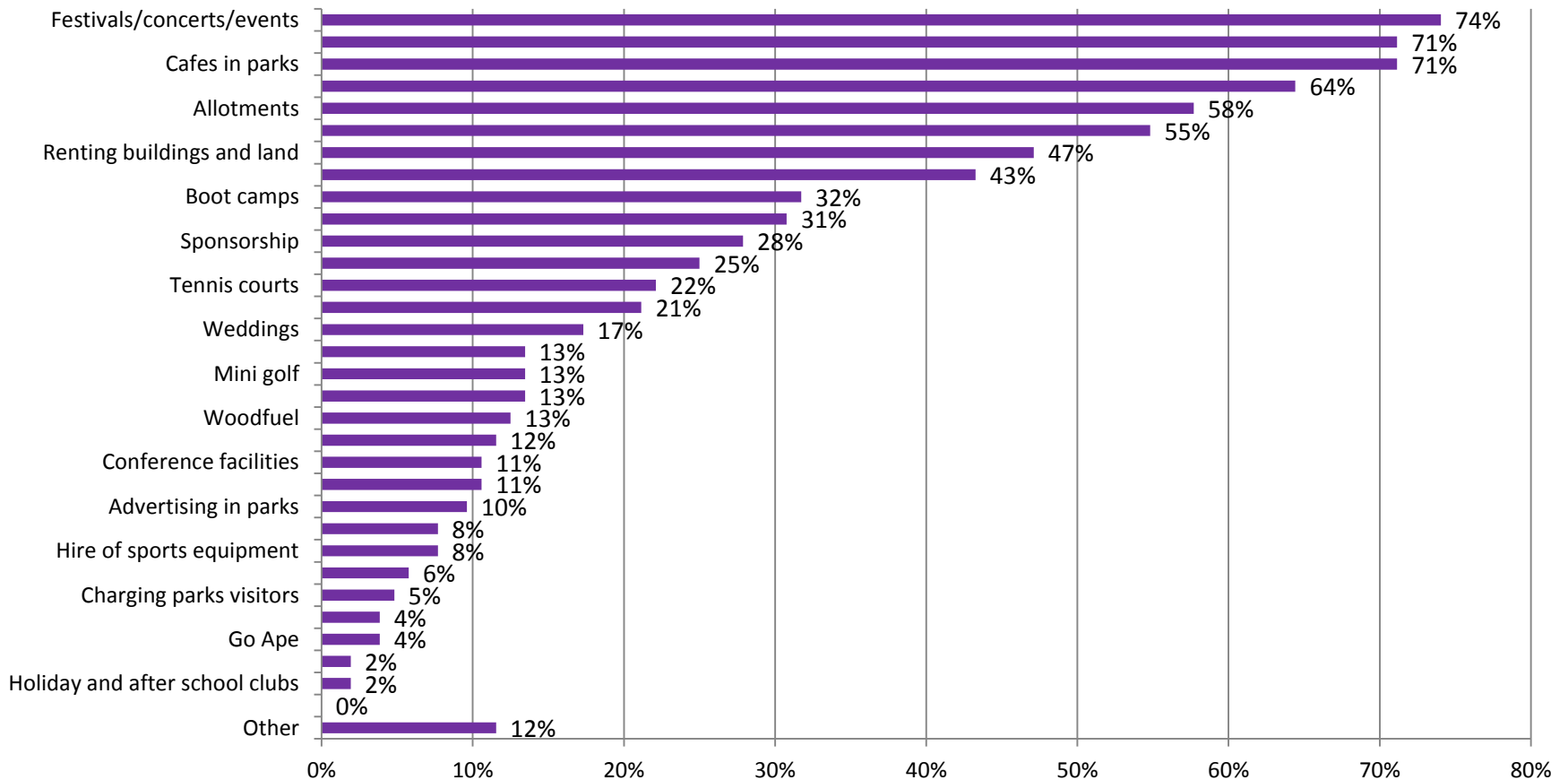
- More effective location of staff to reduce travel costs

Financial

- Shared contract procurement with neighbouring local authorities
- **Increased commercialism** (encouraging other authorities to contract council services so income generated can be invested back into the service, increasing local business sponsorship,)
- **Decreasing subsidised activity** (either by increasing allotment/sport charges, charging for car parking)
- Reductions in services (play area and toilet provision)
- Asset transfer of buildings and facilities within parks (cafes, bowling greens, etc.)
- **Promotion of sponsorship and donation opportunities**
- Introducing **new forms of land management** such as grazing which results in an income.

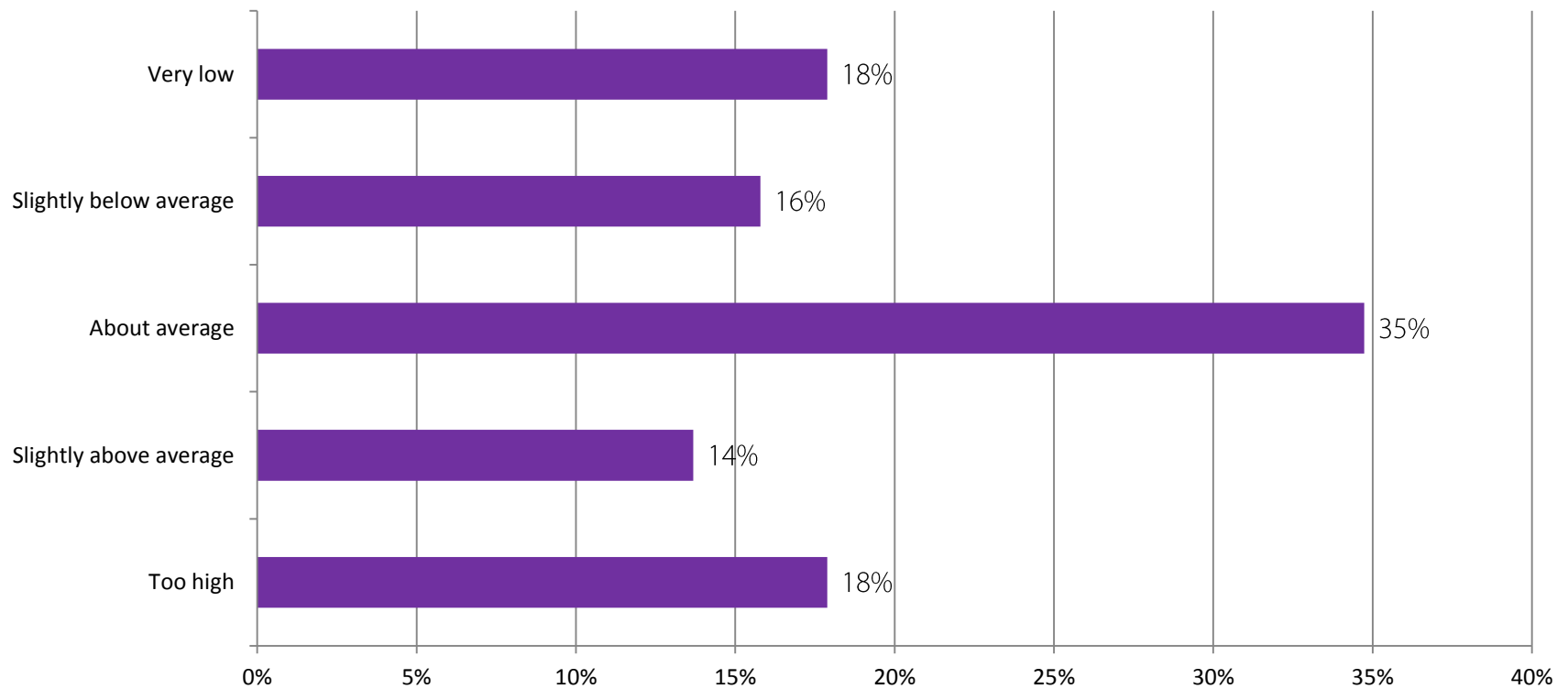
Income generation

What areas do you currently generate income in through fees and charges?

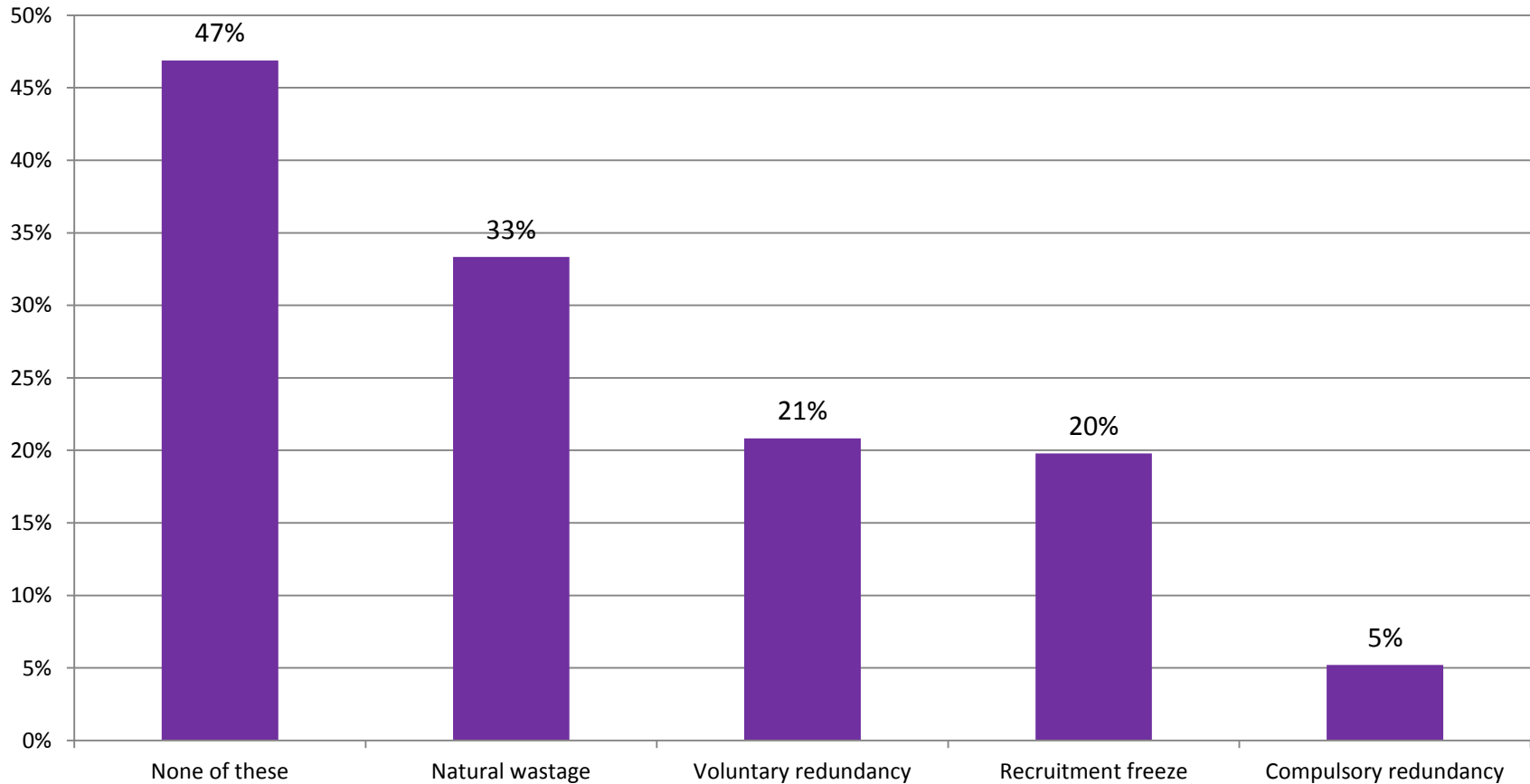


Managing staff absences

Are staff absence levels at an acceptable level?

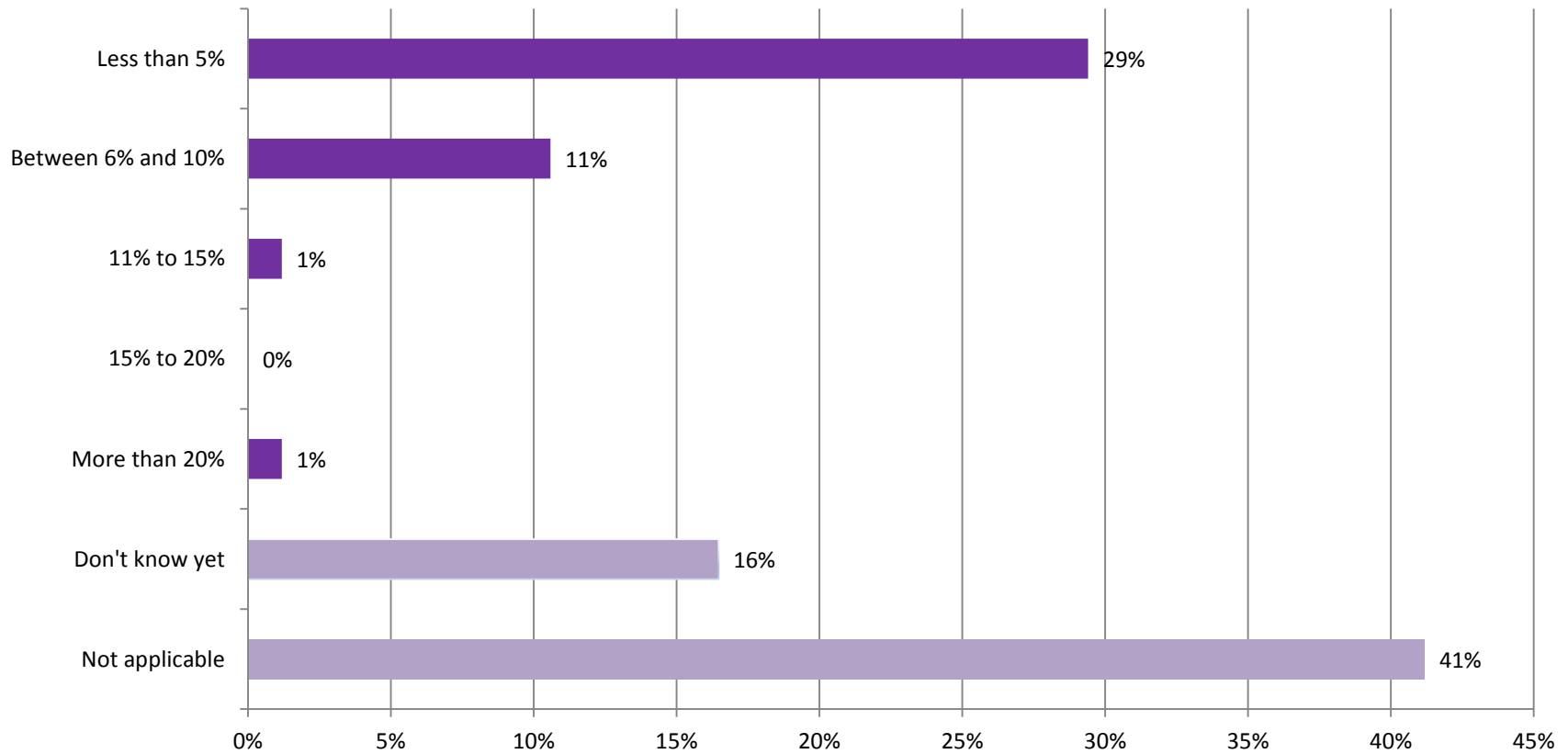


Has or does your service intend to implement any of the following within the next 12 months:



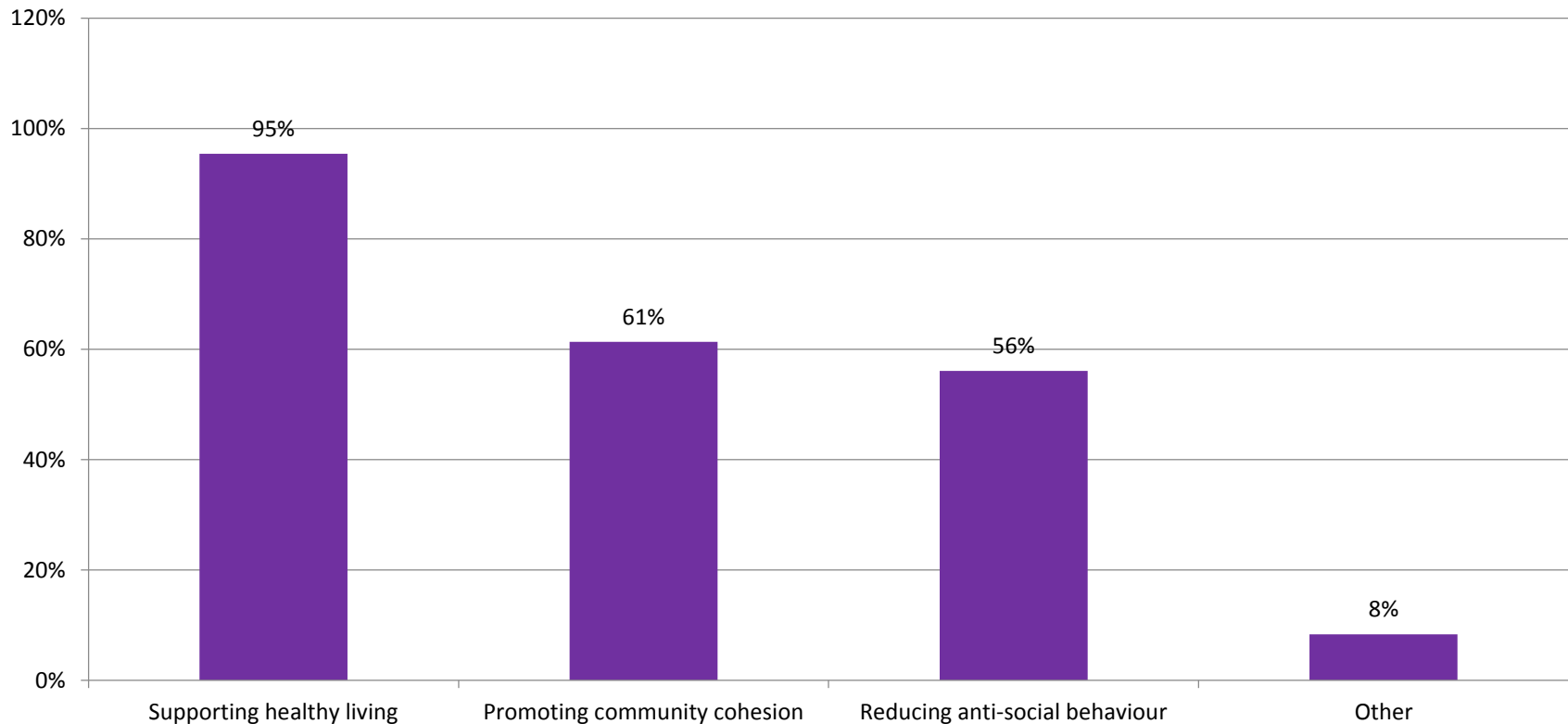


If your service area is subject to workforce reductions, what percentage of staff do you expect to lose from the service?



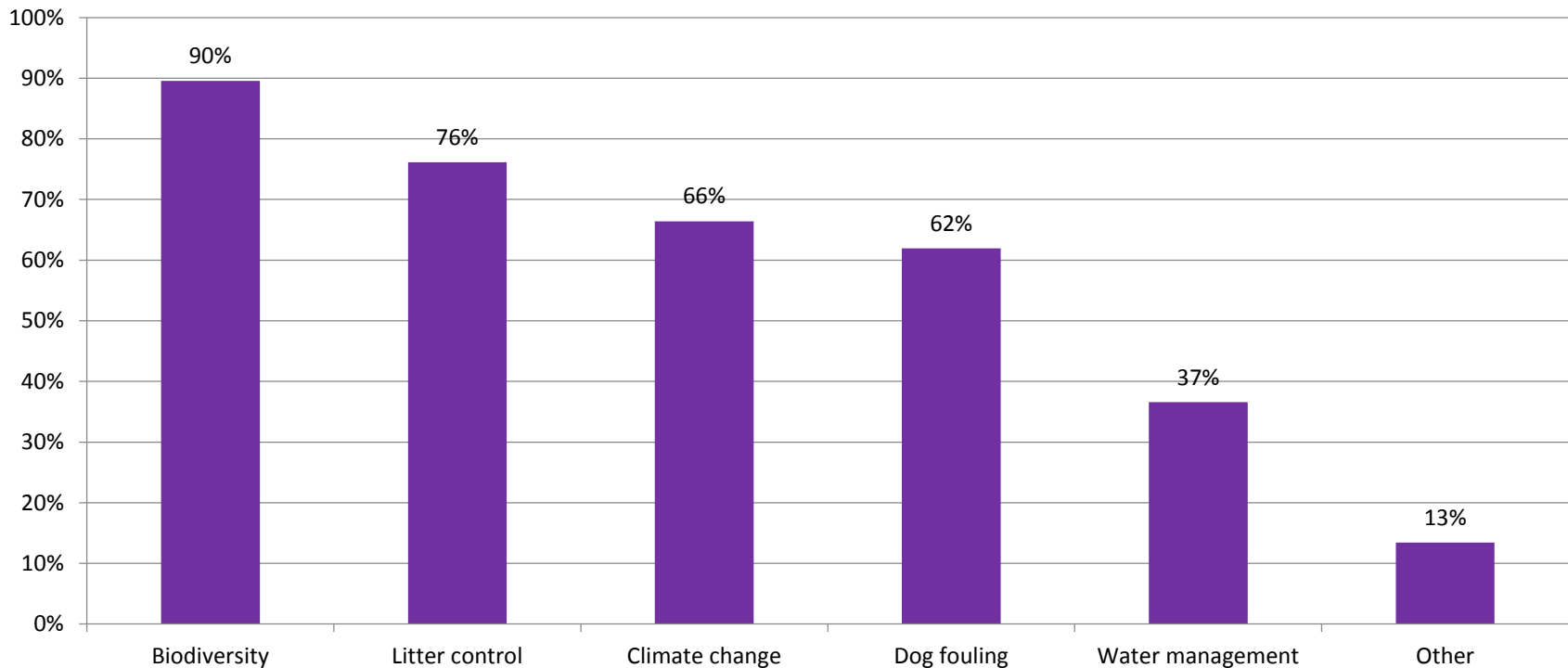
The benefits of parks

What social issues are a priority for your parks and green space service?



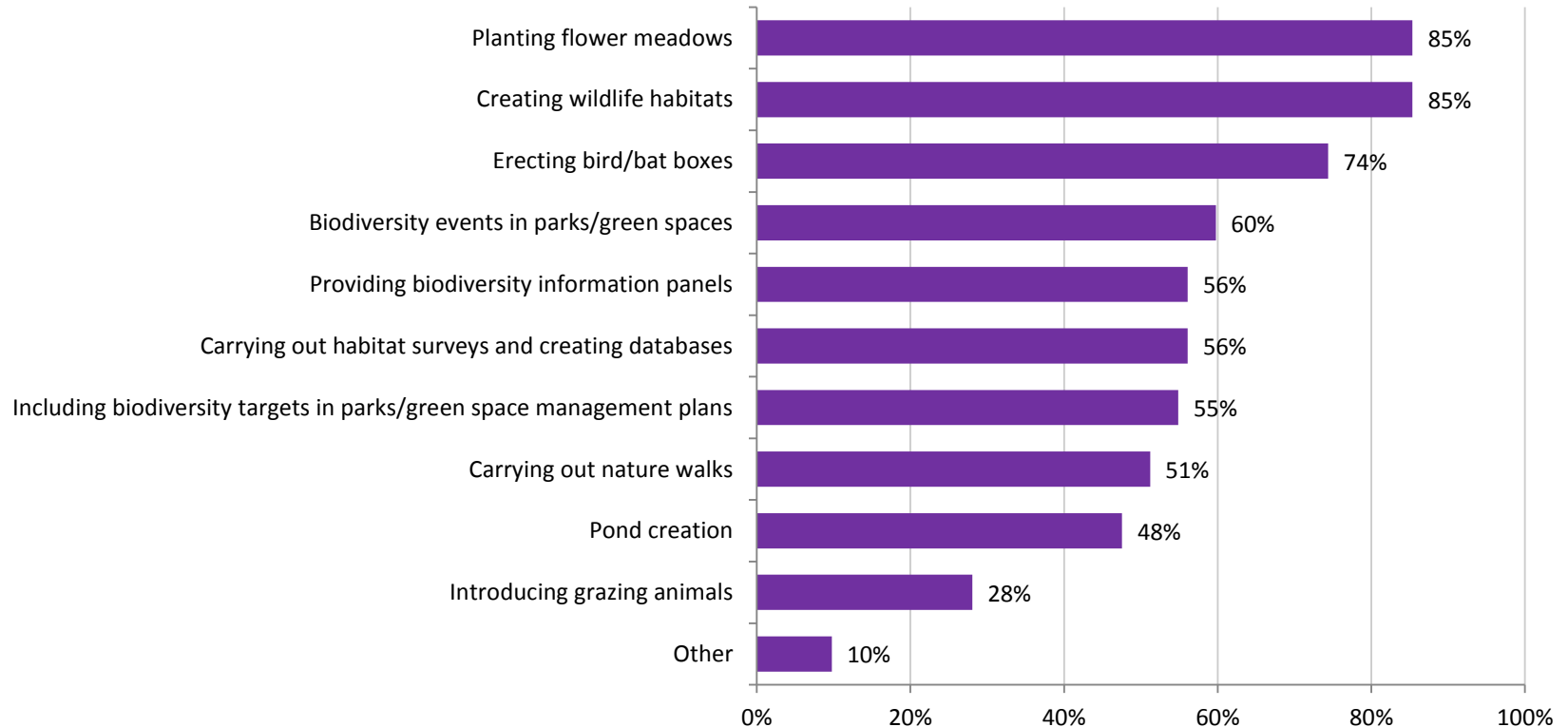
The benefits of parks (contd.)

What environmental issues are a priority for your parks and green space service?



Meeting the needs of increased biodiversity

If you make a specific provision for the promotion of biodiversity, which of the following have you carried out?



Climate change declarations – a new responsibility

- Local authorities looking to address emissions and develop more sustainable services.
- Dates being set as to when targets within plans will be met.
- Parks and Greenspaces seen as major assets in meeting these targets particularly reductions in carbon emissions.
- Changes in weather patterns leading to increased flooding – greenspaces seen as important alleviators to such problems.
- Further benefits include improvements to air quality, increasing opportunities for wildlife and improved mental health and well-being.
- Growing national and international recognition of the importance of our parks and greenspaces.



Conclusions

- Budgets may continue to drop beyond 2020 - but clearly not everywhere.
- Ongoing financial uncertainty.
- Continuous need to make the case for parks – RSG changes.
- Response been good so far in terms of efficiency and innovation.
- New demands – climate change/ biodiversity.
- Public support and involvement is strong .
- Growing evidence base on value of parks and greenspaces.
- **Only takes us so far.**
- Importance of income generation growing.
- Competing demands – need to fight for funding and protection of parks and greenspaces.

NEW MUNICIPALISM

Delivering for local people and local economies

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