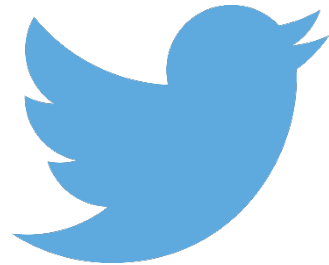


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# Cemeteries and Crematoria State of the Market Findings 2022

*Budget Cuts ?* Burial Space

Climate Change ***Grounds Maintenance***

**SERVICE MANAGEMENT** **COVID**

**Social issues** **Biodiversity**

Income generation **QUALITY STANDARDS**

**STAFFING** **Apprenticeships**

**Service Efficiencies** **Heritage**

# Lessons from the grave

- What can one of the world's oldest cemeteries teach us?
- Jebel Sahaba 13,000 year old cemetery. on the Nile Valley
- Believed to be one of earliest example of a war grave.
- Remains show signs of injuries from spears and arrows.
- Burials result of a single battle.
- Now found not to be the case.
- Raids and skirmishes over months possibly years caused by .....

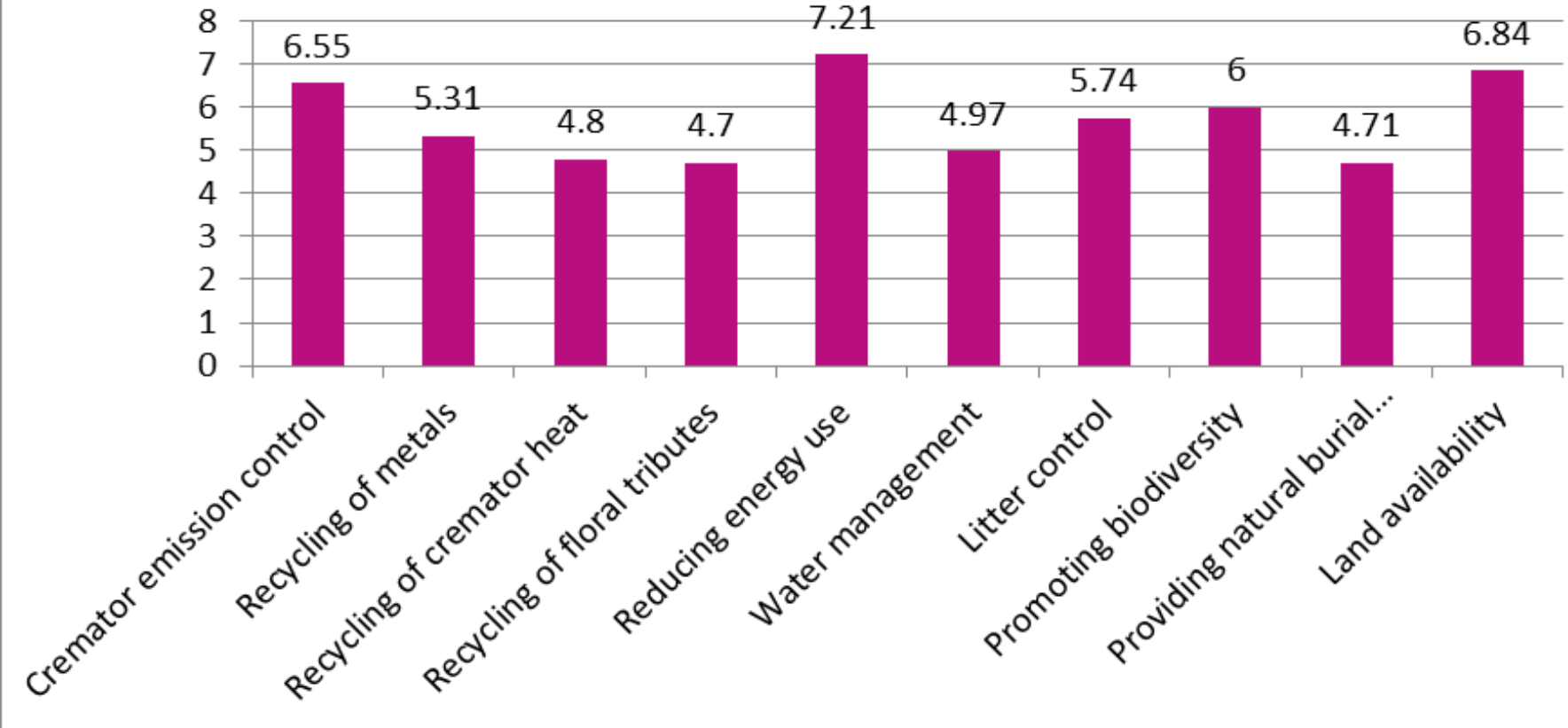
**CLIMATE CHANGE**



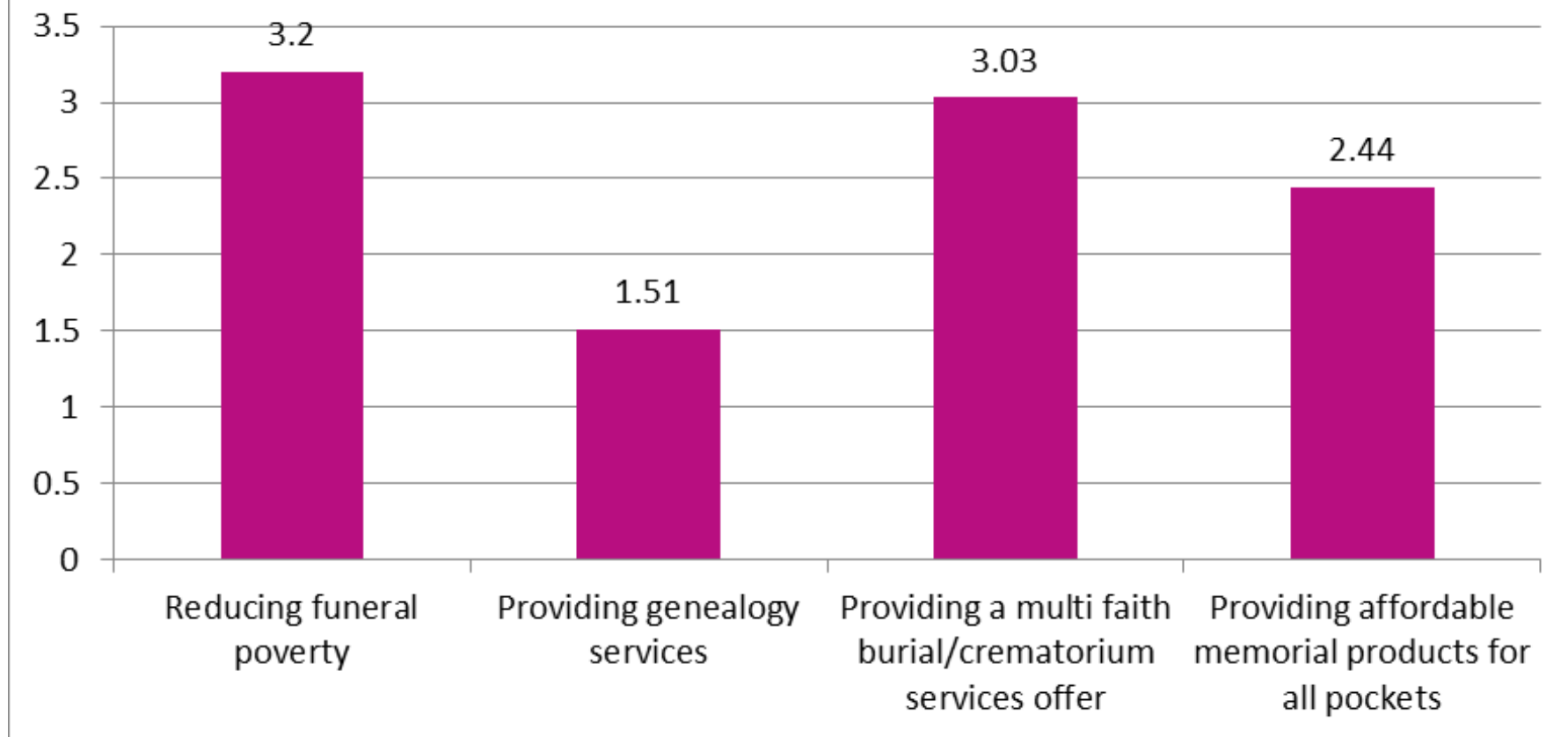
# State of the Markets Findings

- Only 40% of respondents felt Bereavement Services have had disproportionate funding cuts compared to other services (35% in 2021).
- **But** 90%, feel that the lack of investment in cemeteries and crematoria will impact on the quality of future service delivery.
- 62% of respondents have experienced reductions in the manicured quality of their grounds.
- **Yet 92%** felt that there was a limit to involving volunteers in maintaining cemetery land.

## What environmental issues are a priority for your cemeteries and crematoria?

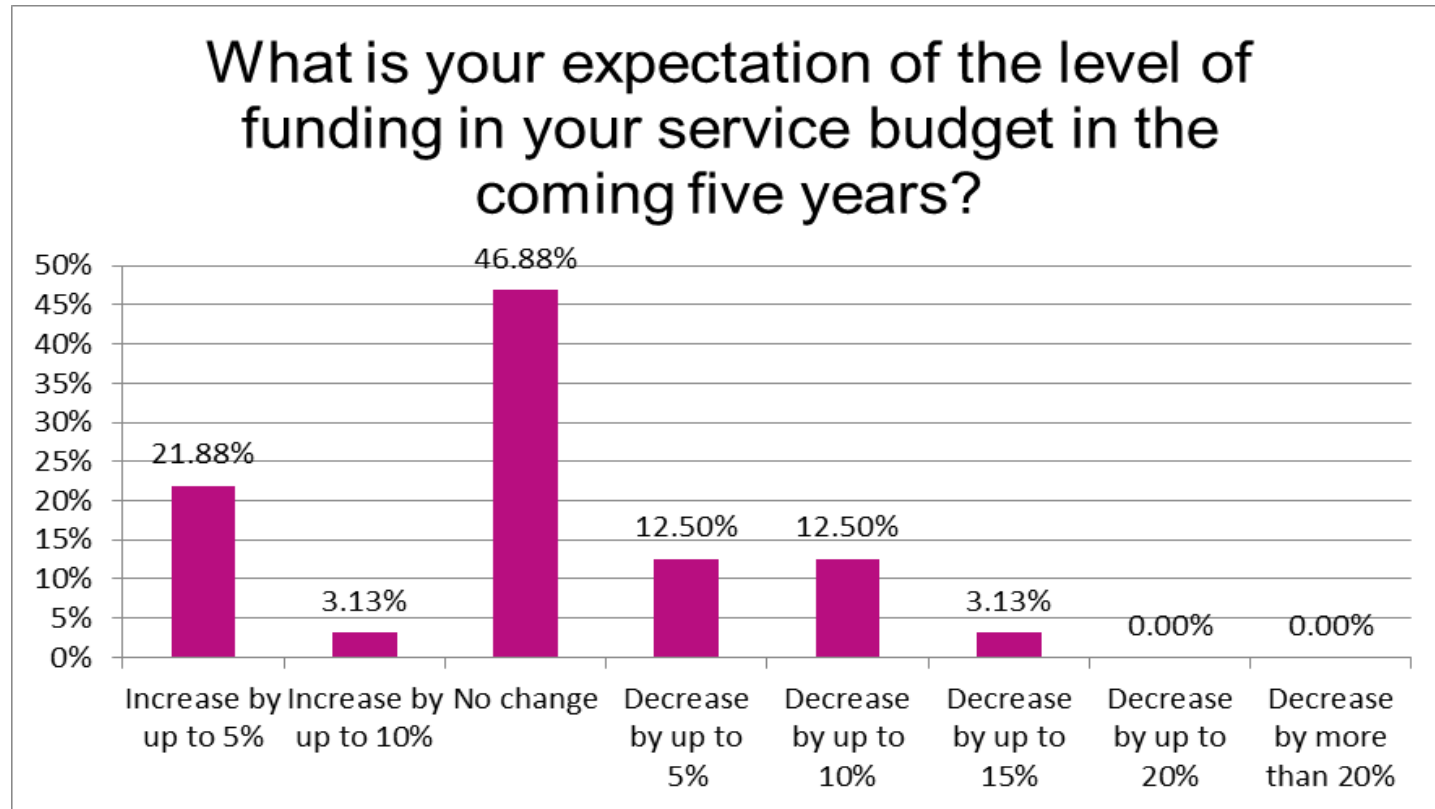


## What social issues are a priority for your cemeteries and crematoria service?



# Budgets

- Three-quarters expect changes to current budgets in next twelve months.
- 25% expect increases in capital or revenue
- 47% expect no change
- 28% expect decreases in either capital or revenue.

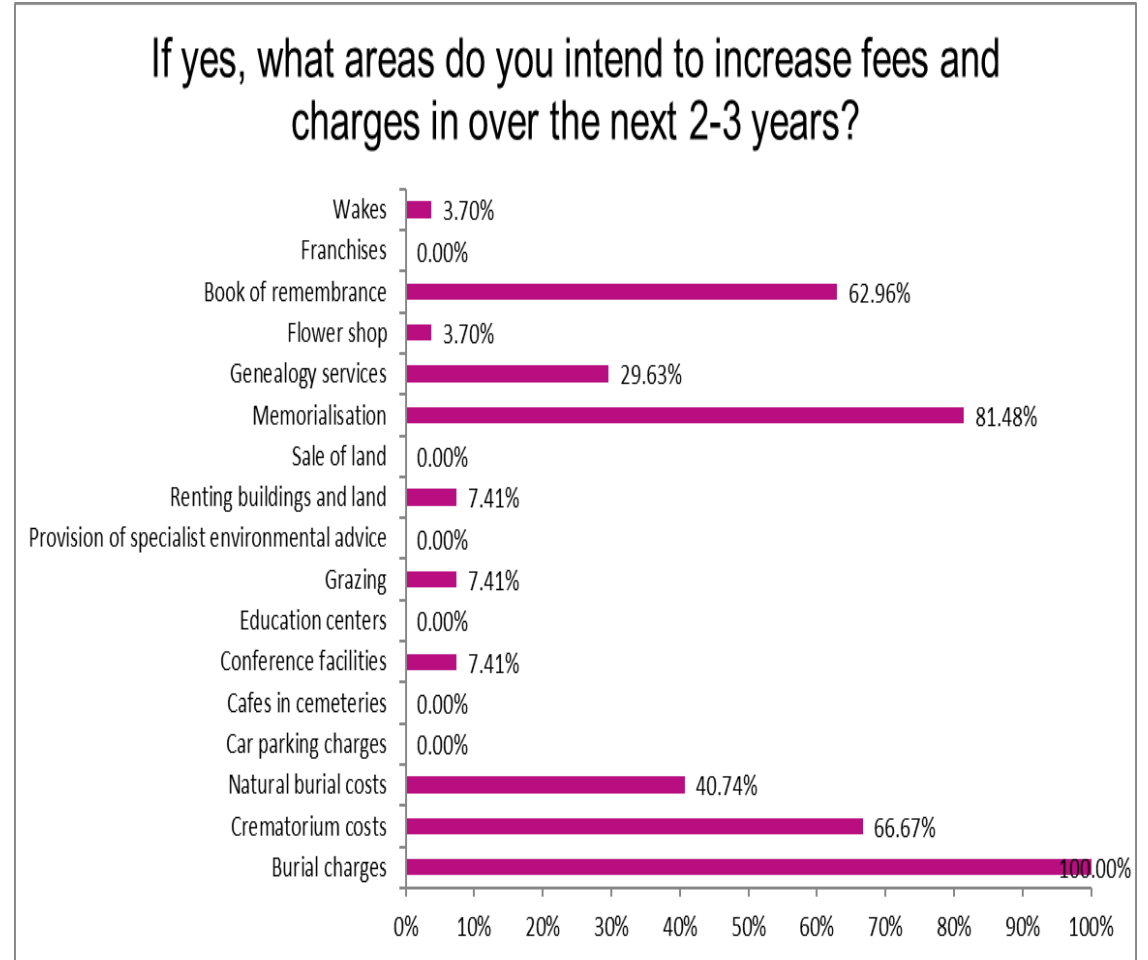
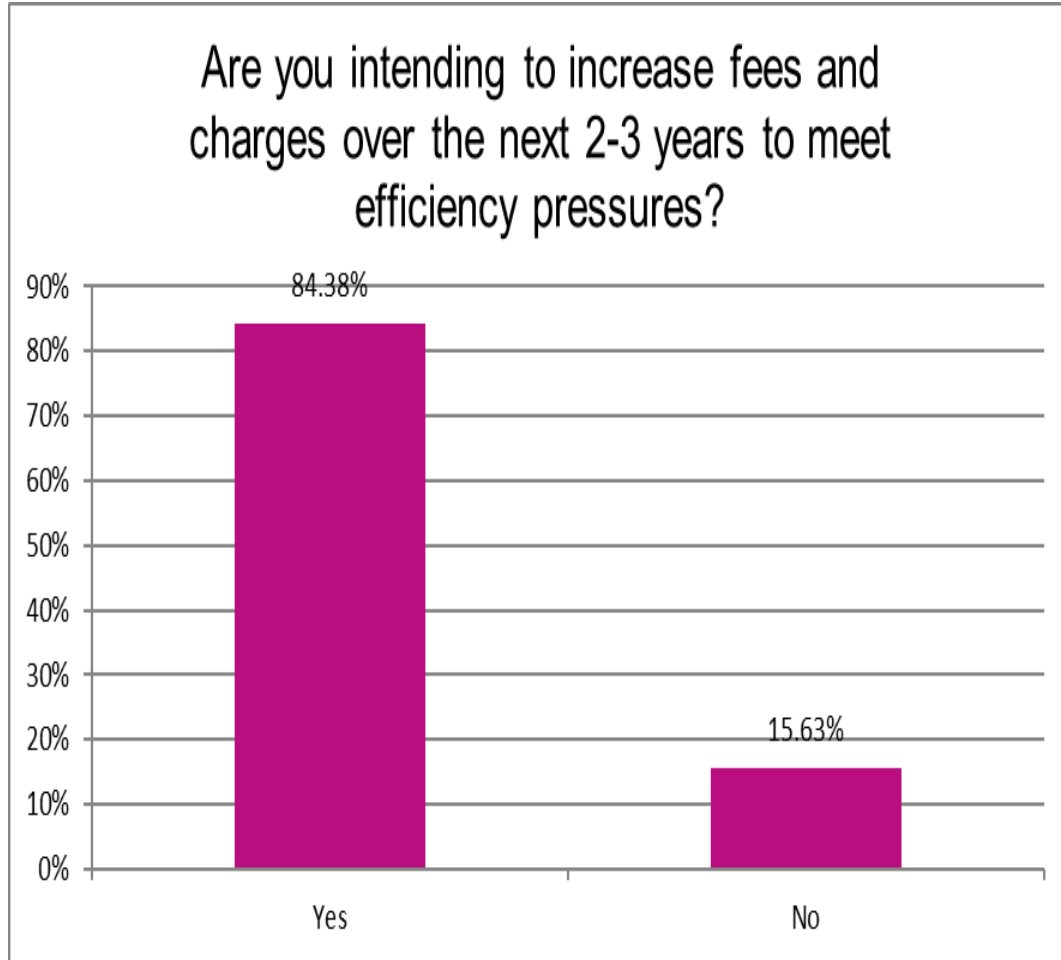


# Service efficiencies.

- Increasing fees and charges
- Differential rates for non-residents
- New and increased memorial offer(e.g. memorial mason services).
- Restructure of service management/staffing levels
- Replacing existing cremators to improve efficiency and generate additional income
- New services e.g. woodland burials, pets cemetery
- Letting out unused cemetery buildings
- Reducing grounds maintenance frequencies
- Consideration of Municipal Funeral Services
- Saturday service provision & early morning /late evening offers
- Solar panels, water collection, heat re-use, LED lighting.
- Accessing grants to improve buildings of historical importance.

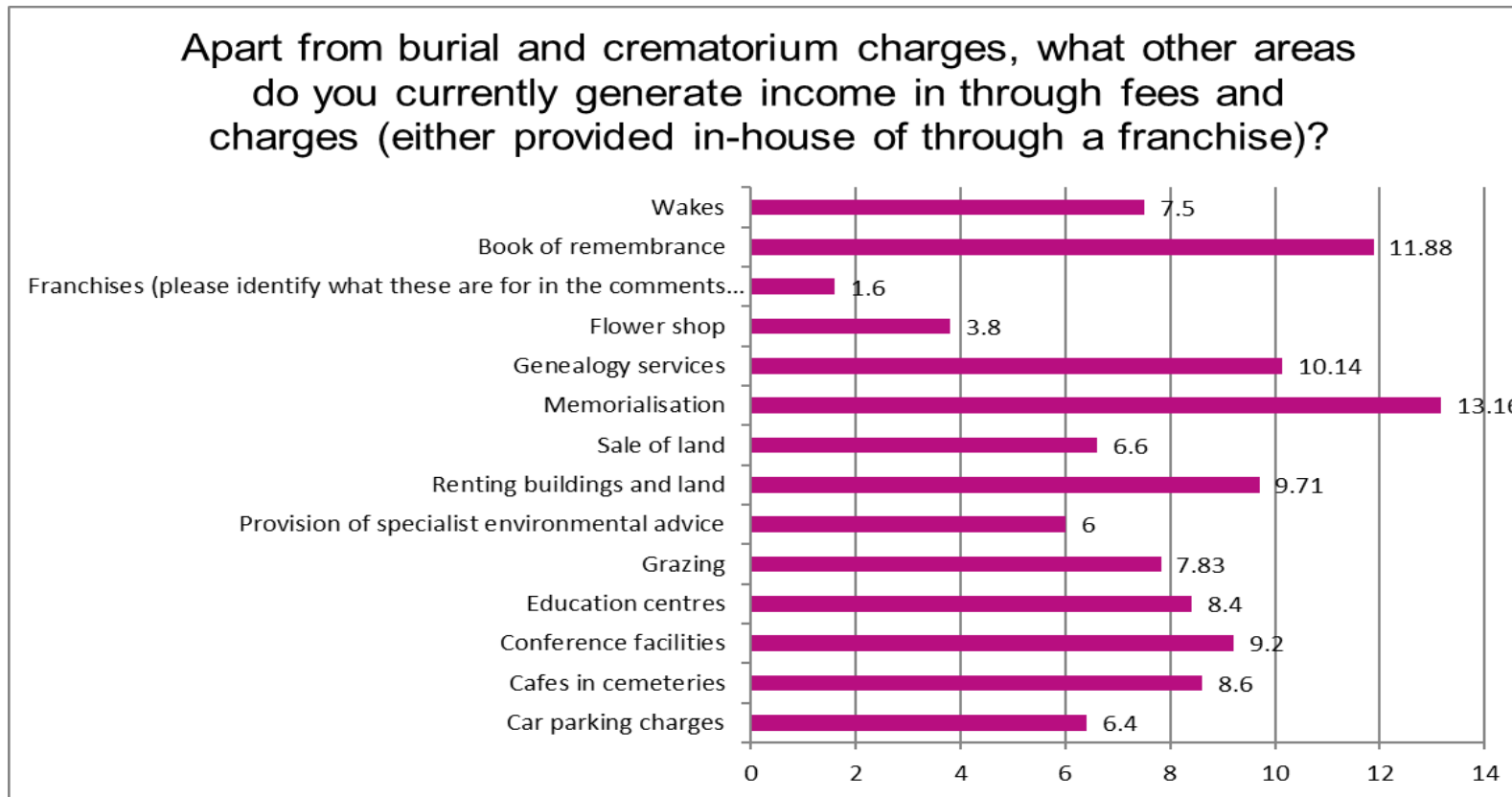


# Fees and Charges



# Income generation

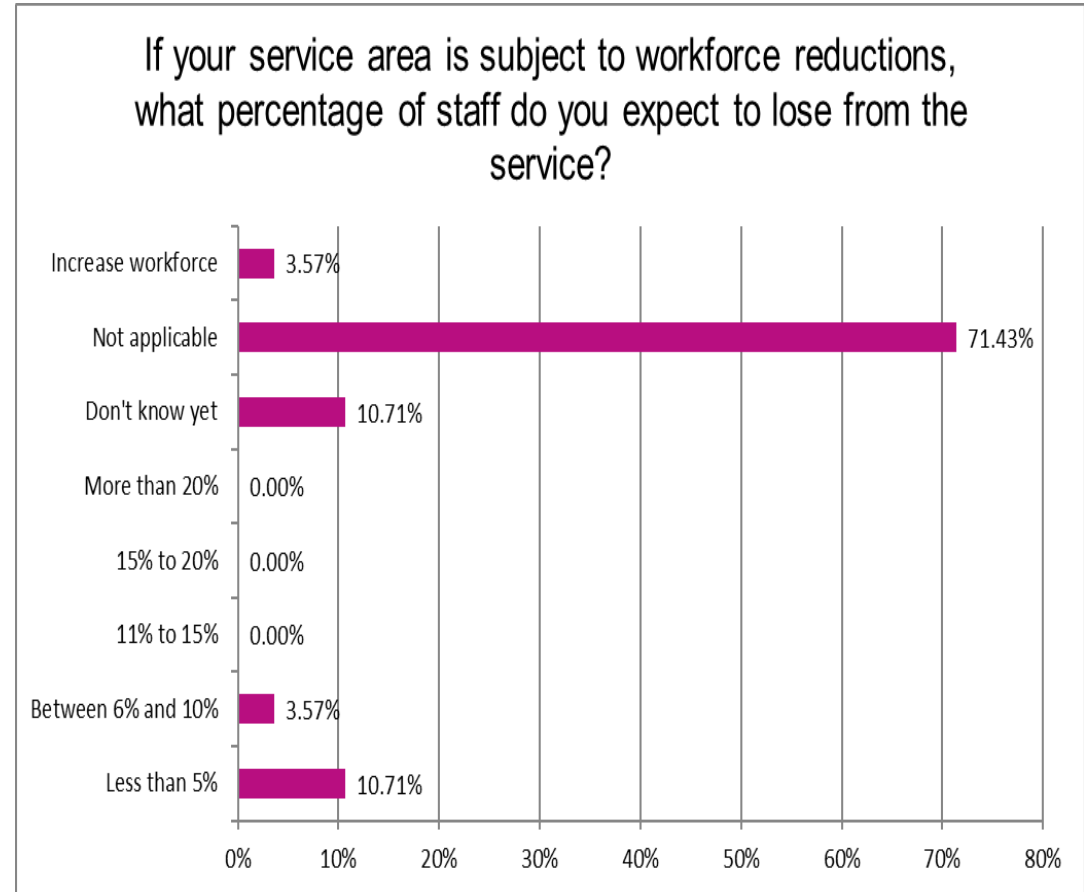
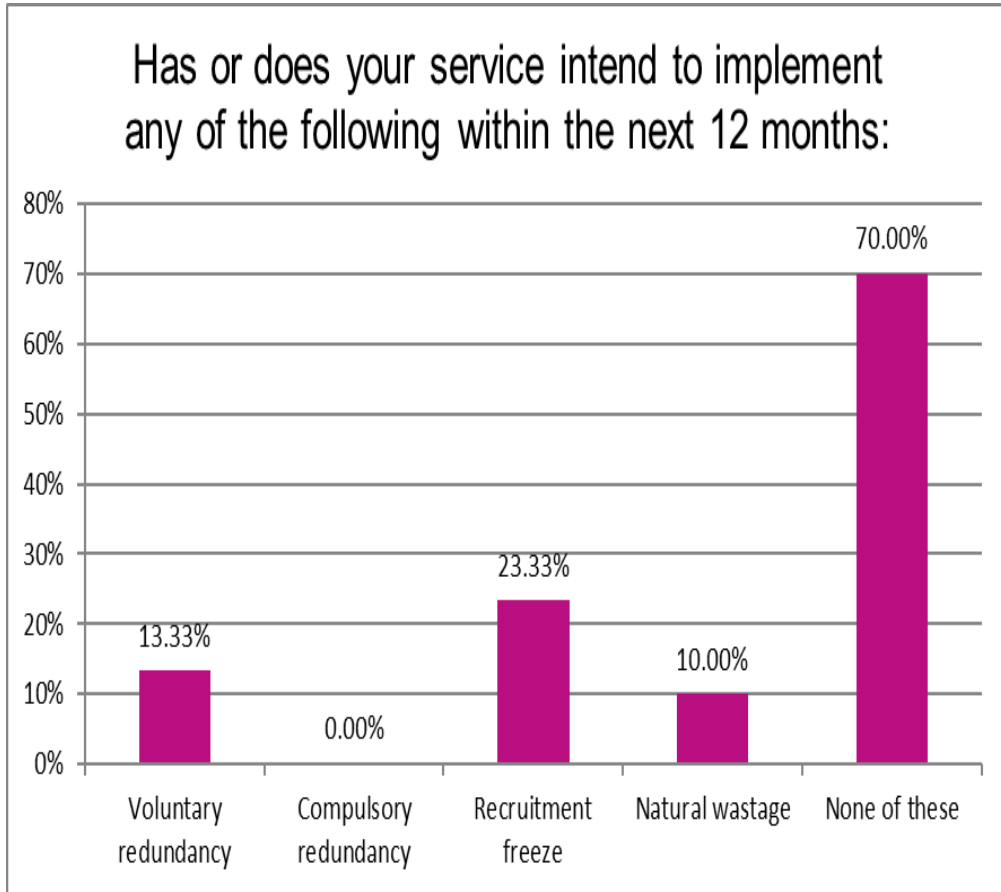
- Sensitive issue - *'vulnerable time'*



# Other sources of income

- CAMEO mercury trading payments
- Provision of officer time in assisting other authorities to process Public Health funerals.
- Profit share with music partner.
- Pre-paid cremation service for future use by families.
- Grave digging services for adjoining local authorities
- Leasing of memorials (benches, trees, rose bushes etc.)
- Creating a pets cremation offer.
- Provision of webcasts and recordings of services.
- Provision of jewellery containing ashes.
- Allowing weddings in funeral chapels
- Cave tours in a closed cemetery.

# Staffing considerations



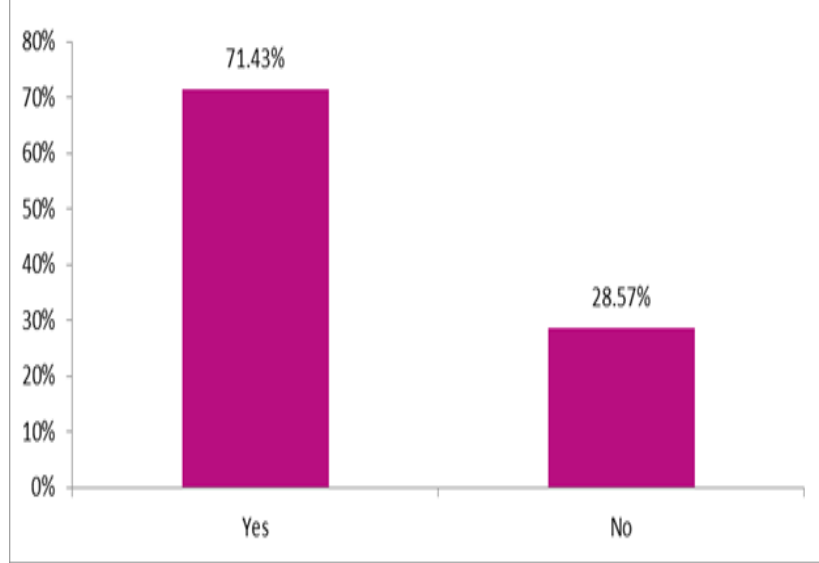
# Burial Space

- Next 5-10 Years critical point
- Study found **one in four** local authorities around the UK have **ten years or less** before their existing council-owned cemeteries are full to capacity, while almost **one in six** have **five years or less**.
- Extensions rather than new sites
- New cemeteries likely to be smaller due to housing demand.
- Many cemeteries now closed with only ashes internments allowed.
- Suitable sites difficult to find.
- Re-use in London cemeteries after 75 years

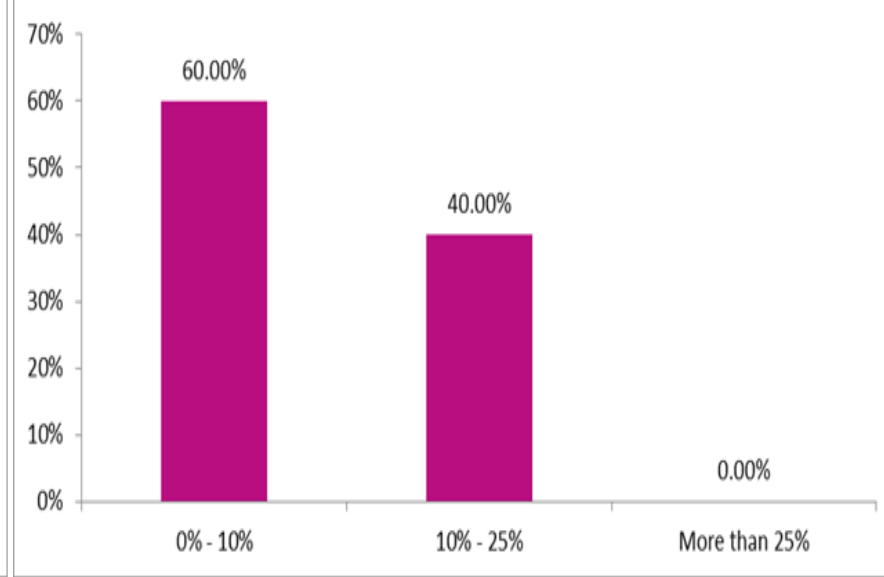


## Biodiversity and land management

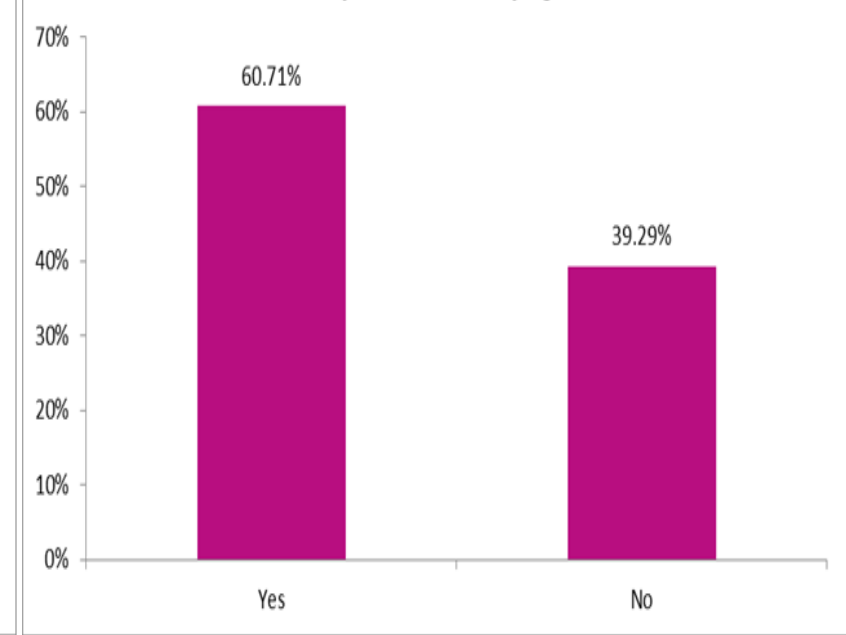
Do you manage any of your cemetery land as wildflower areas or nature reserve?



If yes, what % of your total cemetery land is given to a more informal grounds maintenance regime

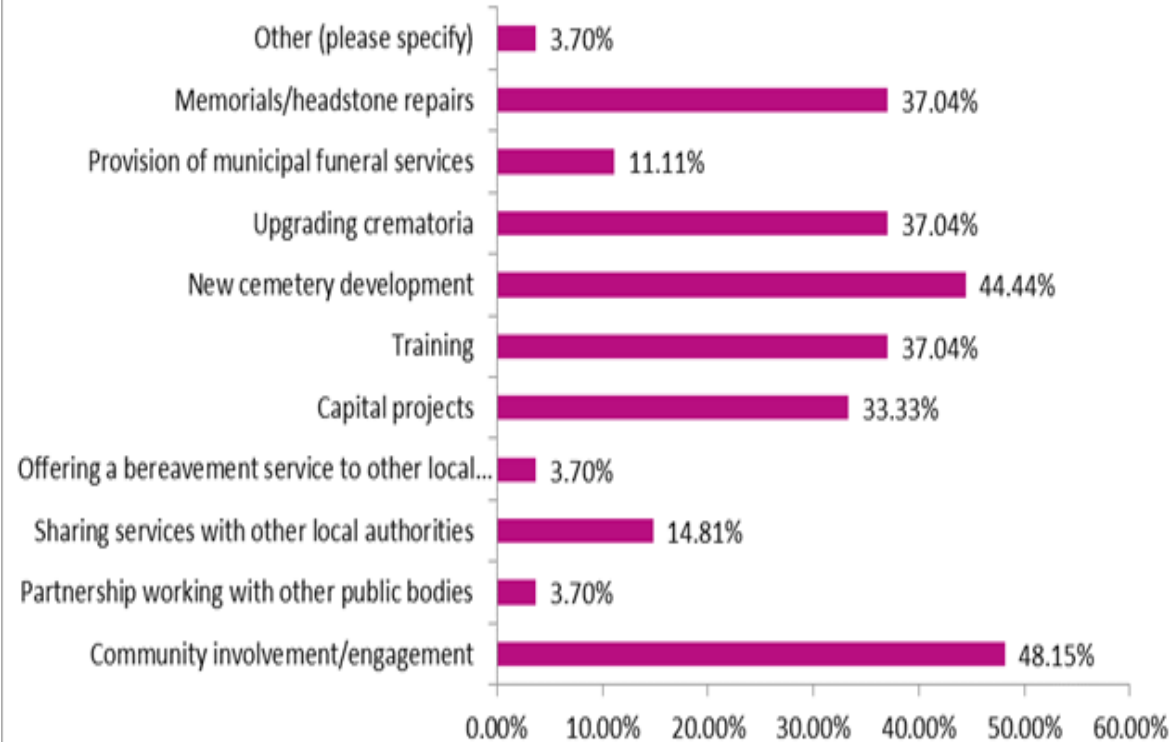


Do you make specific provision for promoting biodiversity in cemetery grounds?

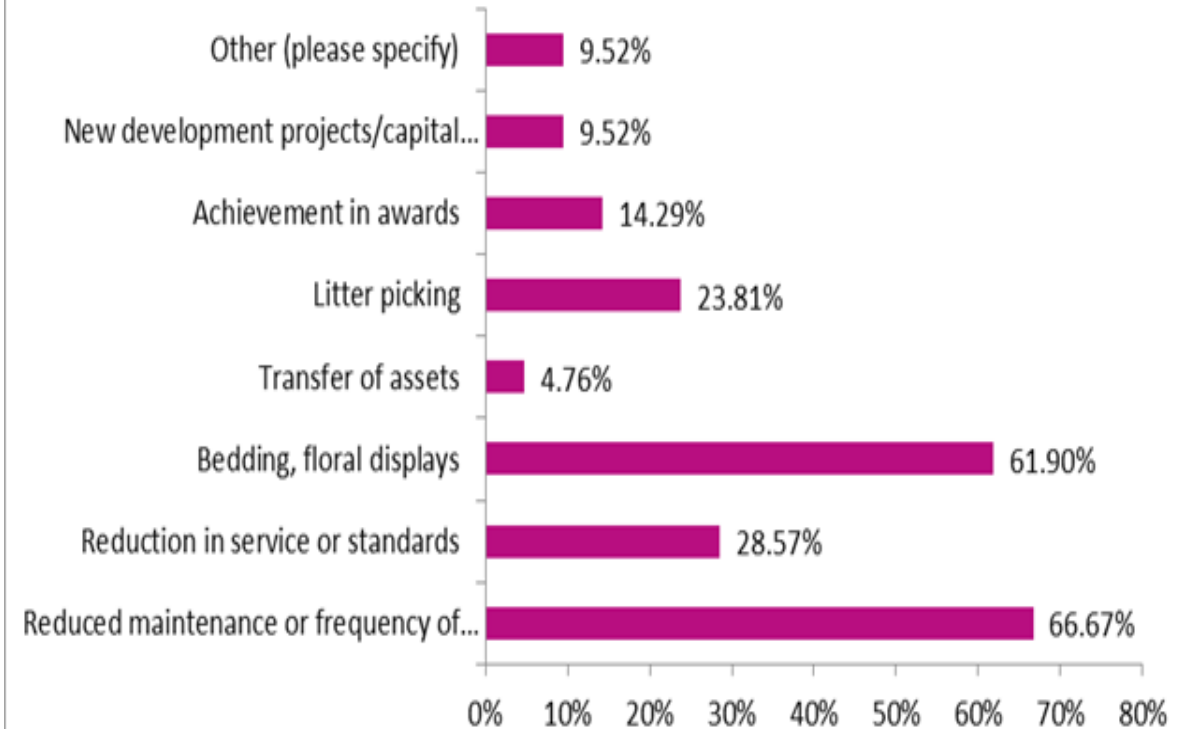


## Service growth/decrease

Where do you see growth for the service over the next 12 months?

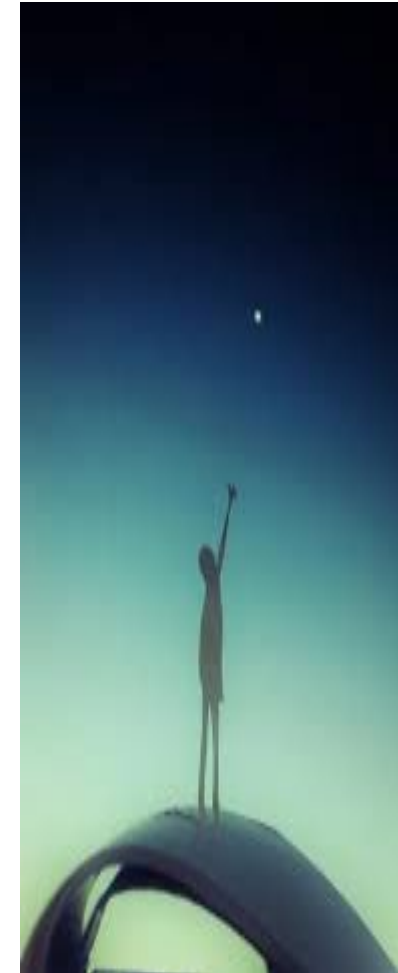


Where do you see future decreases in work for the service?



## Conclusions.

- Impacts of Covid now leveling off.
- During Covid support also from street cleansing staff - some evidence of **multi-skilling** to cover possible future events.
- Relatively low level of budget cuts compared to other services evidence of future investment with fewer / lower levels of cuts reported.
- Staff levels stabilized – concerns about **future entrants**.
- Still sensitivities over new income generation schemes.
- Burial space set to become a major issue in the next 5-10 years
- **Environmental/social/cultural/digitisation** considerations growing in importance.
- Concerns over quality of cemetery grounds – possible links to **naturalised maintenance** and opportunities for biodiversity.
- Increased recognition of service value following COVID.
- Challenges ahead but service has learned many lessons.





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