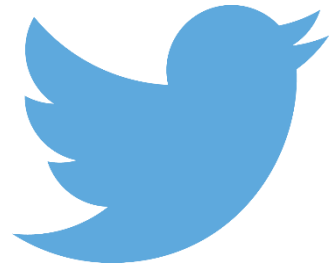




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APSE Allotments State of the Markets Survey 2020





APSE State of the Market Surveys

- State of the Market Survey 2020
- Local authority service areas
- Similar questions are asked to allow for trend comparisons
- All APSE member authorities across the UK
- Key findings of the survey are expressed
- Useful 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.



State of the Market Survey 2020

Local Authority Allotment Services



Key Findings – Management of sites

96% of respondents said their council owned allotments.

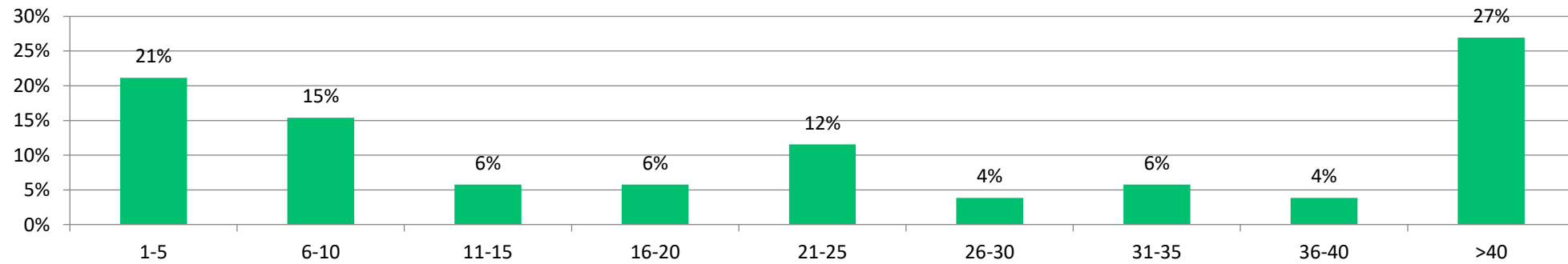
- 34% directly managed by council officer,
- 57% mix of council and site committee's,
- 9% managed solely by allotment associations.

13% increase in local authorities now taking on total site management compared to 2019.

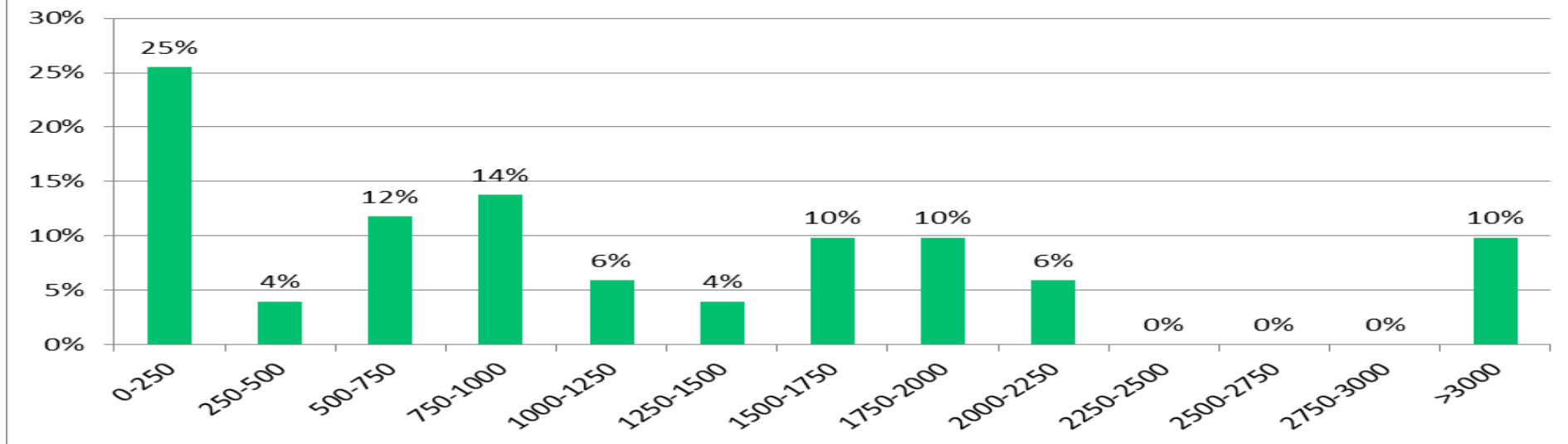


Number of allotments (sites/plots)

How many allotment sites have you got?

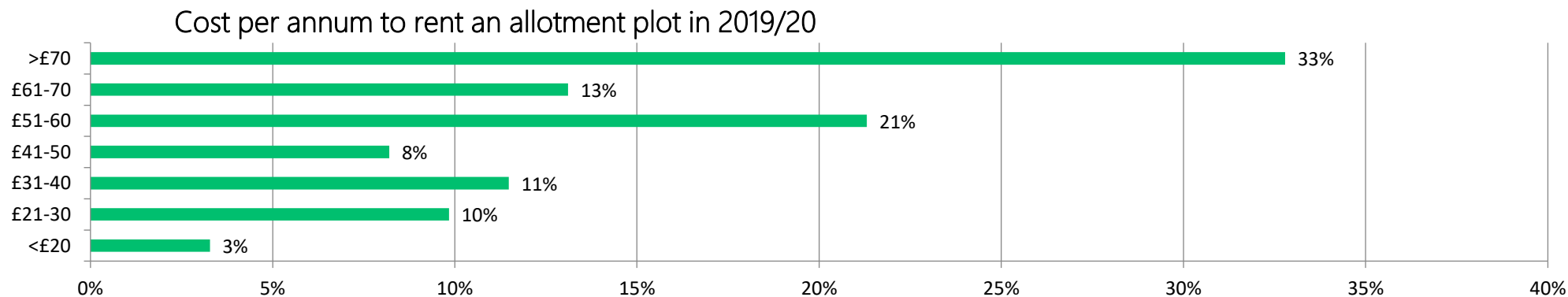


What is the total number of allotment plots in the local authority?



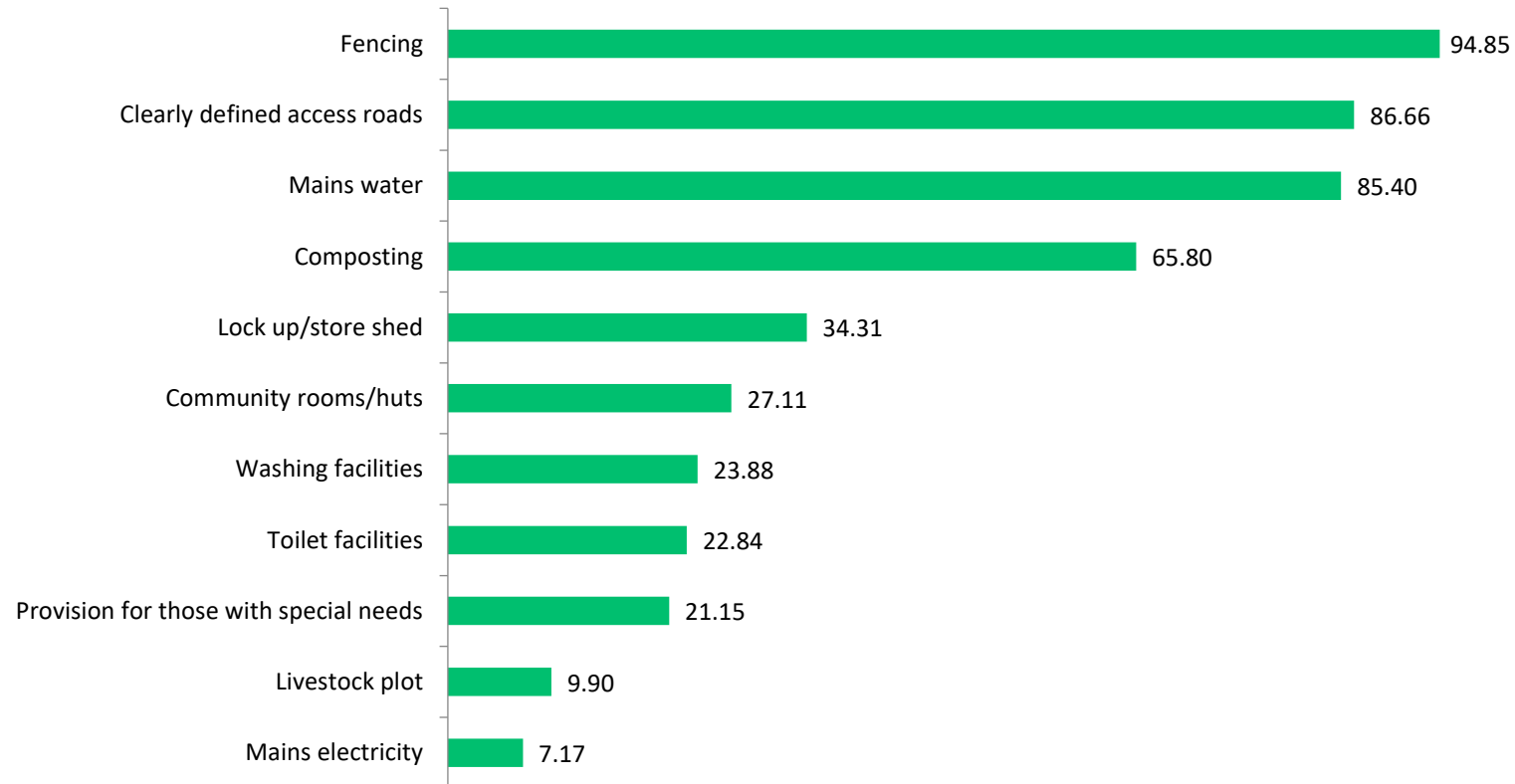
Charges

- 22% respondents said they will continue to increase **allotment plot charges** over the next 5 years as opposed to 34% in 2019.
- Despite increases only 36% said provision of allotments would be cost neutral, 62% would be subsidised and only 2% would make a profit.
- Most providers of allotments offer subsidised rates (40% - 50%) to over 60's, unemployed/income support/disabled and students.
- Price for allotment plots ranged from more than £70 – less than £20



Facilities at allotment sites

What is the approximate percentage of allotment sites with:



Waiting lists

- Demand for **waiting lists** is still high 65% of respondents have waiting lists of between 100-400.
- 20% reported waiting lists of over 1000 applicants.
- 66% reported average **waiting time for plots** of 18 months (69% in 2019).
- Local authorities looking to developers to provide new sites as well as supporting community groups to help develop sites.

Direct provision by the council for additional plots	69%
Provision by builders/developers as part of a housing/planning policy	50%
Provision by community groups supported/facilitated by council	44%
Provision by other council departments (e.g. Education, Social Work) as part of a healthy lifestyles/eco-schools/health type project	13%
Other	19%



Maintenance of Sites

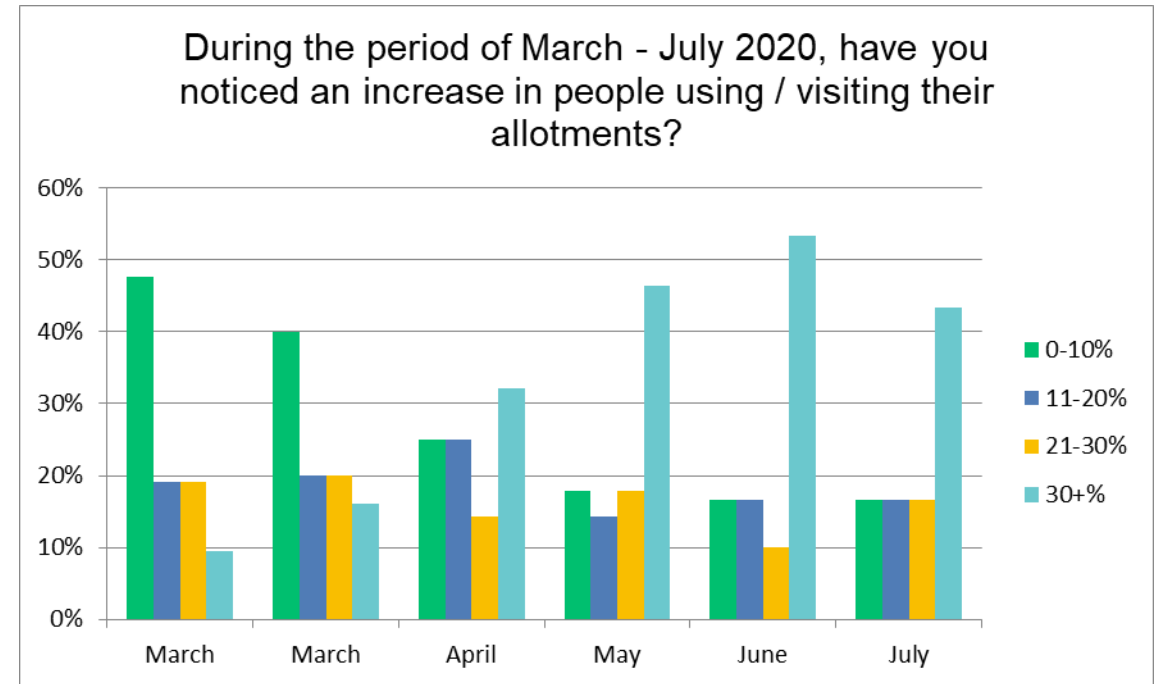
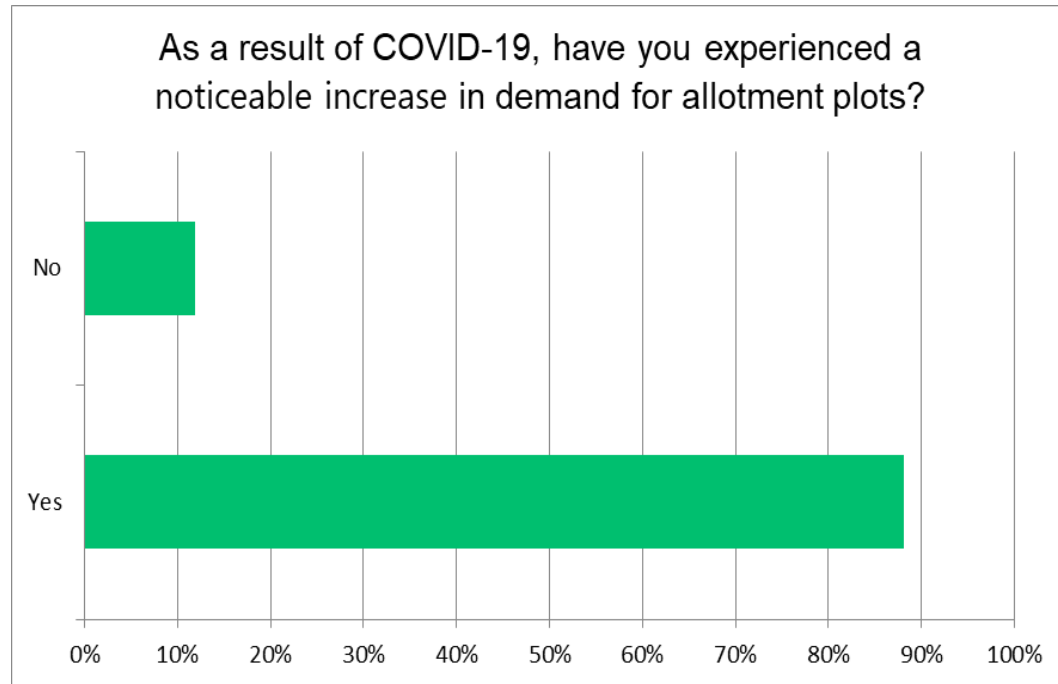
As an integral part of grounds maintenance operations/contracts	65%
By the plot holders/site association	52%
By volunteers	15%
By a dedicated allotments team/person	13%
As part of rehabilitation programmes (health, offenders etc.)	19%
No grounds maintenance is carried out on the sites	2%
Other	13%



Environmental Sustainability

Areas being set aside for wildlife	67%
Information on how to improve biodiversity	52%
Planting pollinator friendly species	45%
Cultivate plots organically	50%
Promoting native crops	18%

The Covid-19 impact



Conclusions

- Local authorities which are continuing to provide and manage allotment sites across the UK.
- It is unlikely that local authorities will ever make high levels of income from allotments, indeed many are openly subsidising allotments, but when one considers the **multiple benefits** they bring such as healthier lifestyles, promoting biodiversity, protecting green spaces, reducing food air miles, promoting local food production, providing valuable soakaways in times of heavy rain as well as having a value to pollinators and other wildlife, they are clearly a sound environmental investment.
- As well as providing environmental benefits, allotments are also seen as having considerable social cohesion benefits, where all sectors of the local community can engage in a common interest where skills and knowledge can be exchanged and friendships forged.
- Many councils are now building the importance of allotments into their Health and Well-Being Strategies and also their Local Development Plans
- the Coronavirus pandemic has seen a huge reliance on allotments as places where people are able to go to gain exercise and recreation and resulted in increased demand for new plots and sites.
- The need to fund and provide allotments is clear, but with so many competing priorities, sustaining the future of our allotments across the UK is still going to be a long up-hill struggle.

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