

APSE & Survation 2026 – Annual Polling of Councillors & The Public.



Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

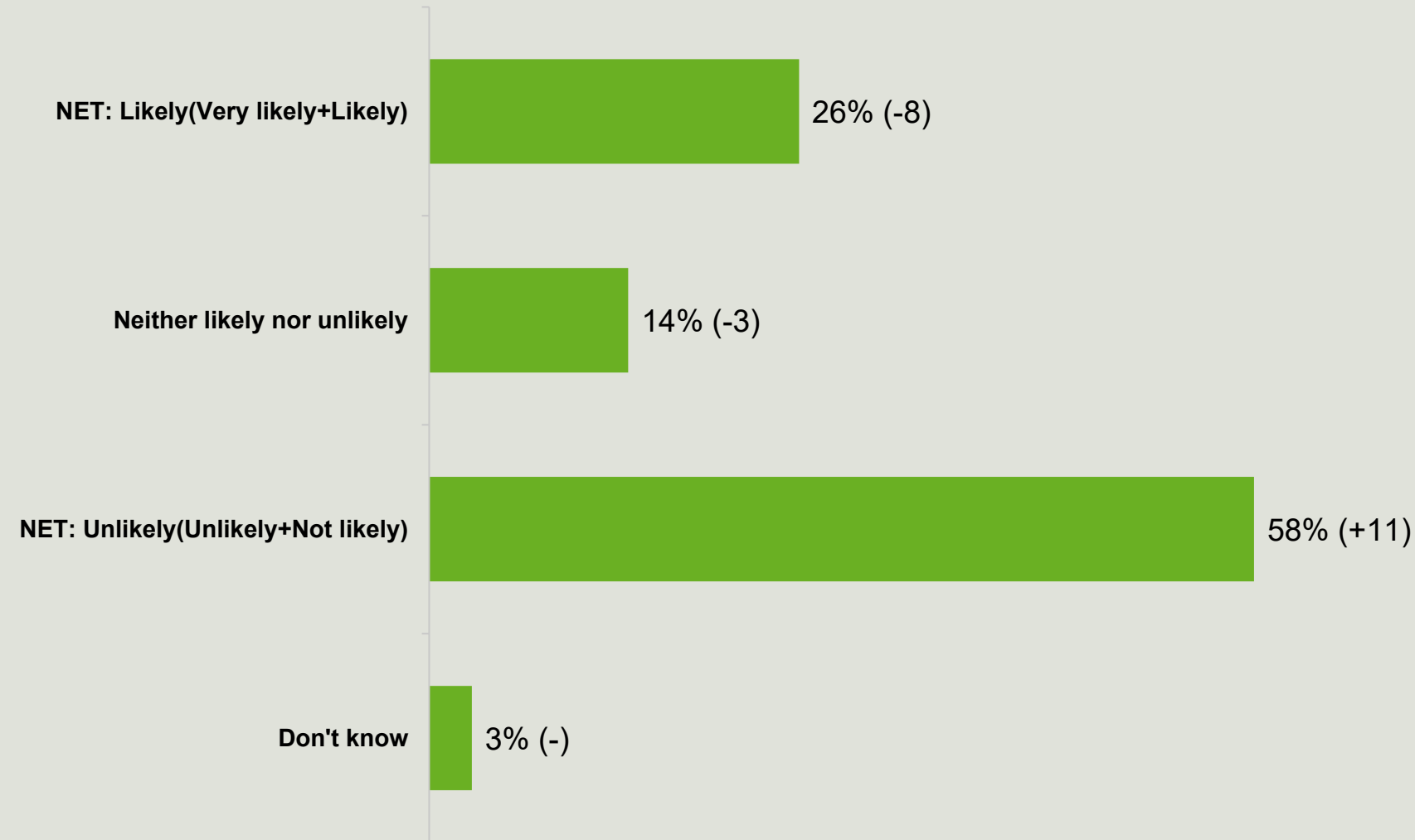
Methodology: Councillor survey was conducted online.
Email invitations were sent to elected councillors in the
UK.

Fieldwork: 5th November – 18th November 2025

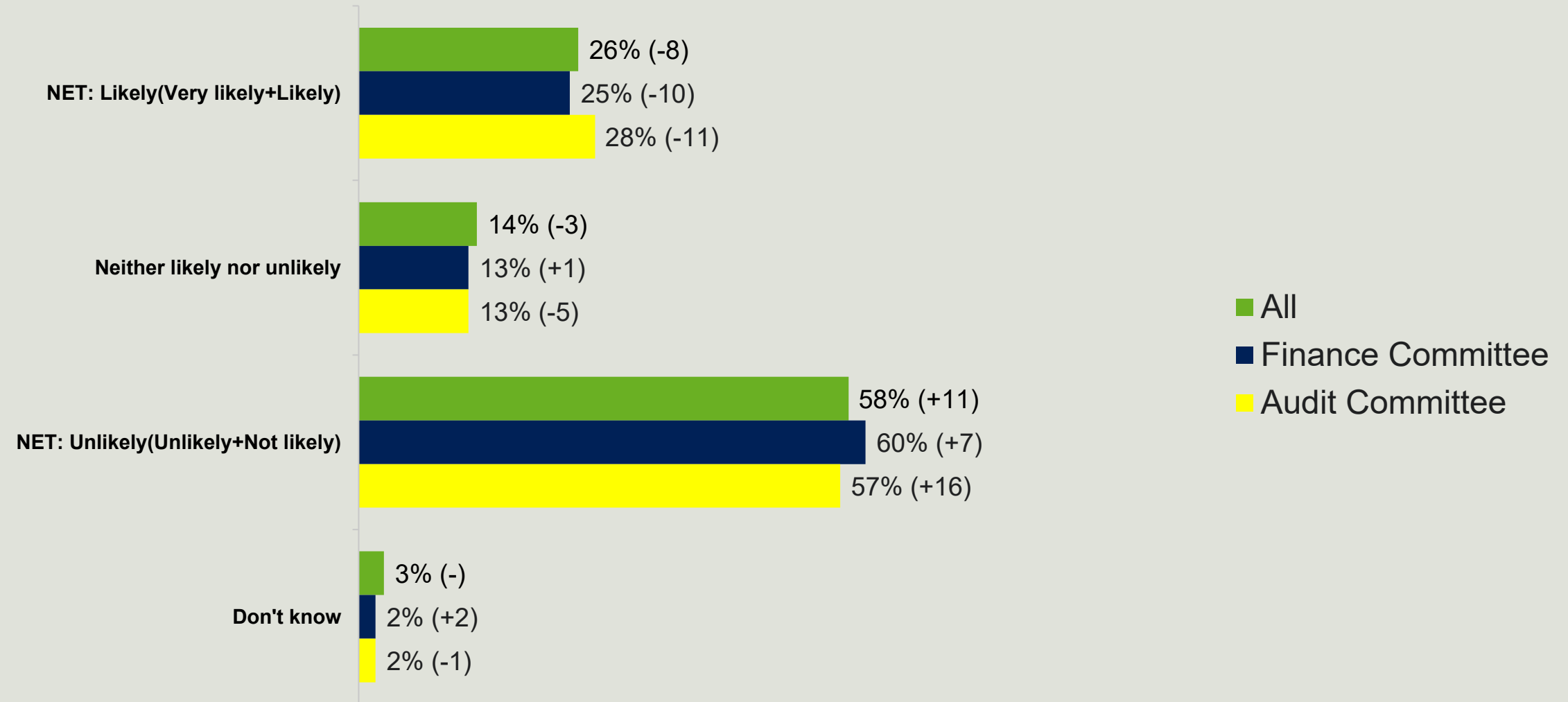
Sample size: 504

Survation.

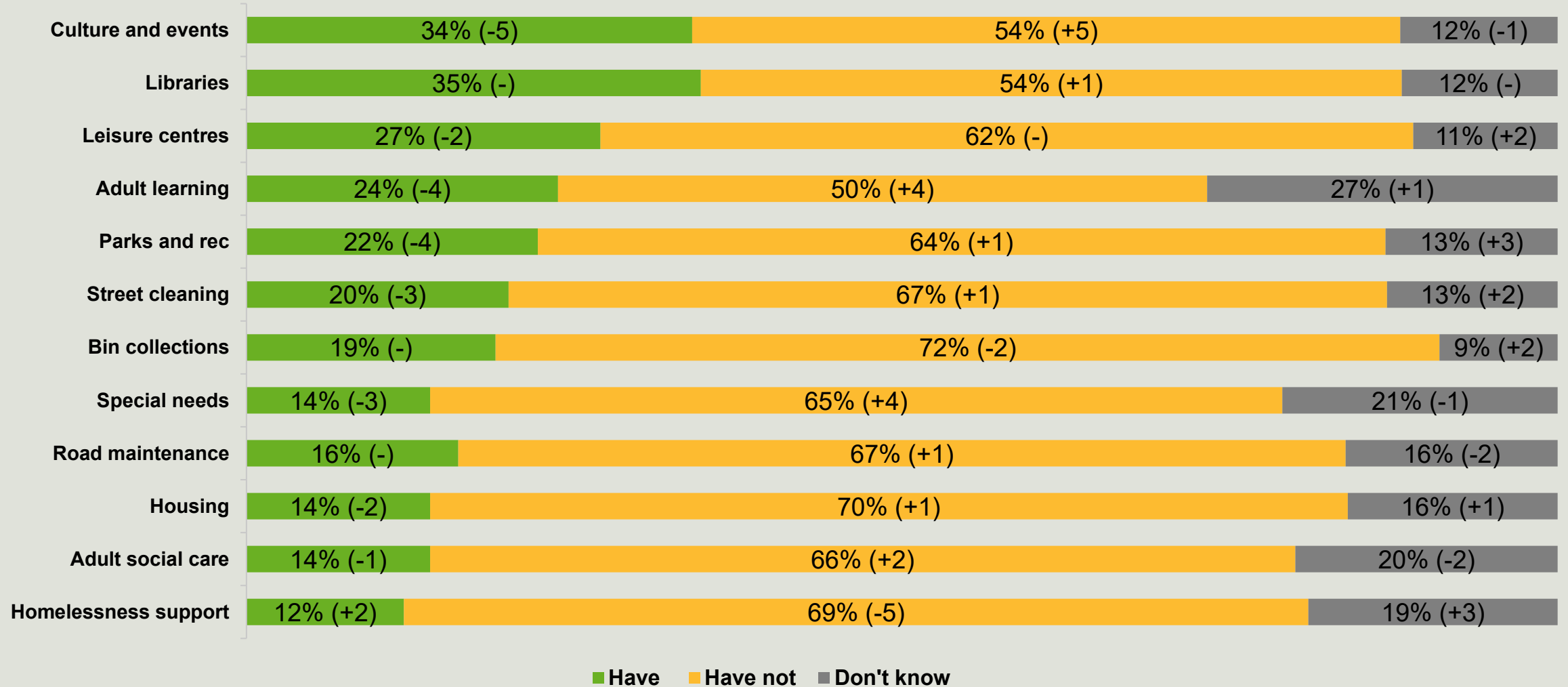
Q1. Given the current pressure facing Council budgets. How likely, if at all, would you say it is that your local authority will have to issue a section 114 (or S.95 in Scotland) notice (declaring bankruptcy) in the next five years?



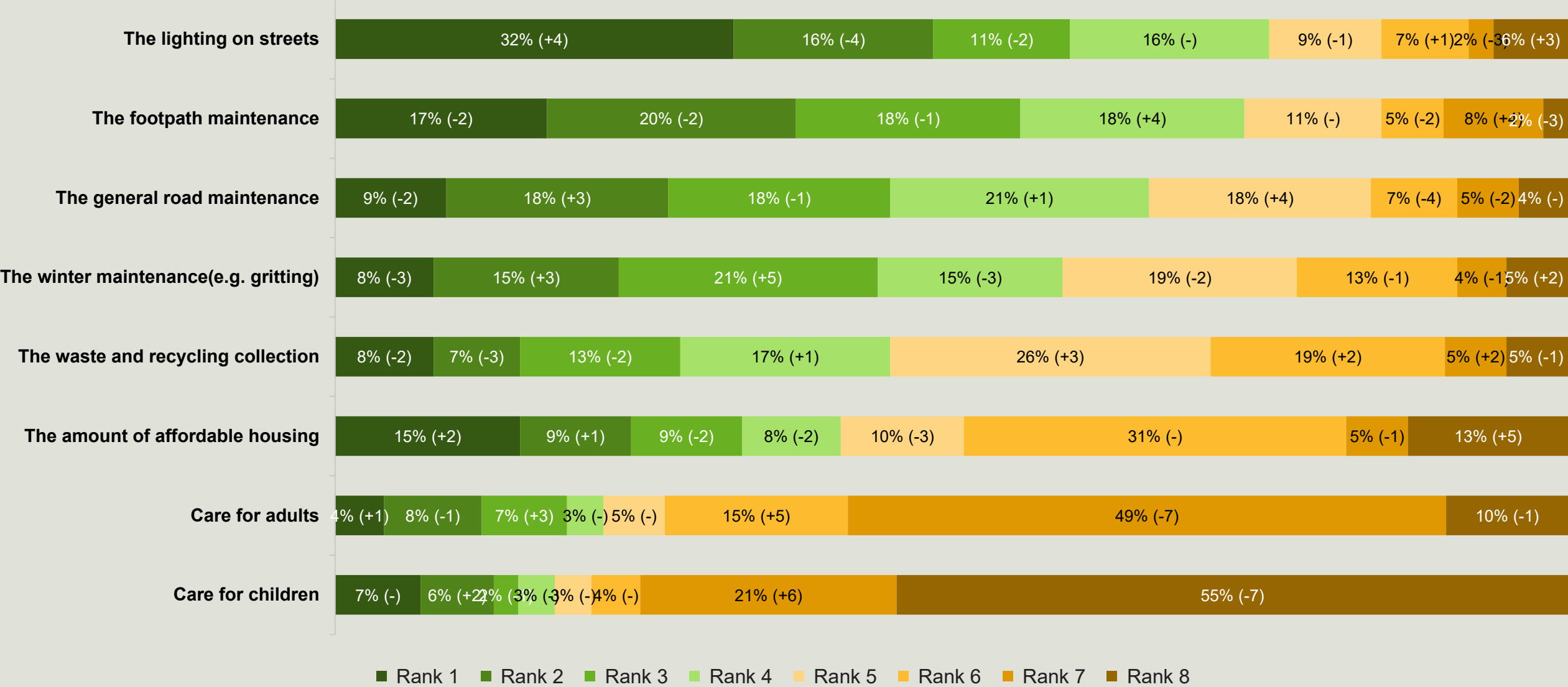
Q1. Given the current pressure facing Council budgets. How likely, if at all, would you say it is that your local authority will have to issue a section 114 (or S.95 in Scotland) notice (declaring bankruptcy) in the next five years?



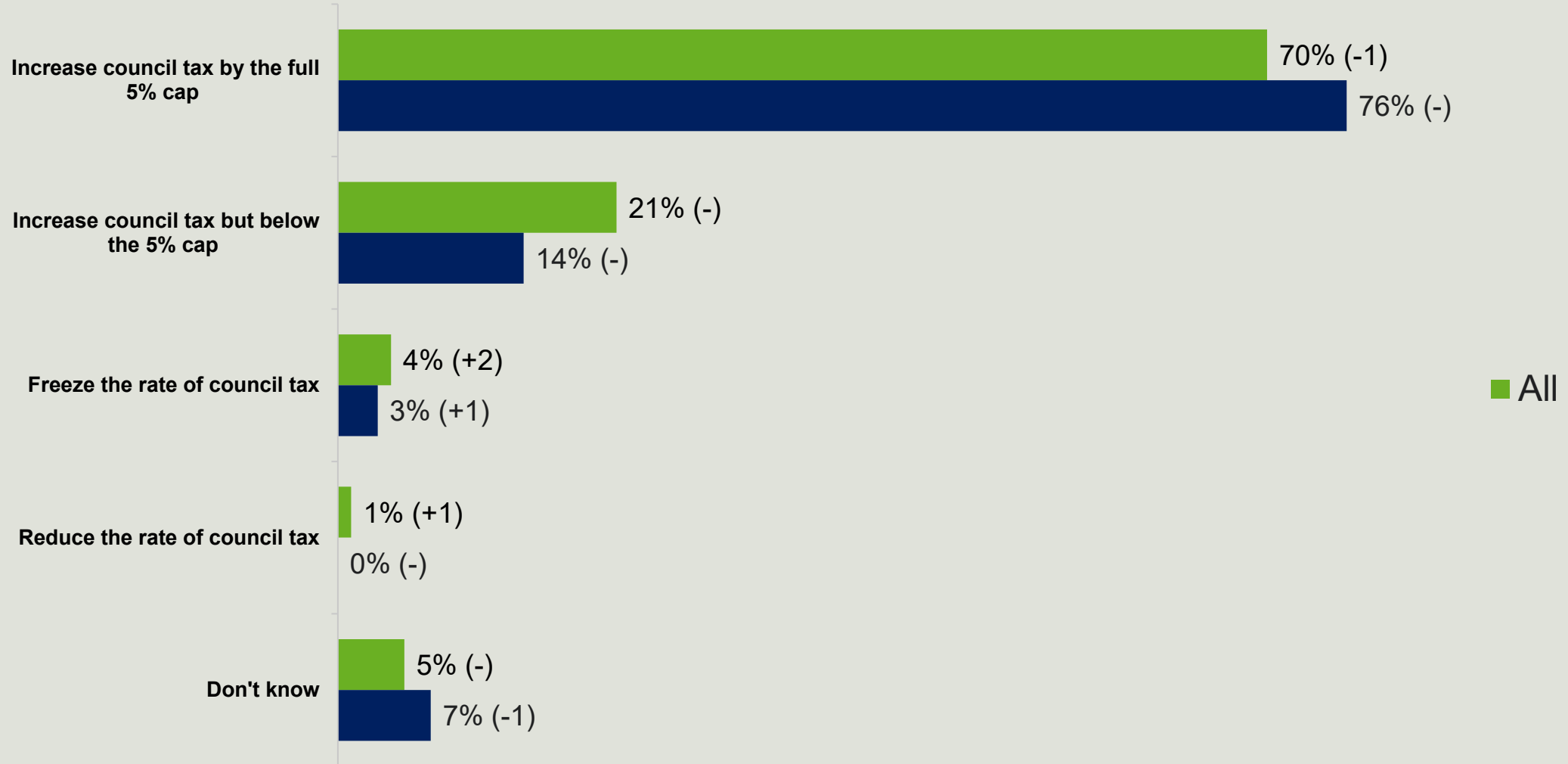
Q3. Which of the following services, if any, has your local authority had to cancel or close since 2010?



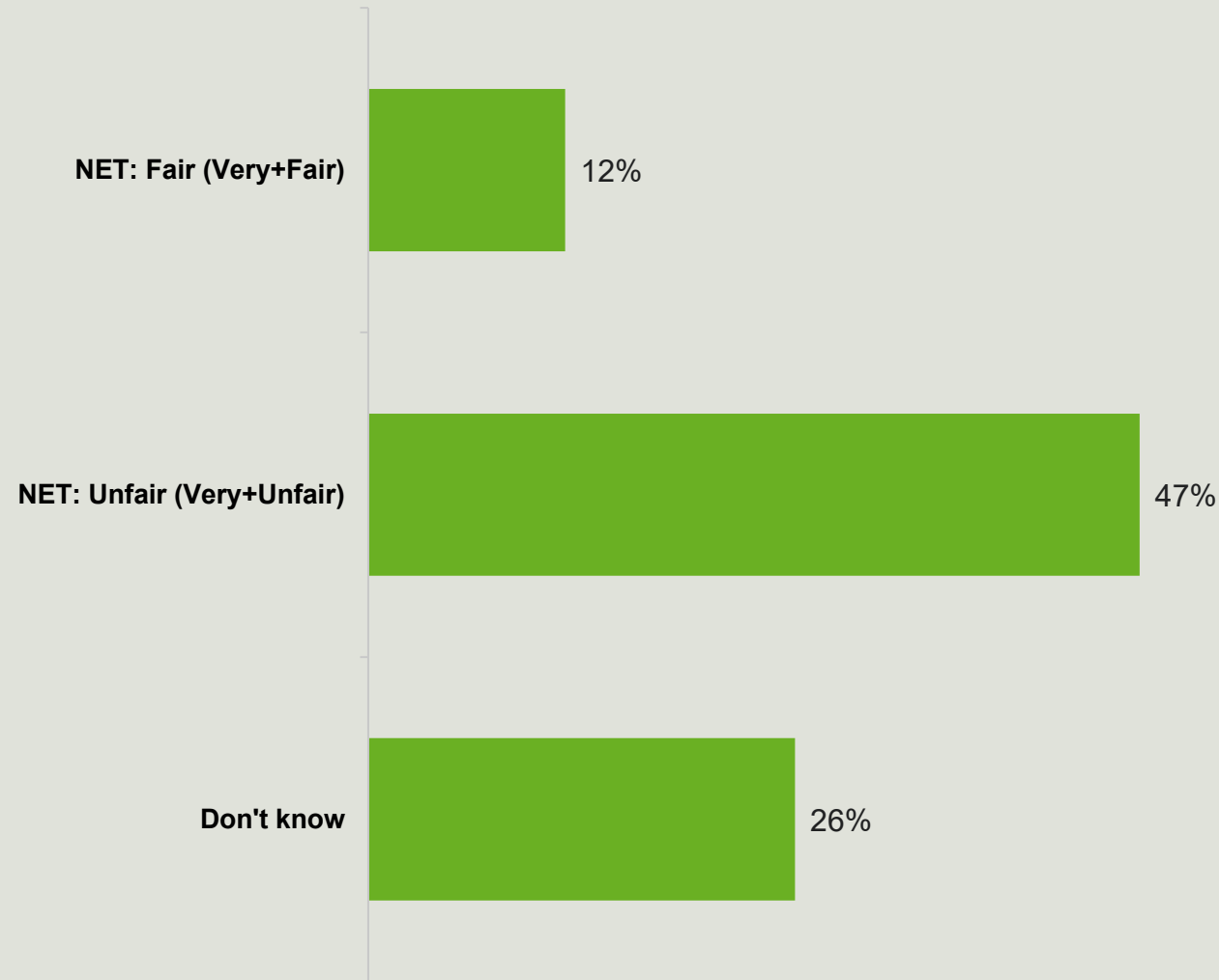
Q2_Summary. One-way local authorities try to avoid issuing a section 114 notice (or S.95 in Scotland) is by cutting spending on certain services or stop providing altogether. Please rank each of the following services in order of how comfortable you'd be to see cut if your local authority were facing bankruptcy



Q6. Local authorities are permitted to increase council tax by up to 5% - 3% for general services and an additional 2% for adult social care. Do you think your council will:
- All / Financial Committee Membership

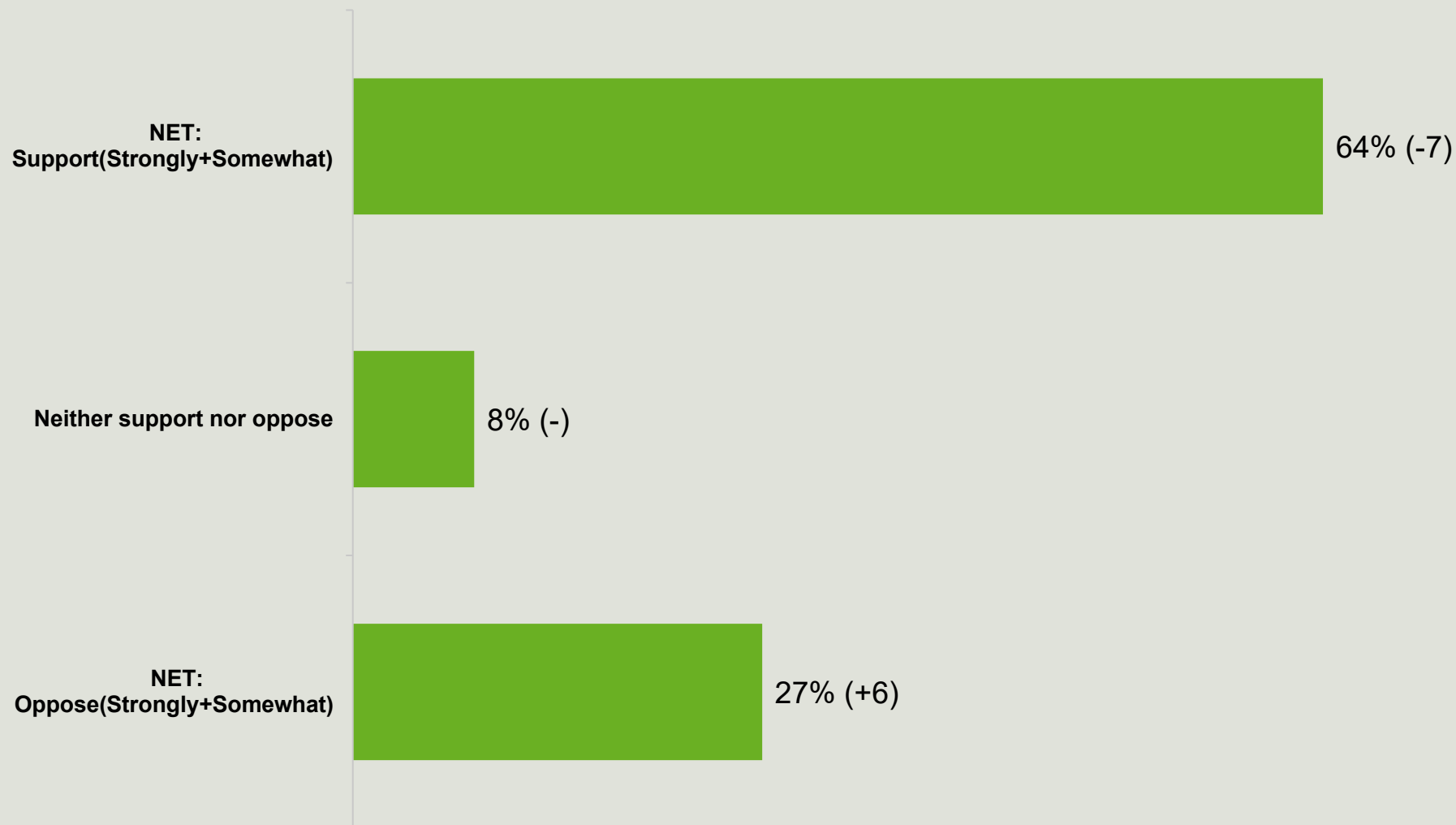


Q10. From what you know, how fair do you think the new fair funding formula is to councils like yours?

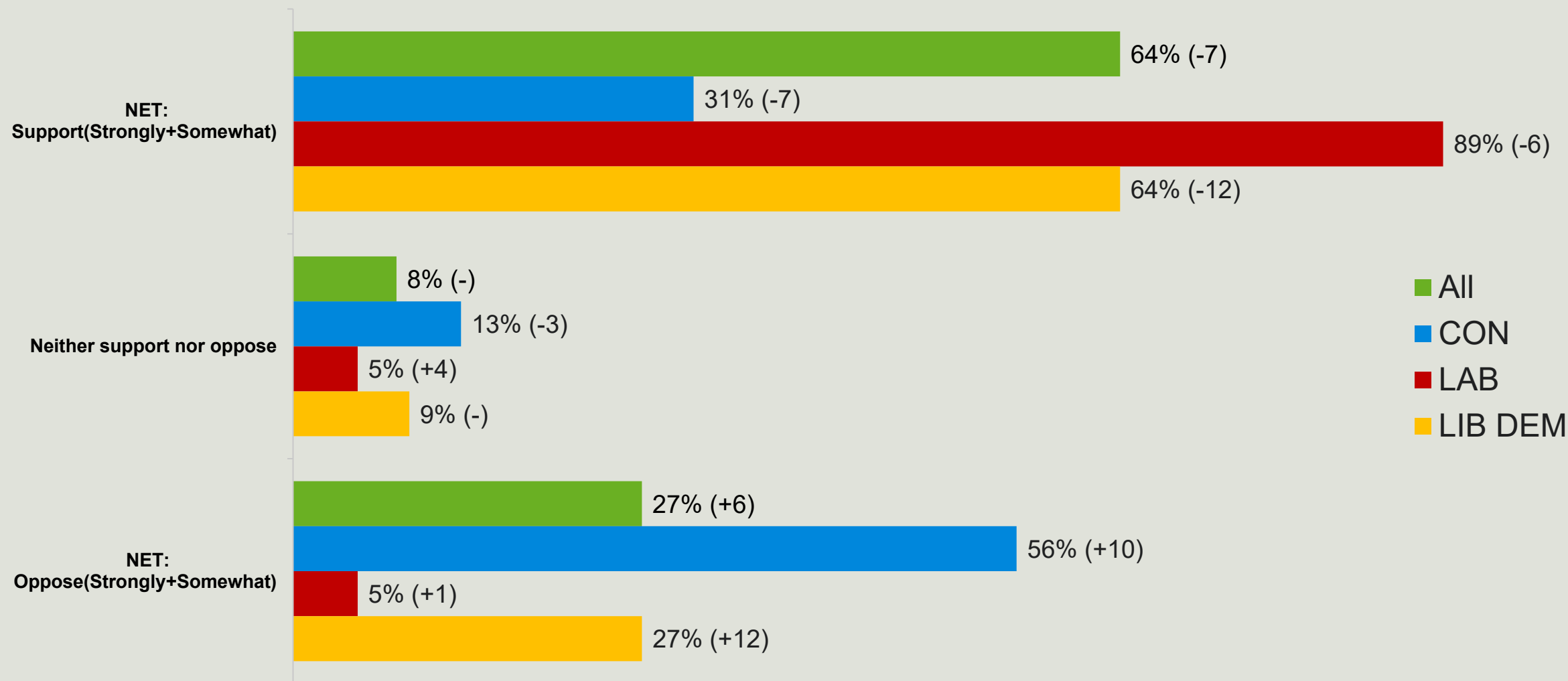


BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 504.

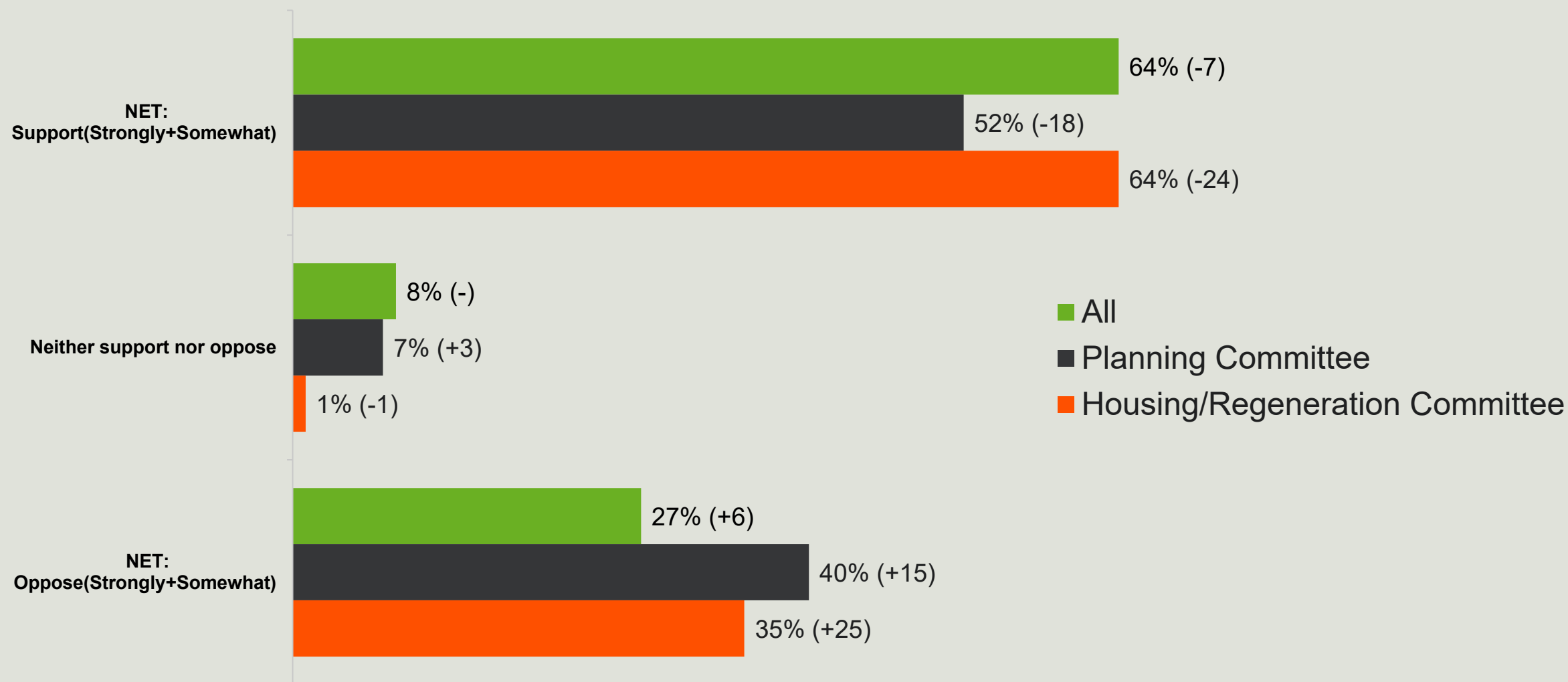
Q7. The government has a target to build 1.5 million new homes in the current parliament. This means that some of these homes will need to be built in your local authority. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose more homes being built in your local area beyond current levels?



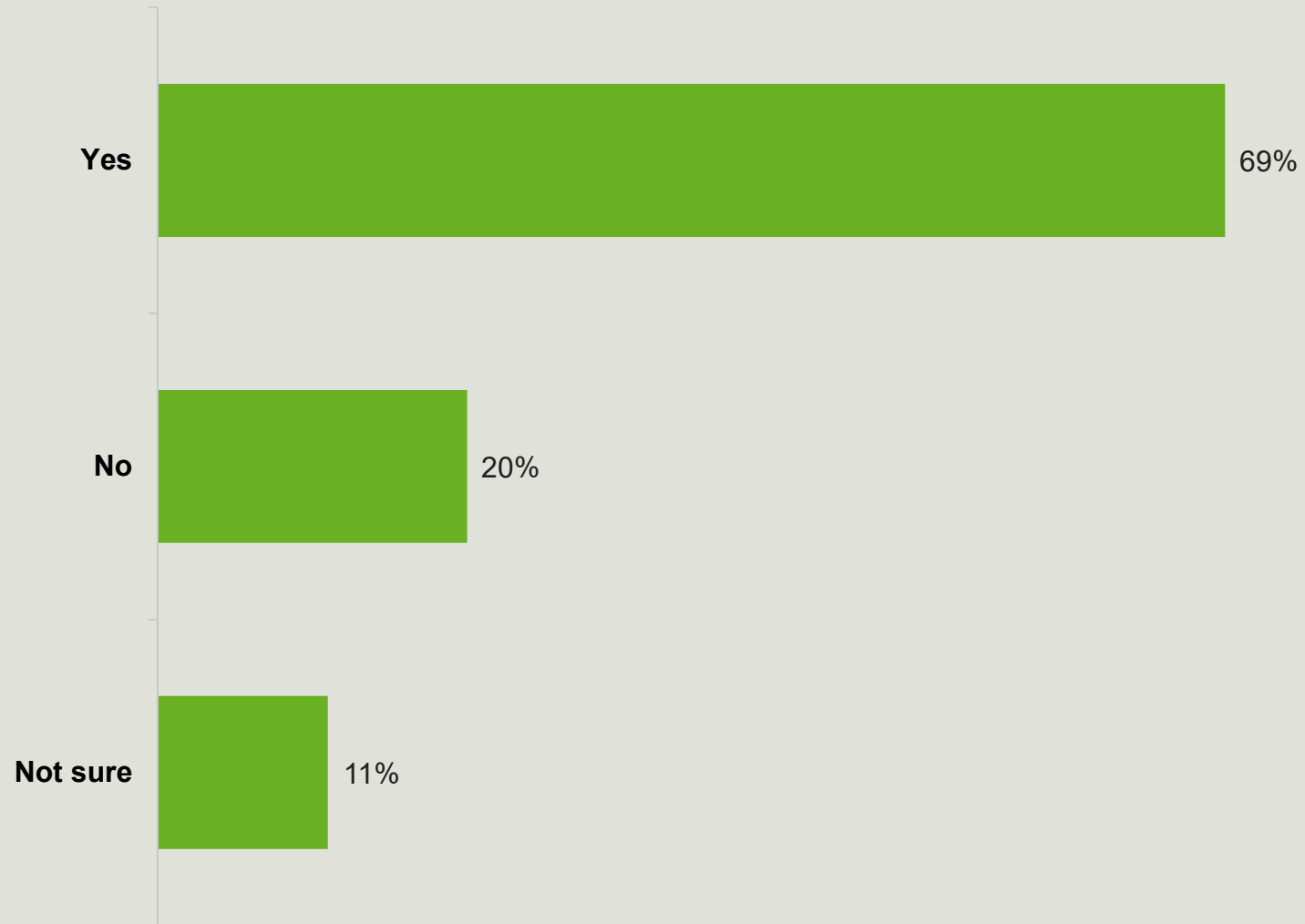
Q7. The government has a target to build 1.5 million new homes in the current parliament. This means that some of these homes will need to be built in your local authority. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose more homes being built in your local area beyond current levels? – By Political Party



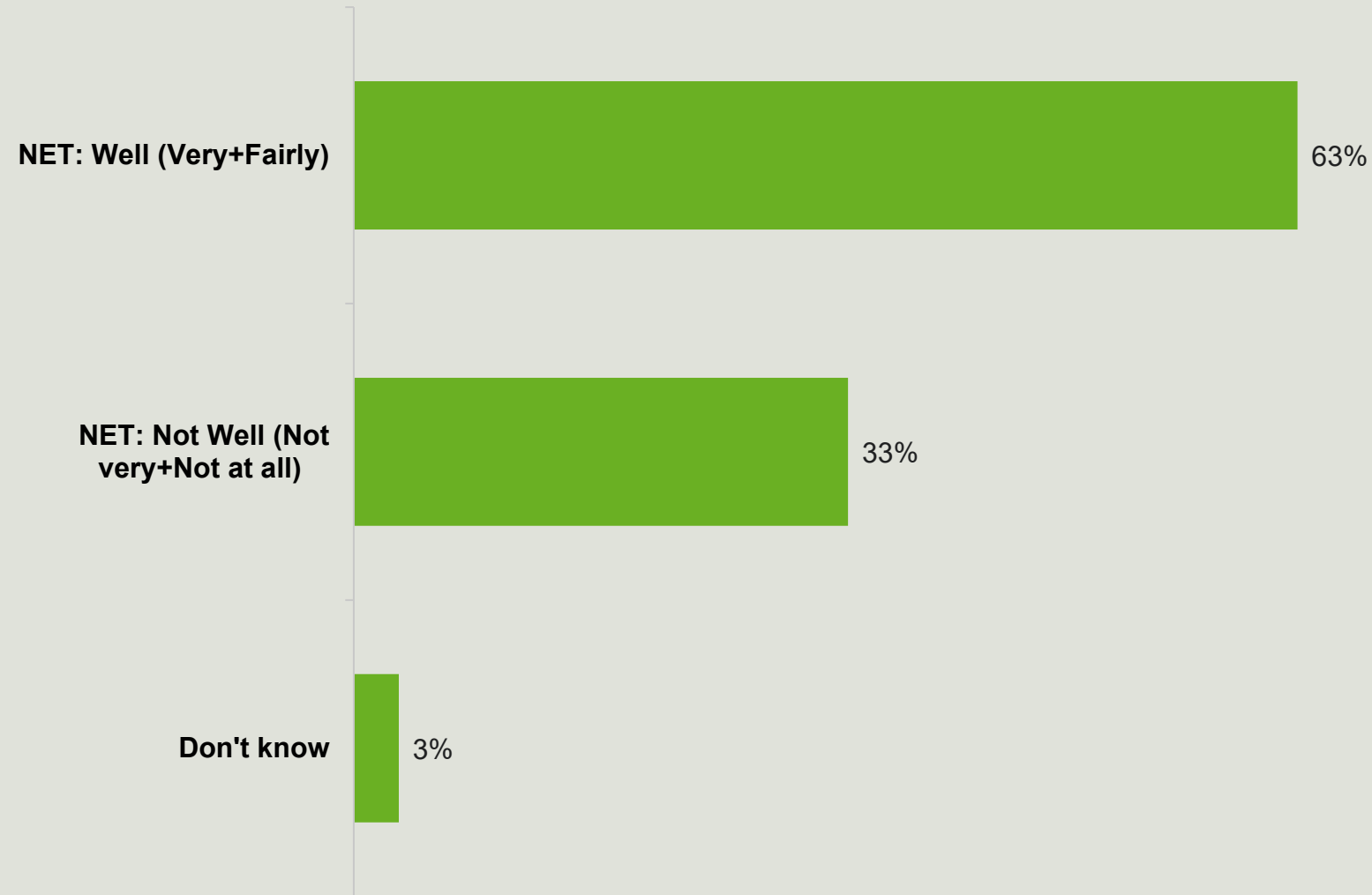
Q7. The government has a target to build 1.5 million new homes in the current parliament. This means that some of these homes will need to be built in your local authority. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose more homes being built in your local area beyond current levels? – By Committee Membership



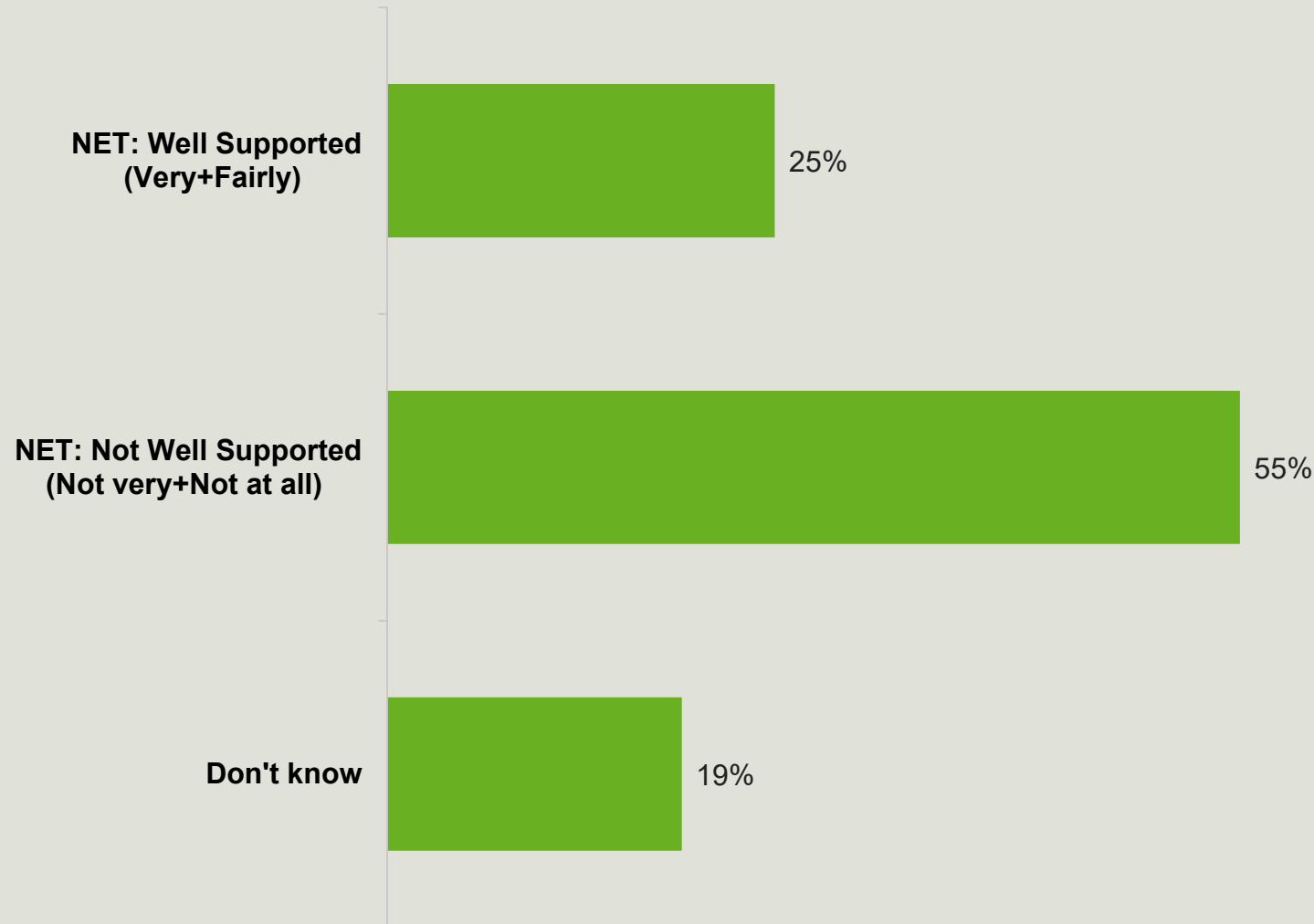
Q12. As far as you know, has the Home Office used hotels, hostels, or other accommodation in your local authority area to house asylum seekers or migrants?



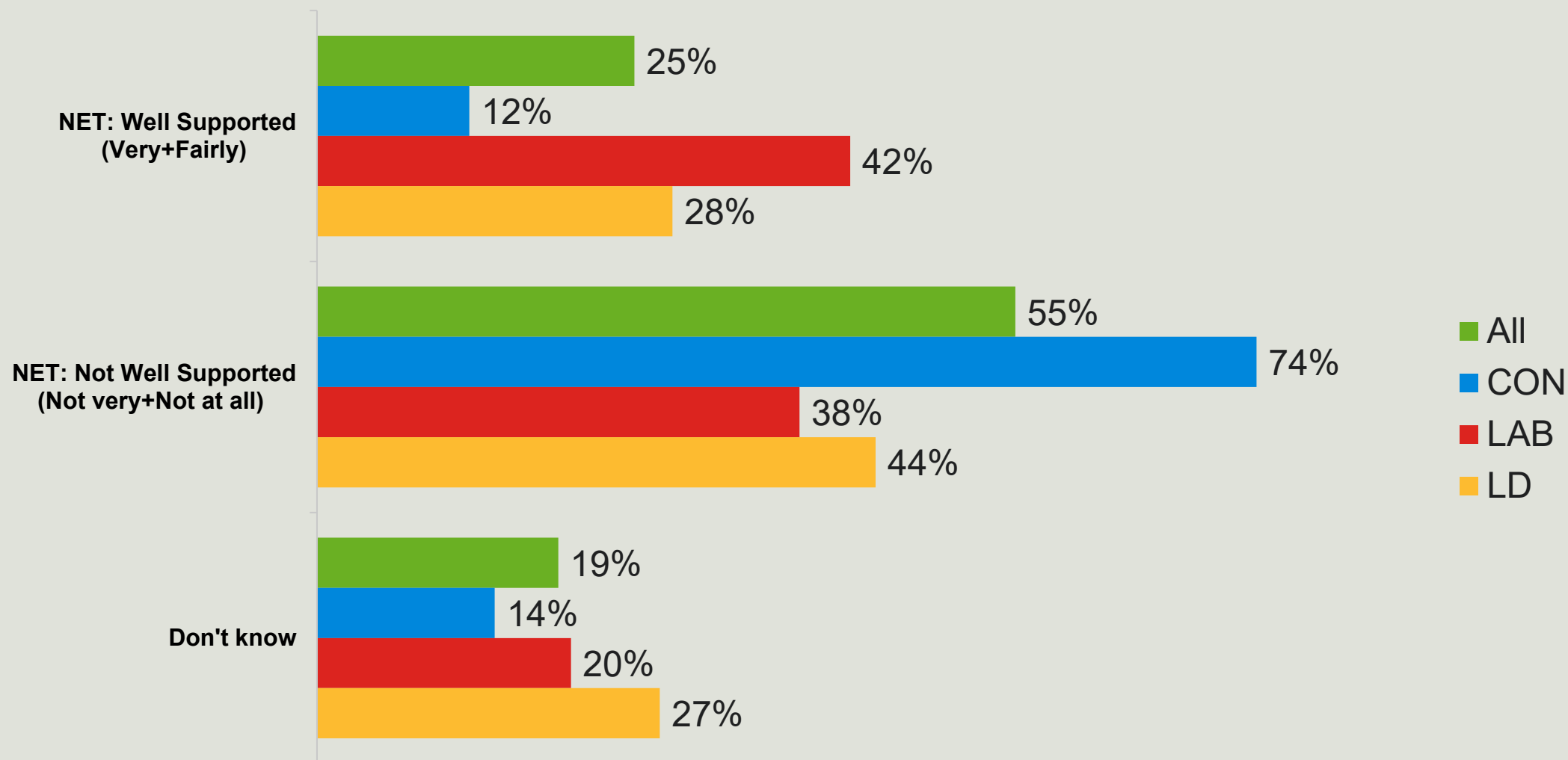
Q13. How well would you say this has been managed in your local authority area?



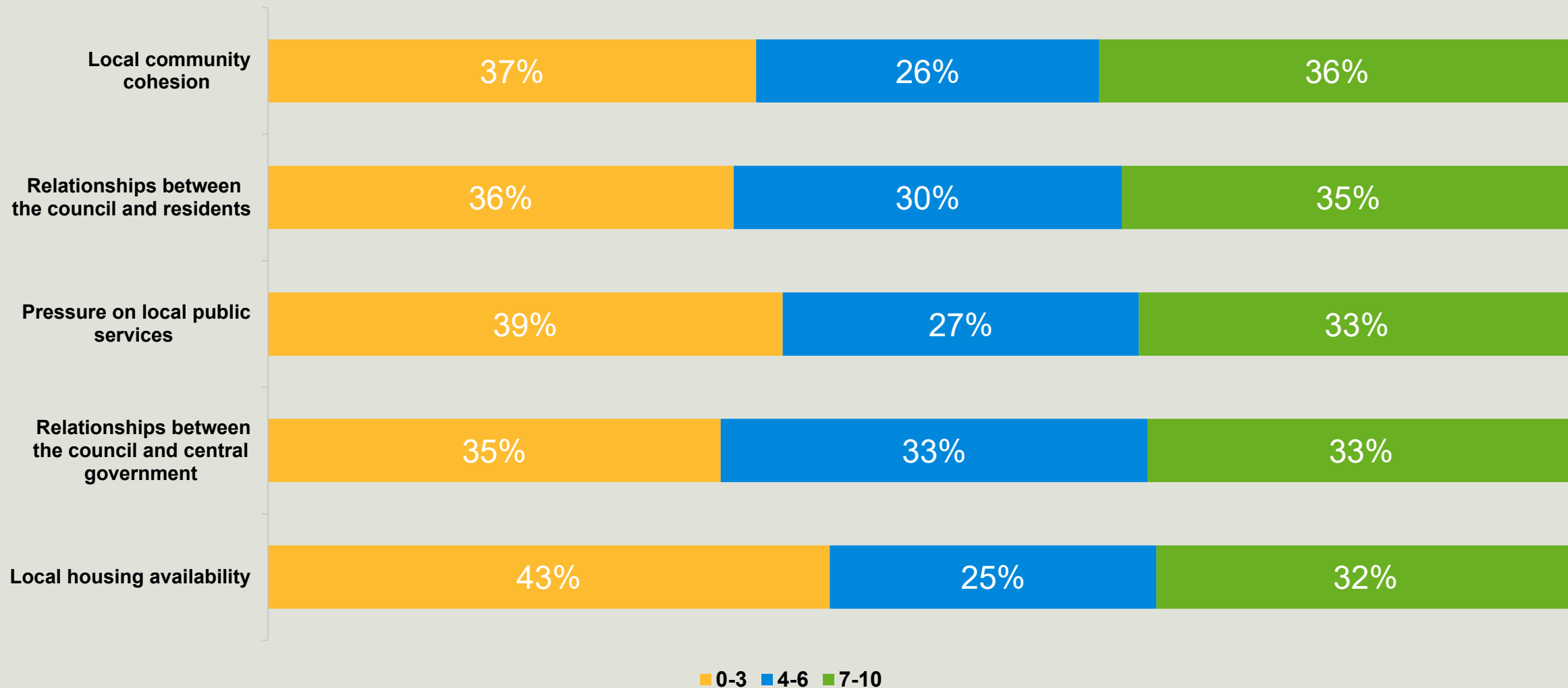
Q15. How well supported do you feel your local authority has been by central government in managing responsibilities linked to asylum or migrant accommodation?



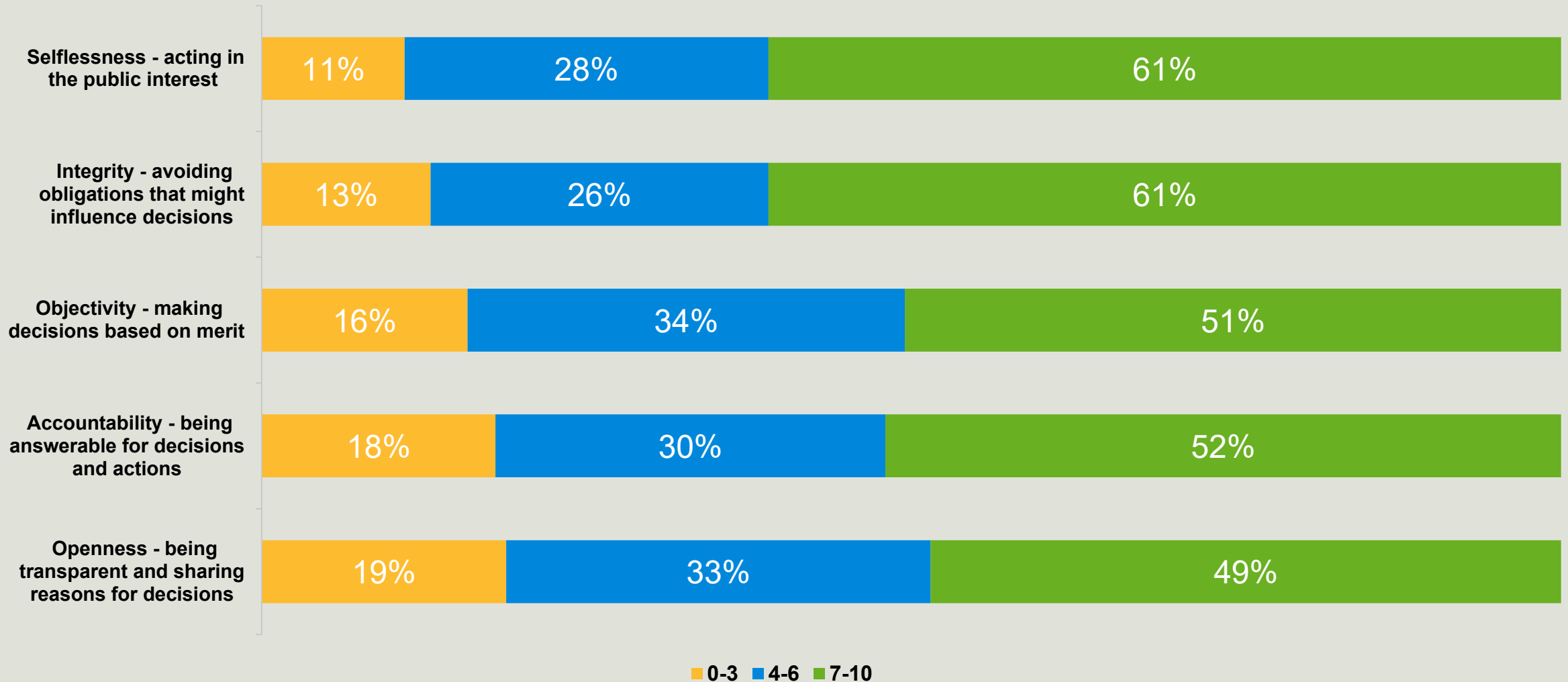
Q15. How well supported do you feel your local authority has been by central government in managing responsibilities linked to asylum or migrant accommodation?



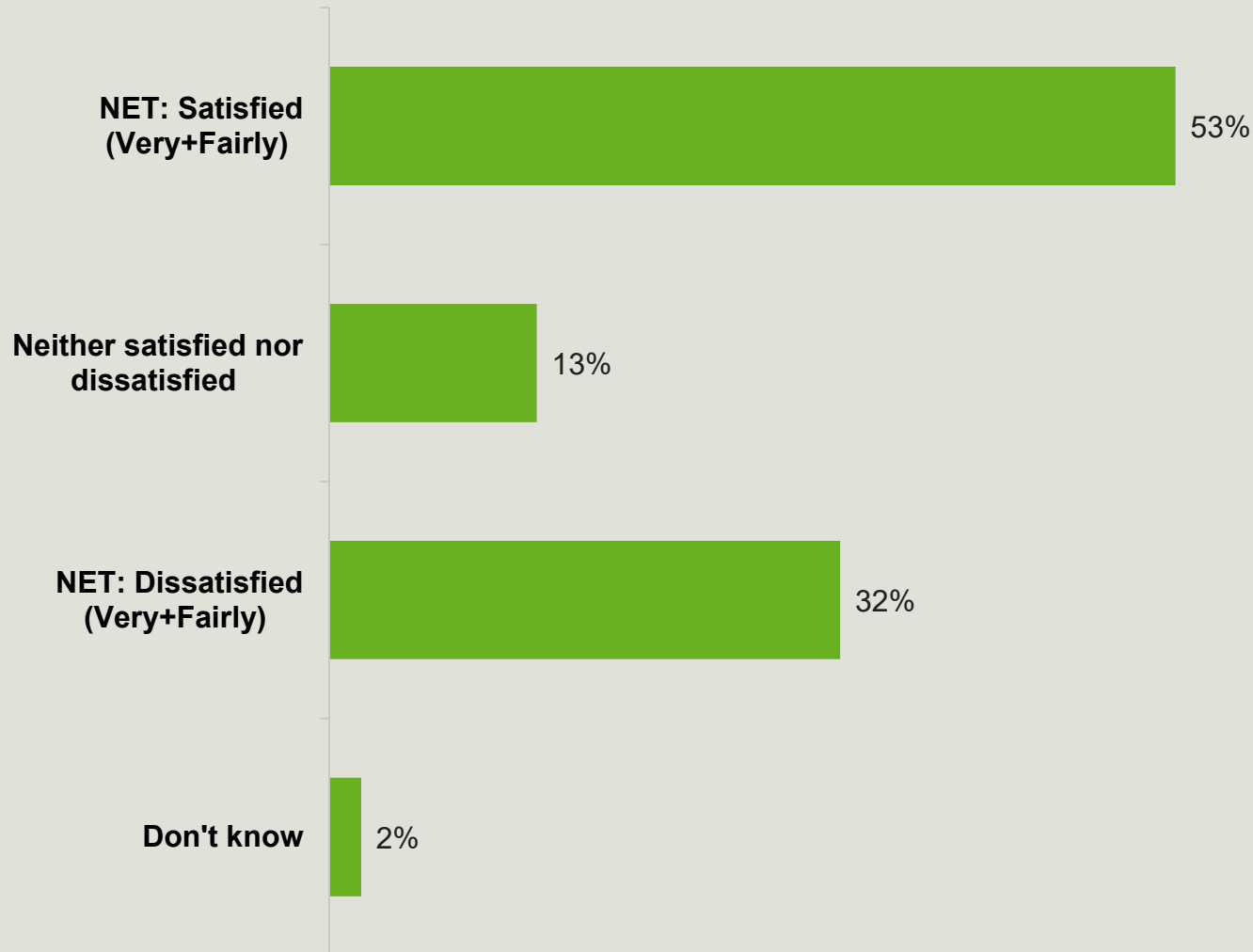
**Q14_Summary. How much of an effect - if any - has this had in your area on each of the following?
(0 = No effect at all, 10 = A very large effect).**



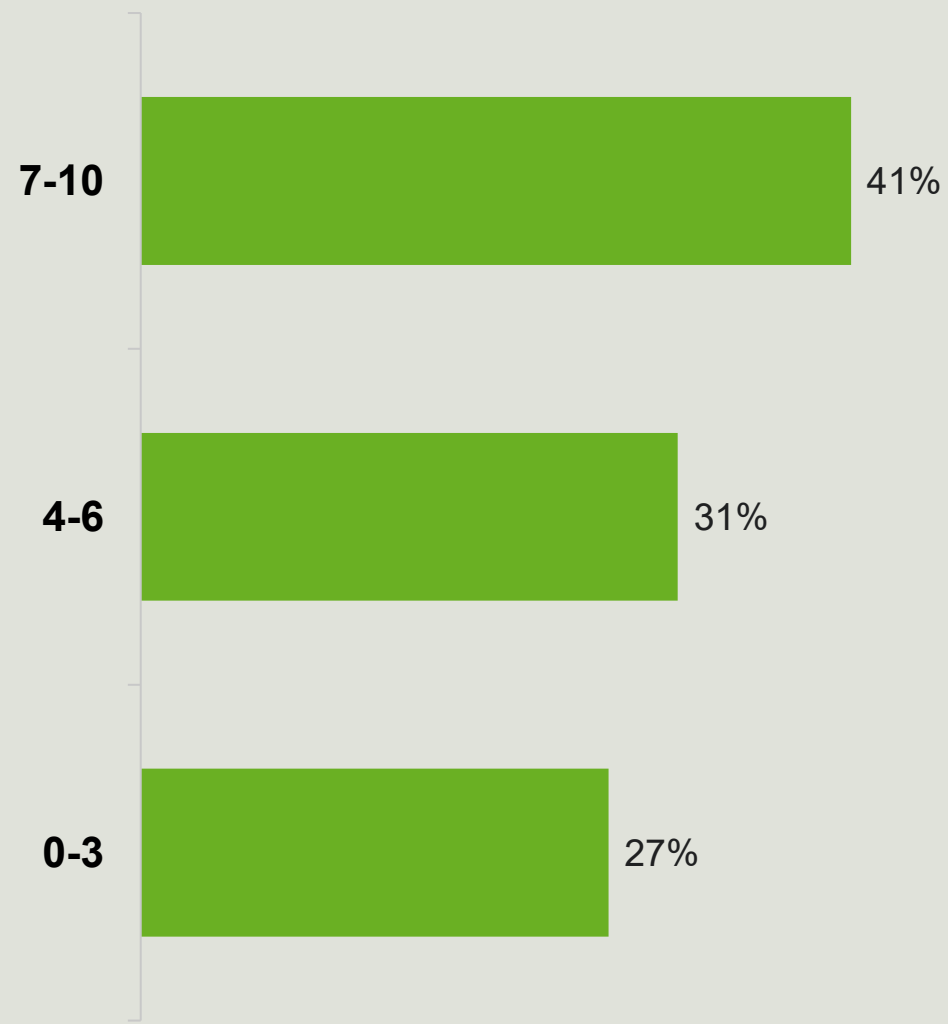
**Q17_Summary. Thinking about councillors across local government, how well do you think they live up to each of the following?
(0 = Not at all, 10 = Completely).**



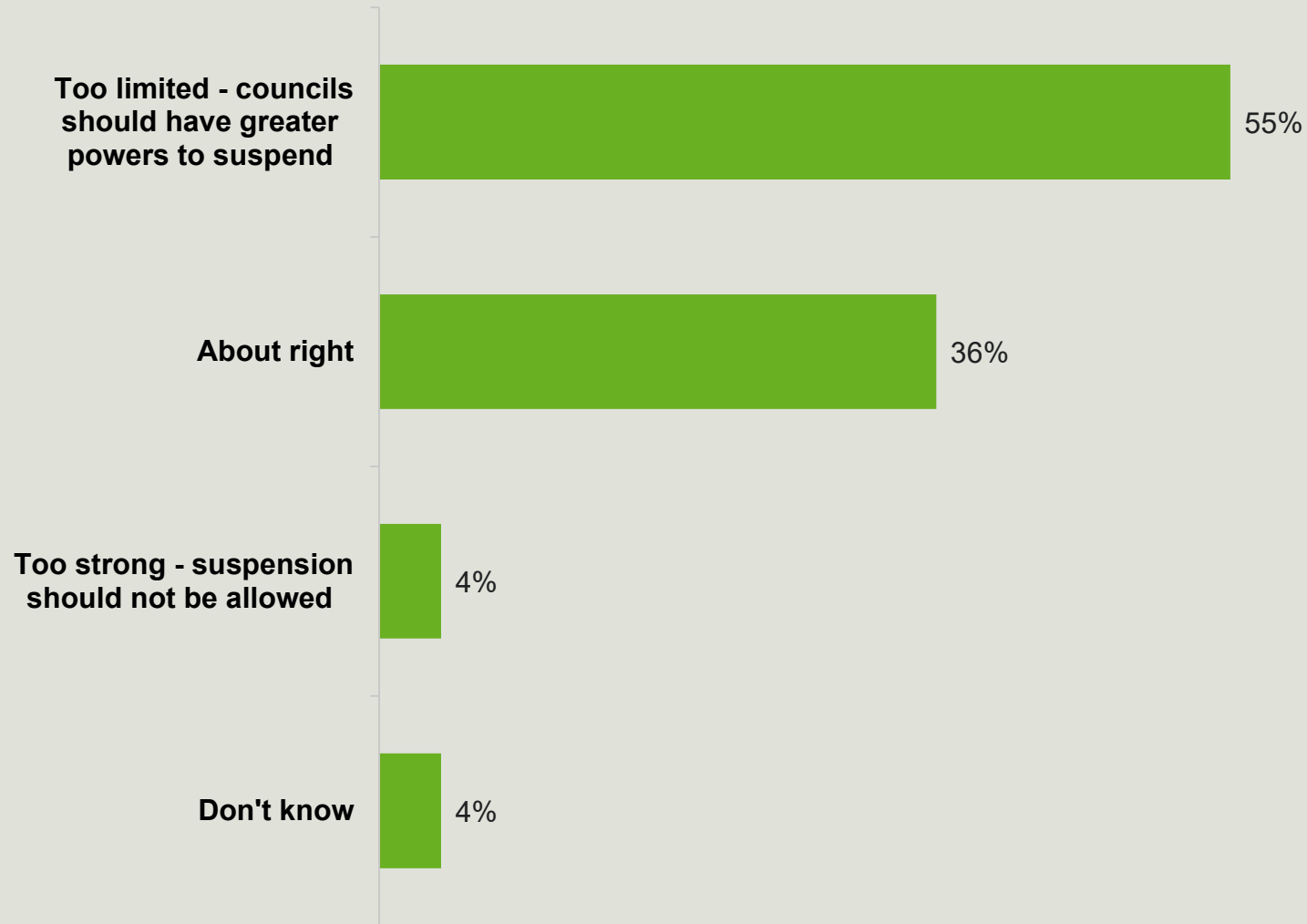
Q16. Thinking about councillor standards, how satisfied are you with the current rules governing councillor conduct and accountability in local government?



Q19. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'very poor' and 10 means 'very strong', how would you rate the overall effectiveness of current councillor standards and ethics arrangements in maintaining public confidence?



**Q18. At present, local authorities have limited powers to suspend councillors who breach codes of conduct
.How appropriate do you think this level of power is?**



APSE

Local Services Survey – The Public



Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

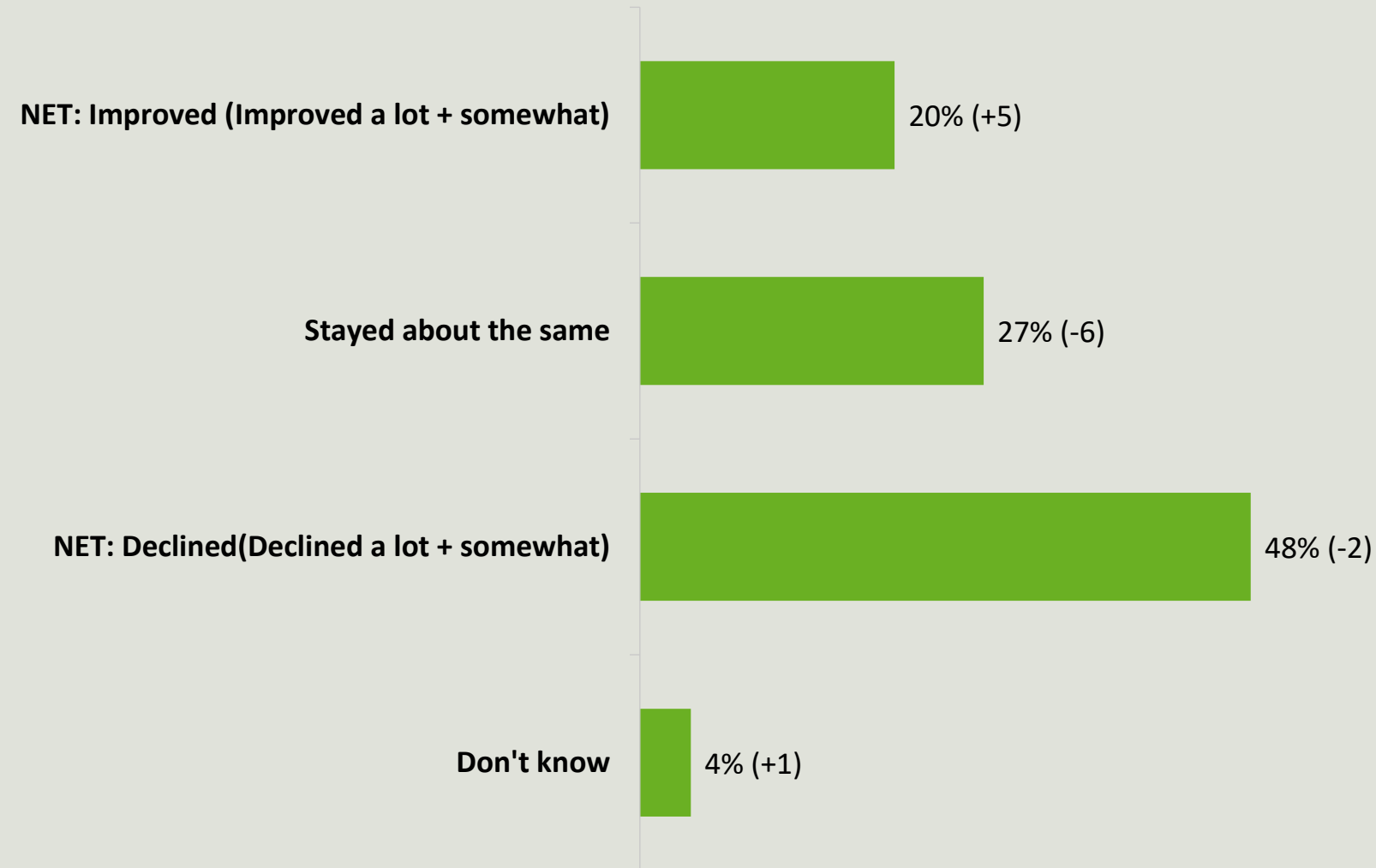
Methodology: Survey was conducted via online panel.

Fieldwork: 29th October – 12th November 2025

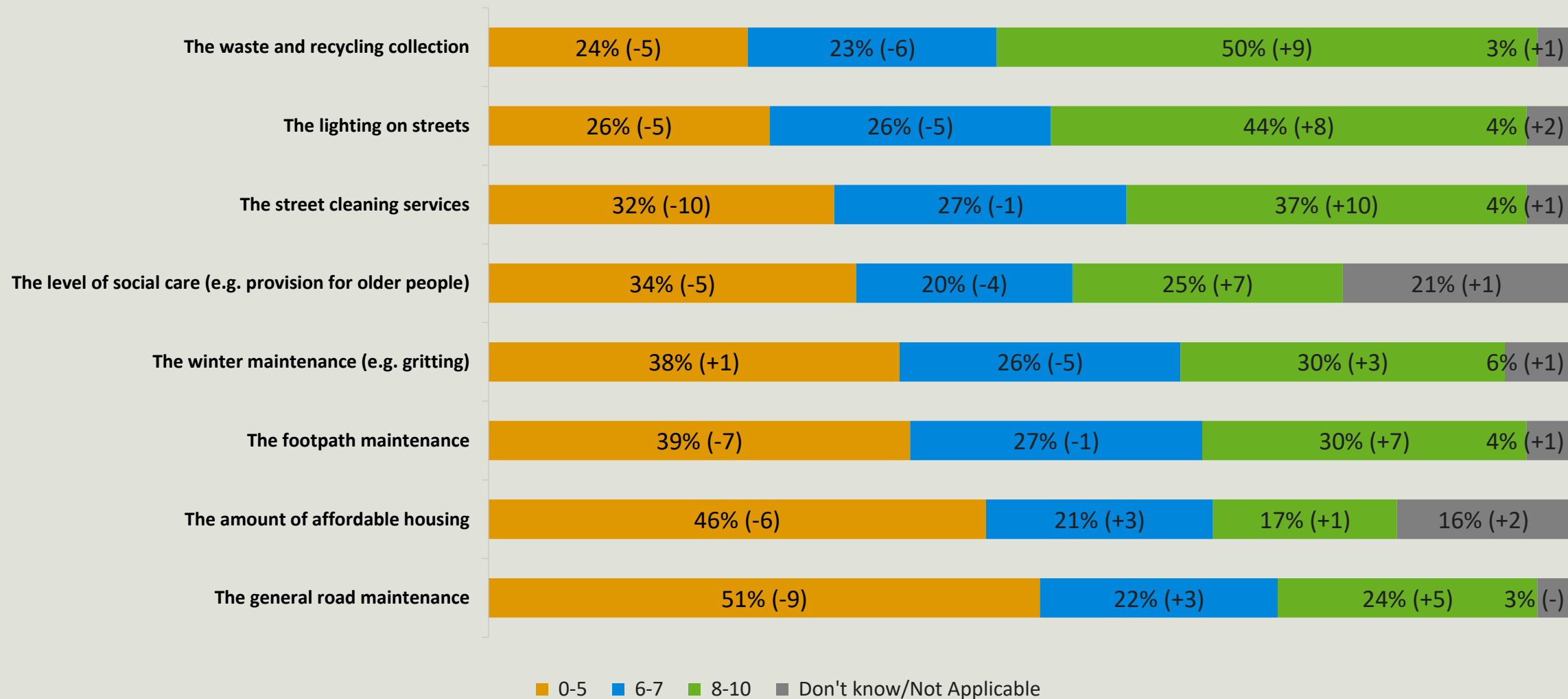
Sample size: 2361

Survation.

Q17. Do you think that local services have declined or improved in your local area in recent years?

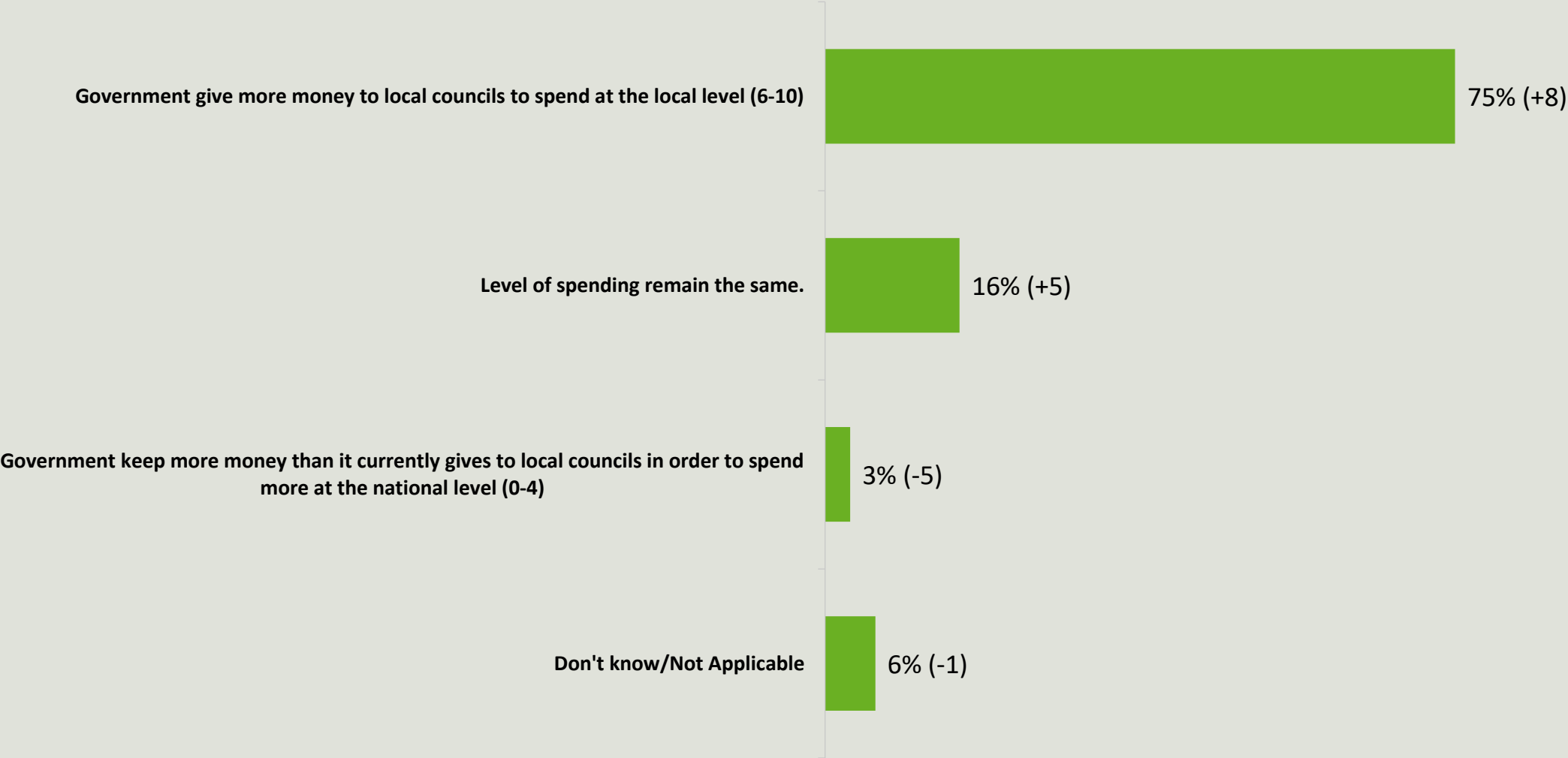


Q9_Q16_Summary. On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 meaning very dissatisfied and 10 meaning very satisfied, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following services in your local area?

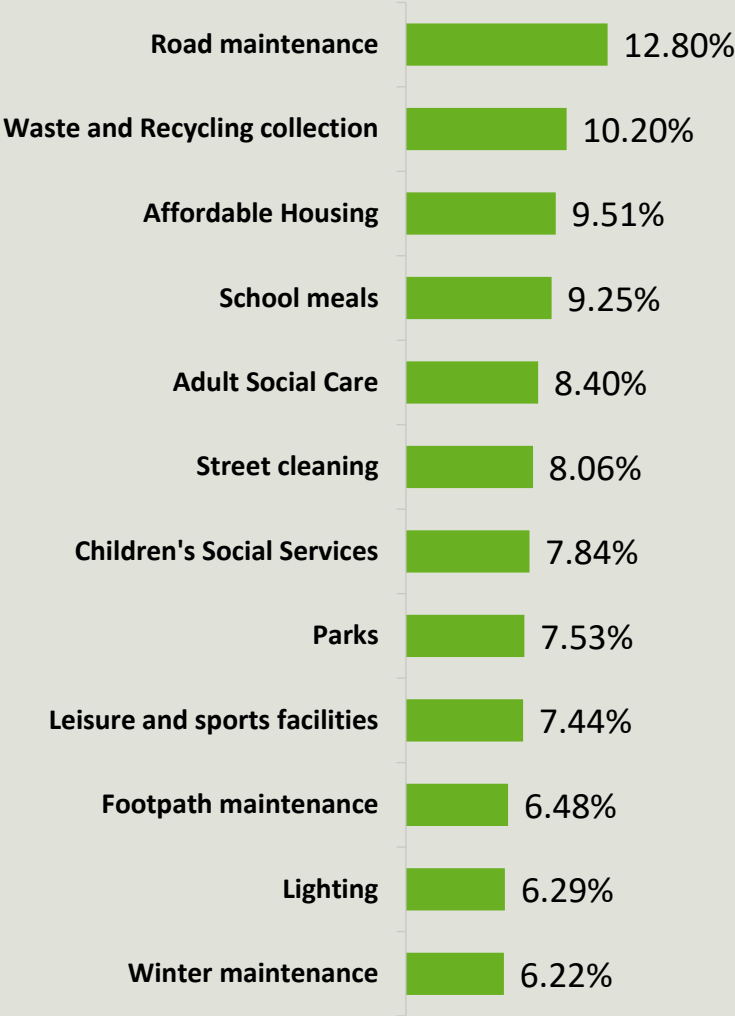


Q20. Please place yourself on the 0-10 scale below with respect to your opinion on spending in your local area.

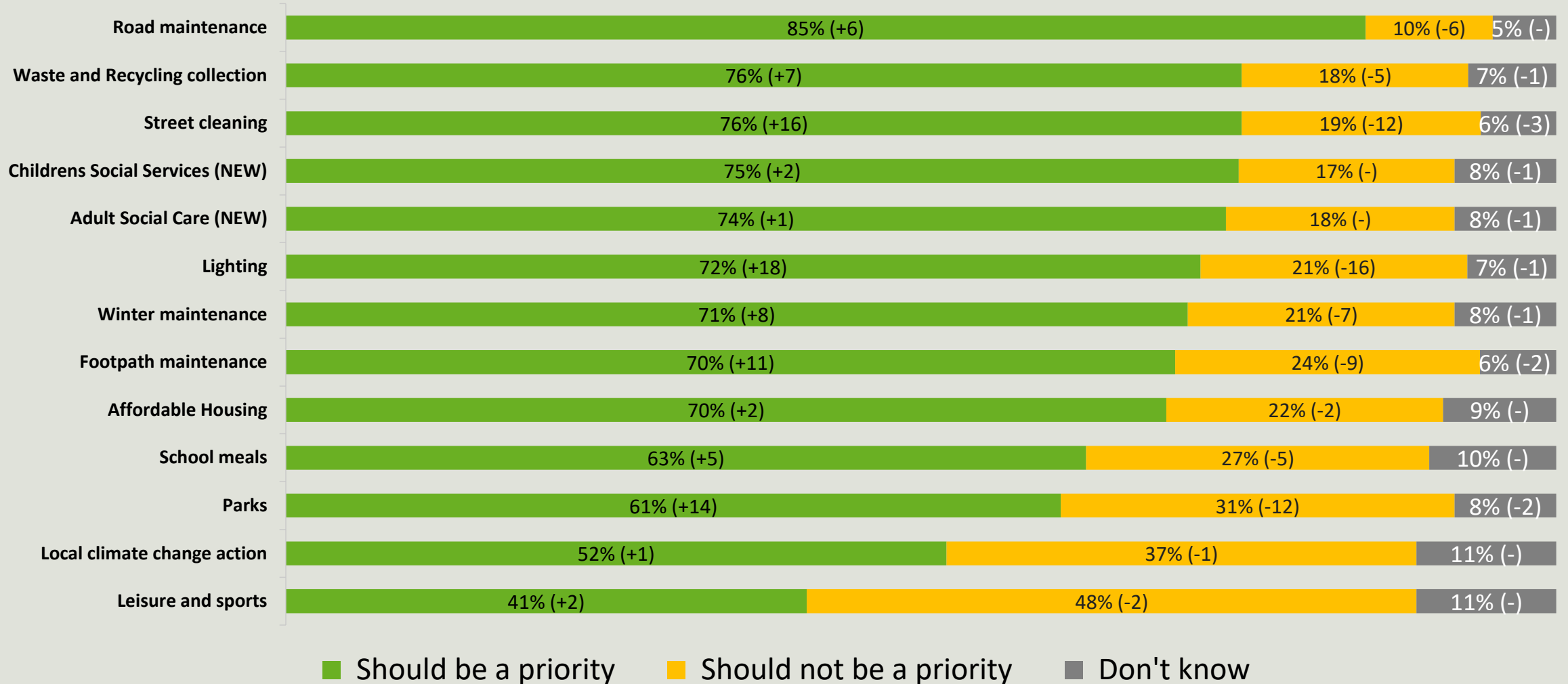
0 means that you would like to see the government keep more money than it currently gives to local councils in order to spend more at the national level and 10 means that you would like to see the government give more money to local councils to spend at the local level. 5 means that you would like to see the level of spending remain the same.



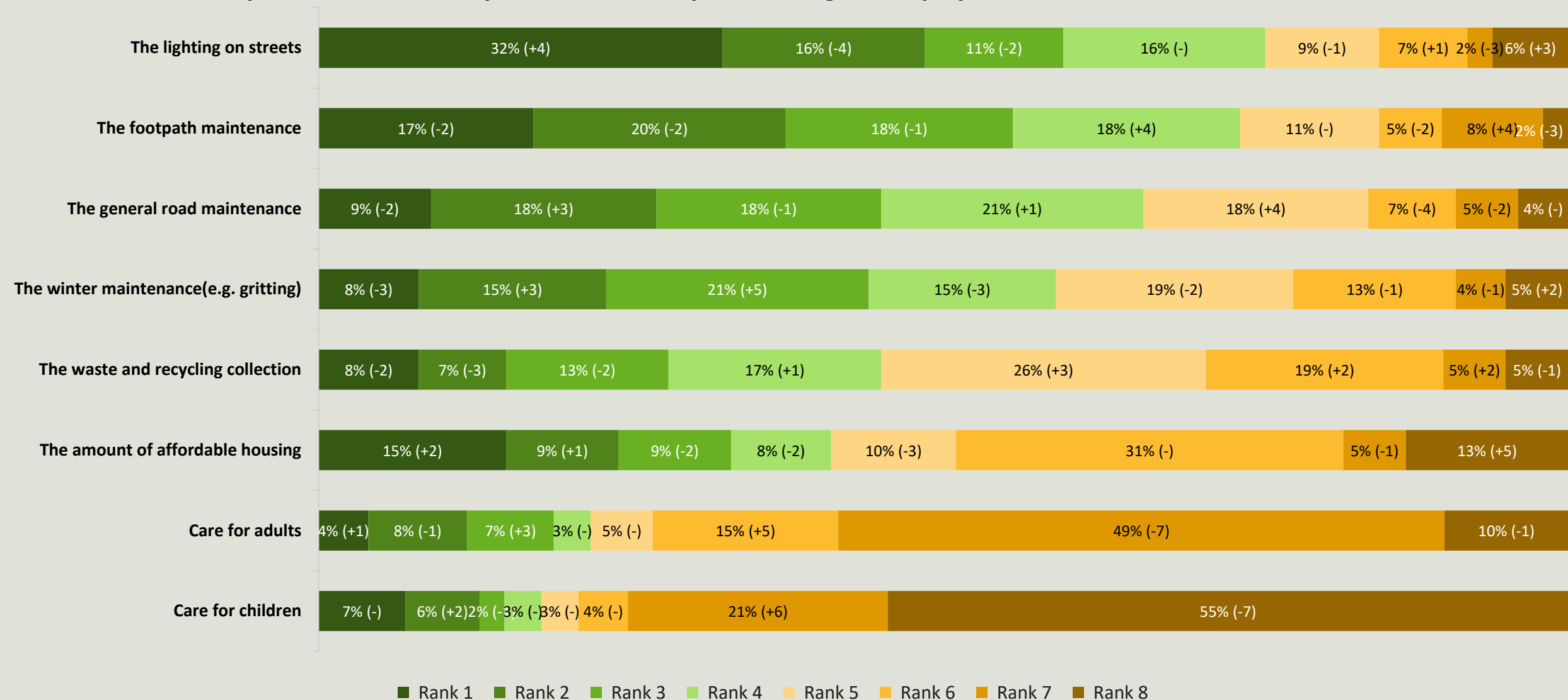
Q21_Q32_Summary. You stated that you would like to see more money given to local councils than is done so currently. If you had the choice, what percentage of the extra money would be spent on each of the 12 services below?



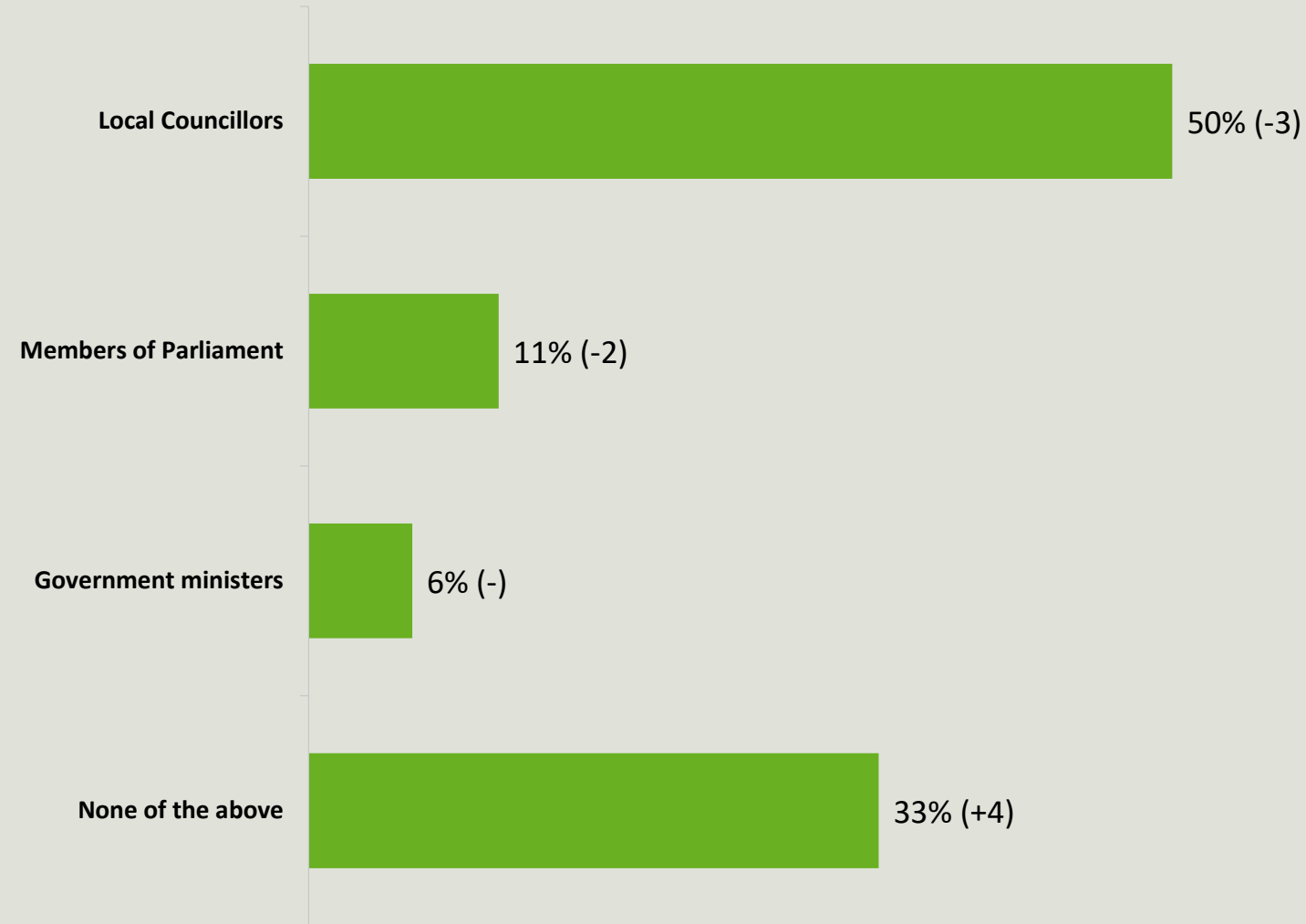
Q71-Q83. If the local government was making cuts to public services, should the following be a priority to protect? (THE PUBLIC_



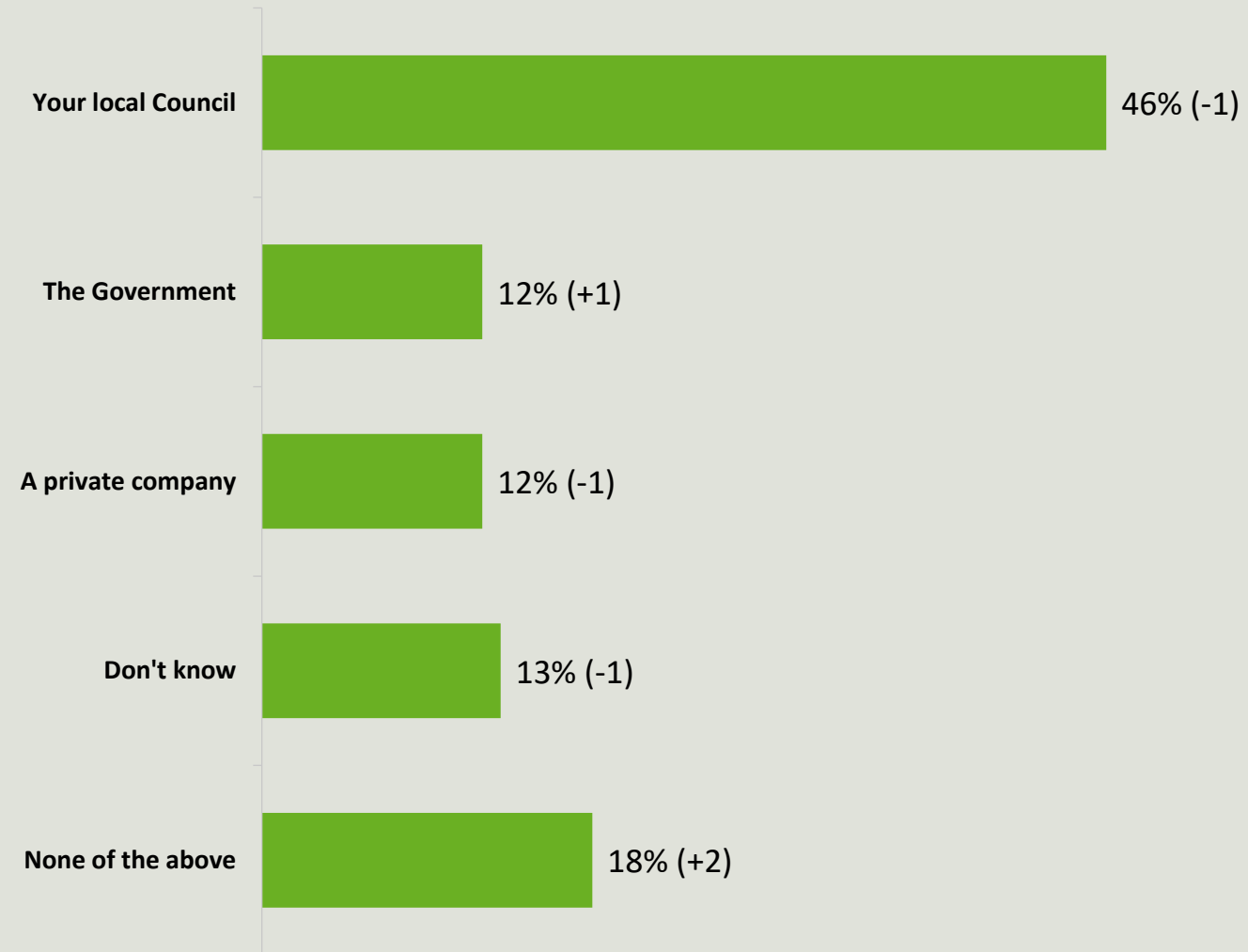
Q2_Summary. One way local authorities try to avoid issuing a section 114 notice (or S.95 in Scotland) is by cutting spending on certain services or stop providing altogether. Please rank each of the following services in order of how comfortable you'd be to see cut if your local authority were facing bankruptcy



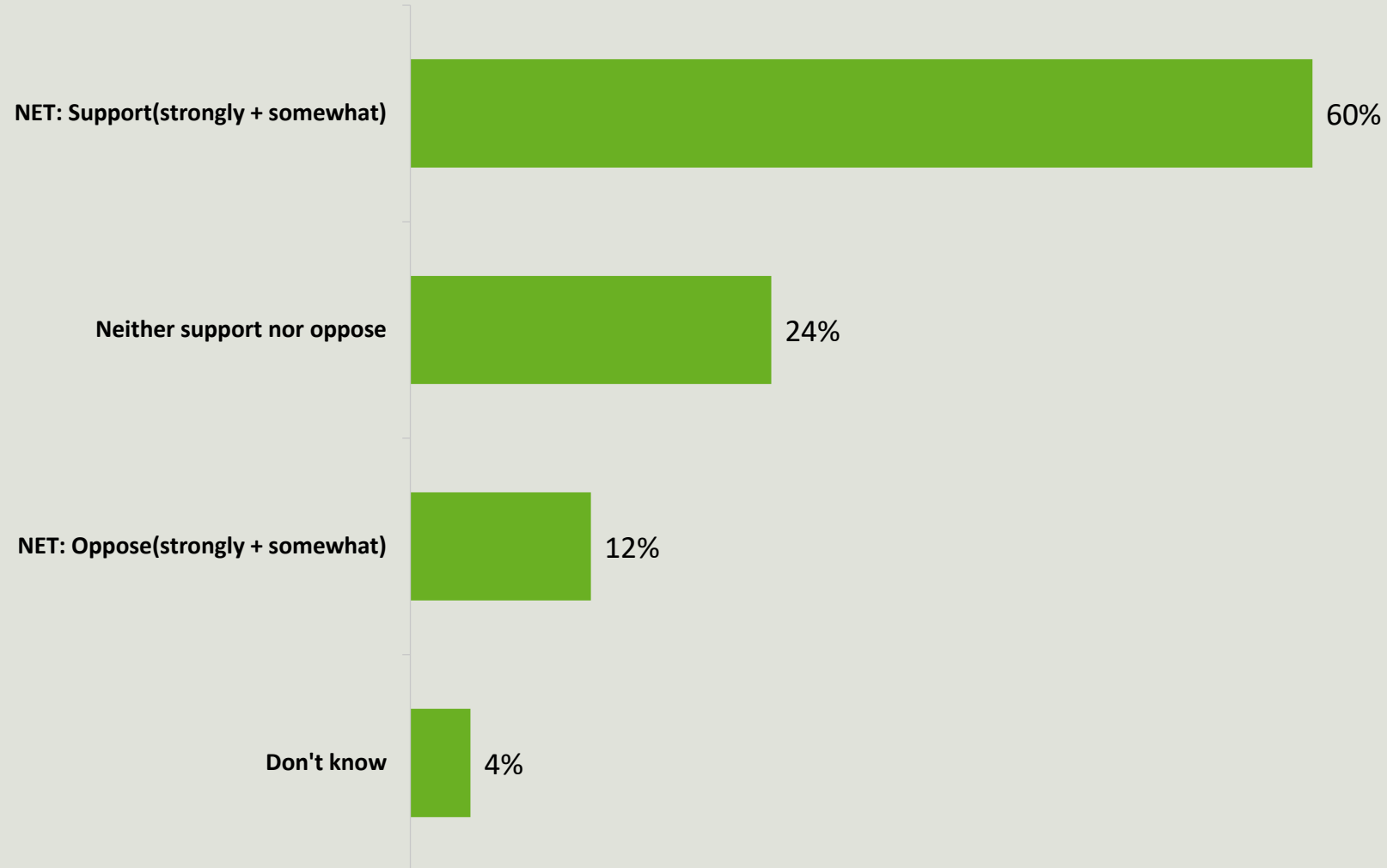
Q58. Who do you trust the most to make decisions about how services are provided in your local area?



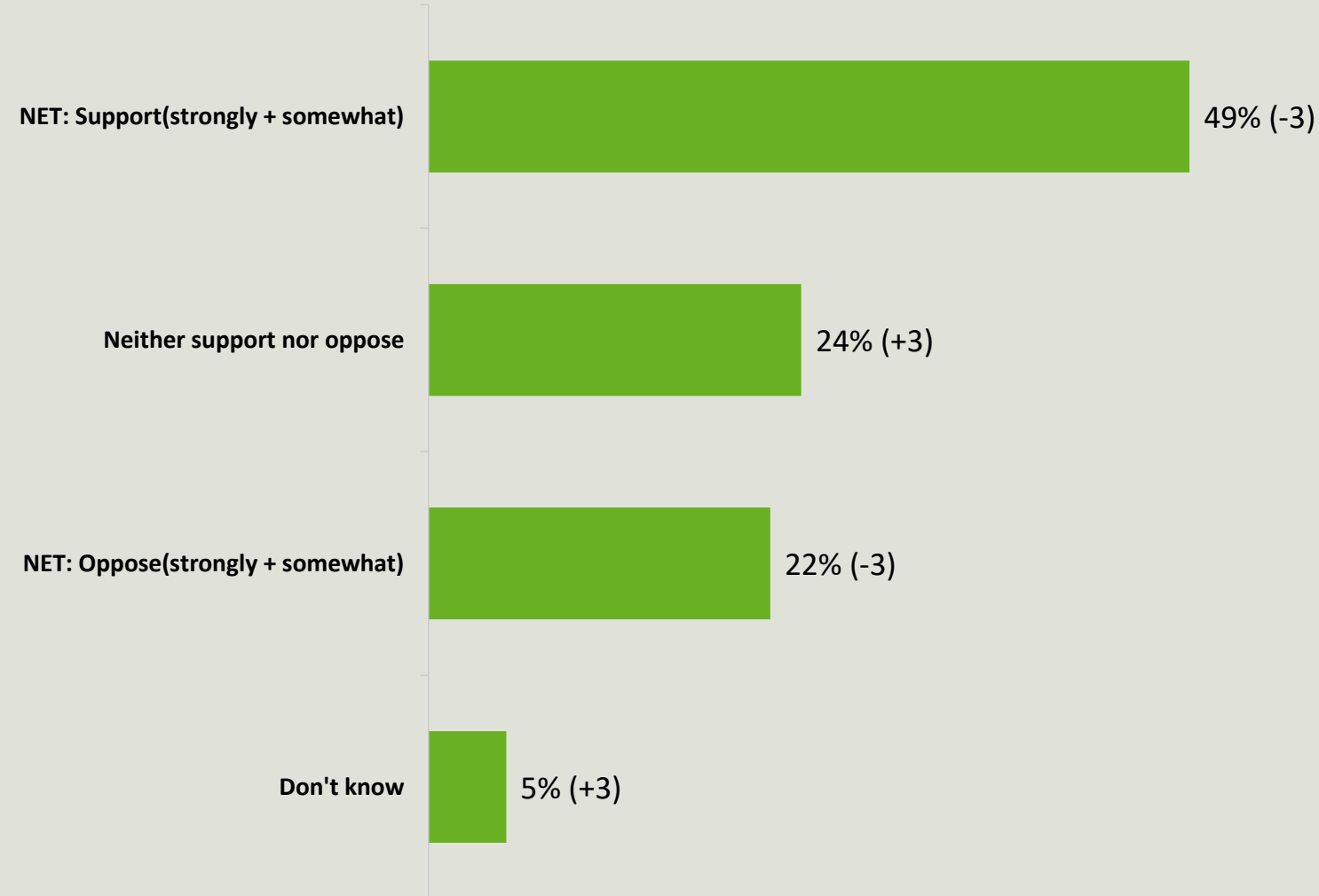
Q59. Who do you trust the most to deliver services to your local area?



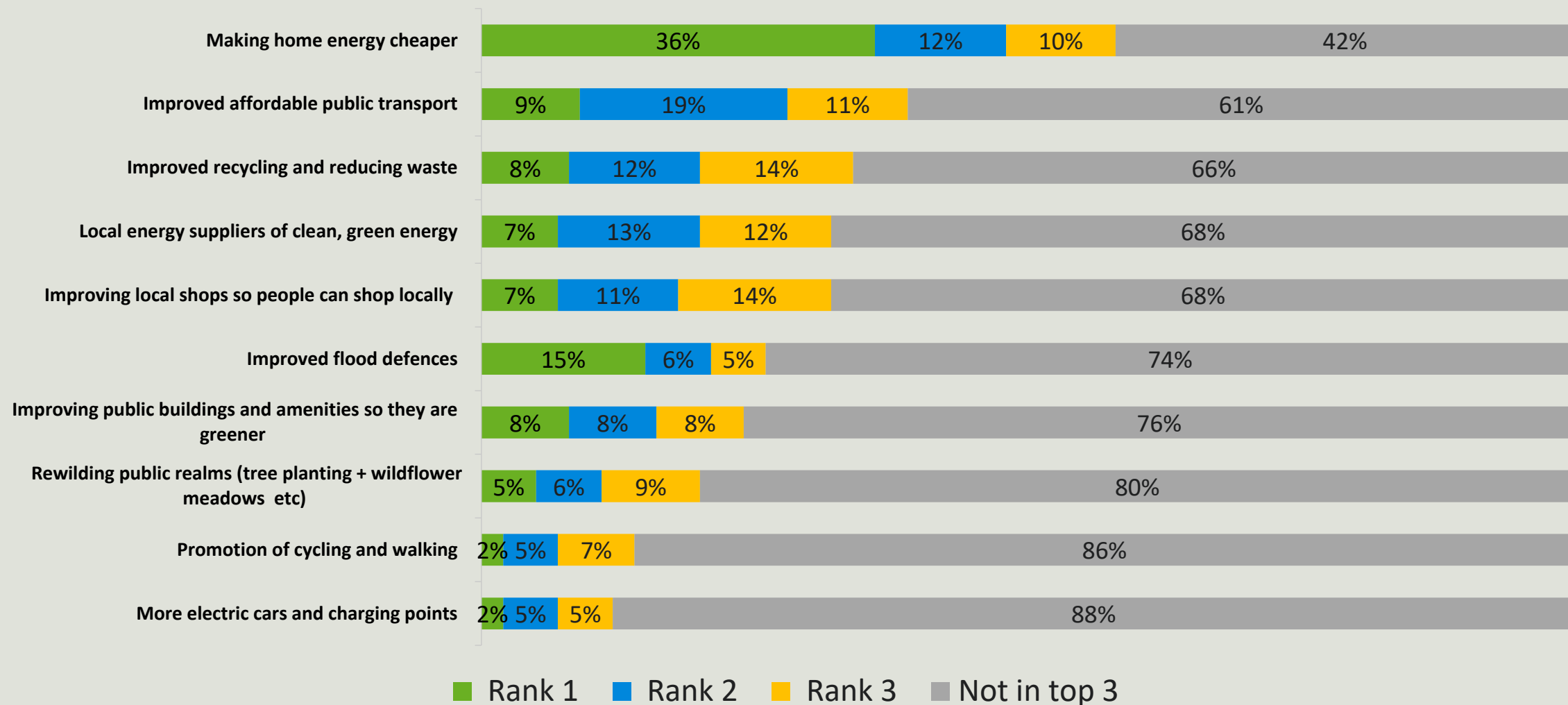
Q85. To what extent do you support or oppose councils introducing policies and schemes that are designed to directly address air pollution and improve health?



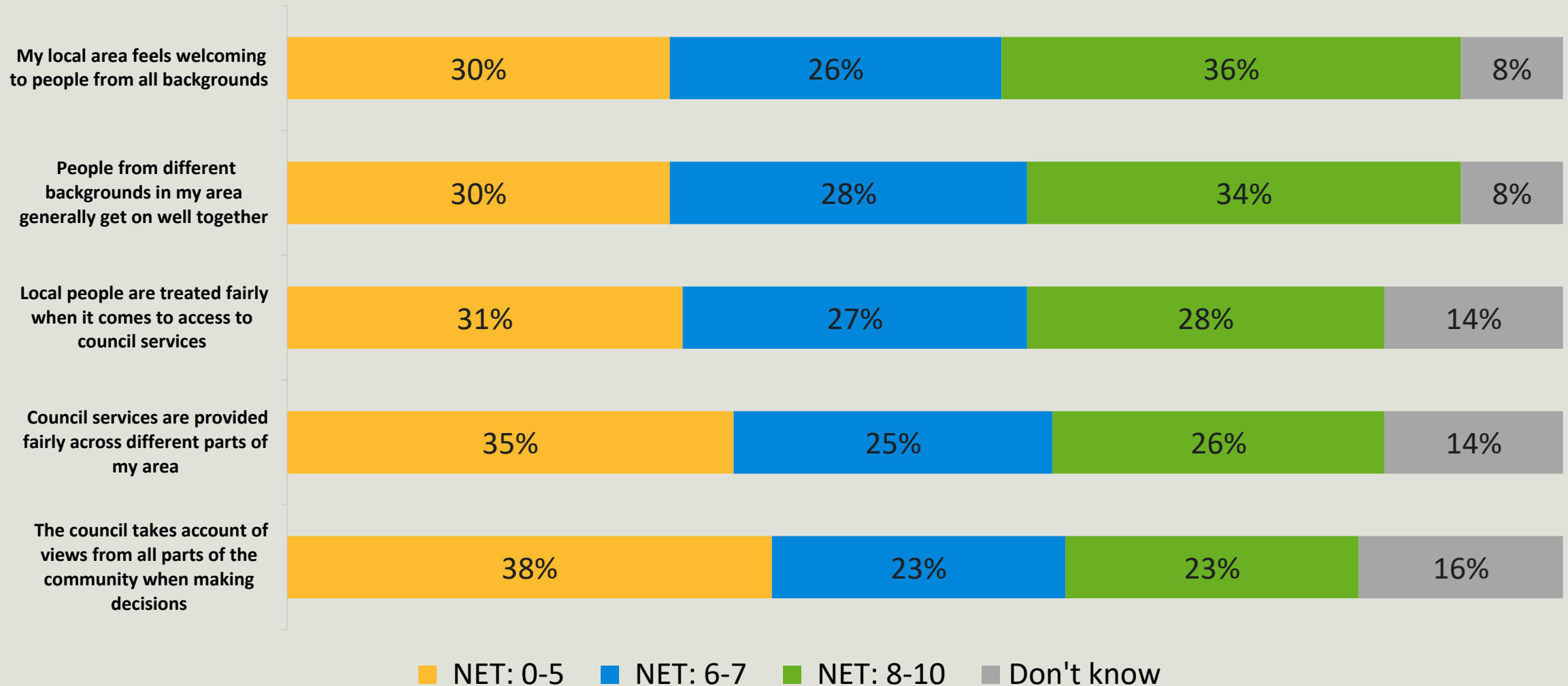
Q84. In some towns and cities, various schemes designed to reduce congestion and emissions from cars have been introduced, sometimes known as Low-traffic neighbourhoods. Other schemes such as Ultra-low emission zone and congestion charge have been introduced in London. Supporters say they help create greener and healthier towns and cities. Opponents say they are an unnecessary burden on drivers. To what extent do you support or oppose such schemes for the purposes of improving health?



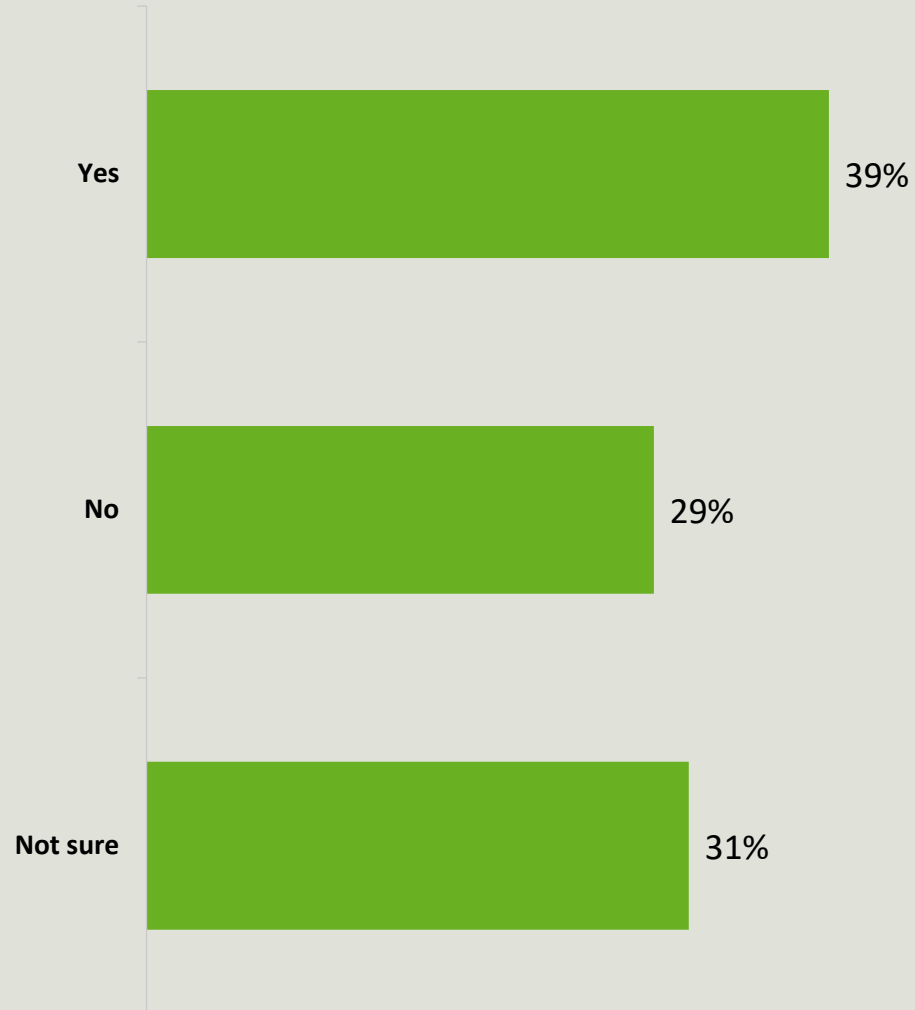
Q61_Q70_Summary. Thinking about your local area and the steps required to combat the effects of climate change, what are your top 3 priorities? Please rank your top 3 in order of preference



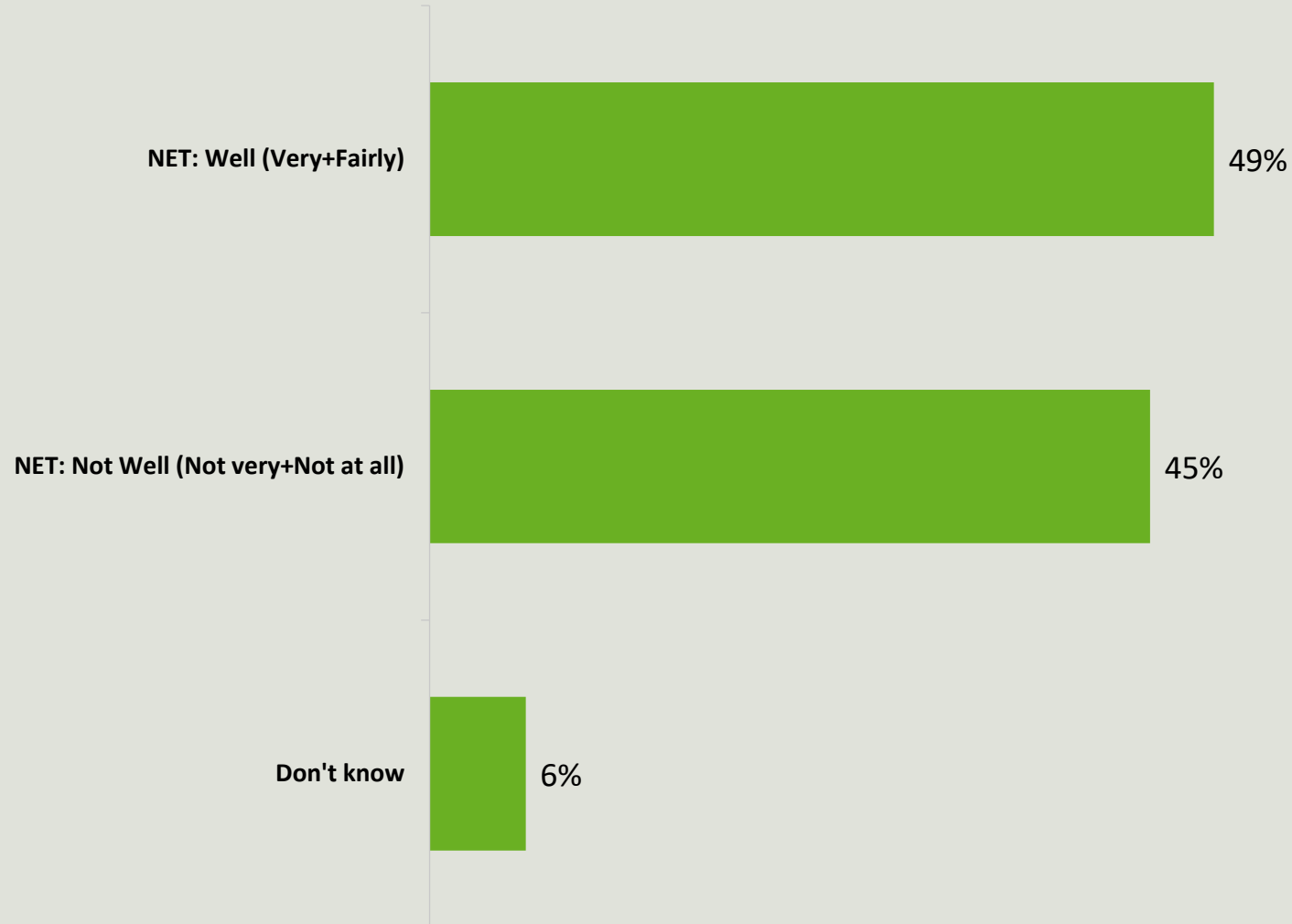
Q86-Q90_Summary. Thinking about your local area - the place within about 15-20 minutes' walk from your home - how well do the following describe your local area? (0 = Not at all true, 10 = Completely true)



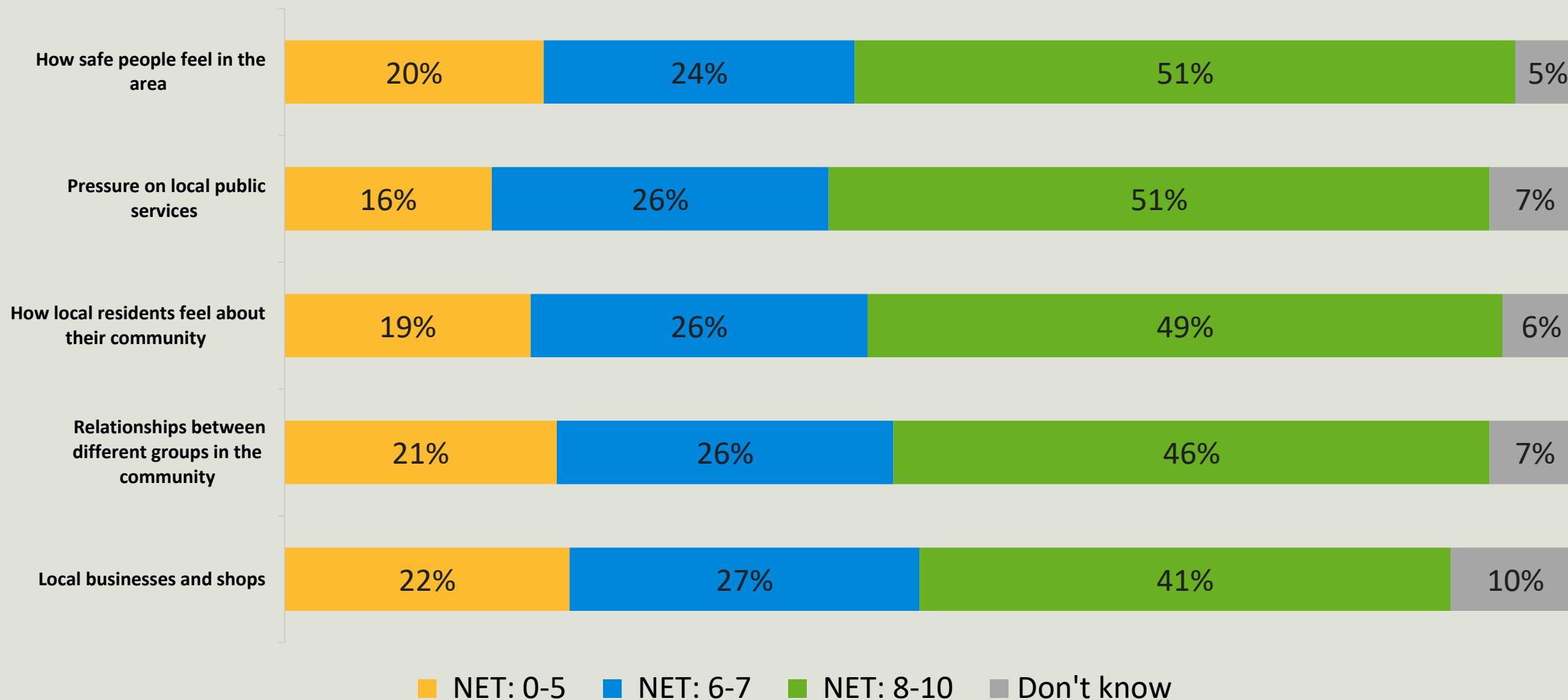
Q91. In some areas, local hotels or houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) have been used to provide accommodation under contract to the Home Office — for example, for asylum seekers or others in temporary need of housing. As far as you know, has this happened in your local area?



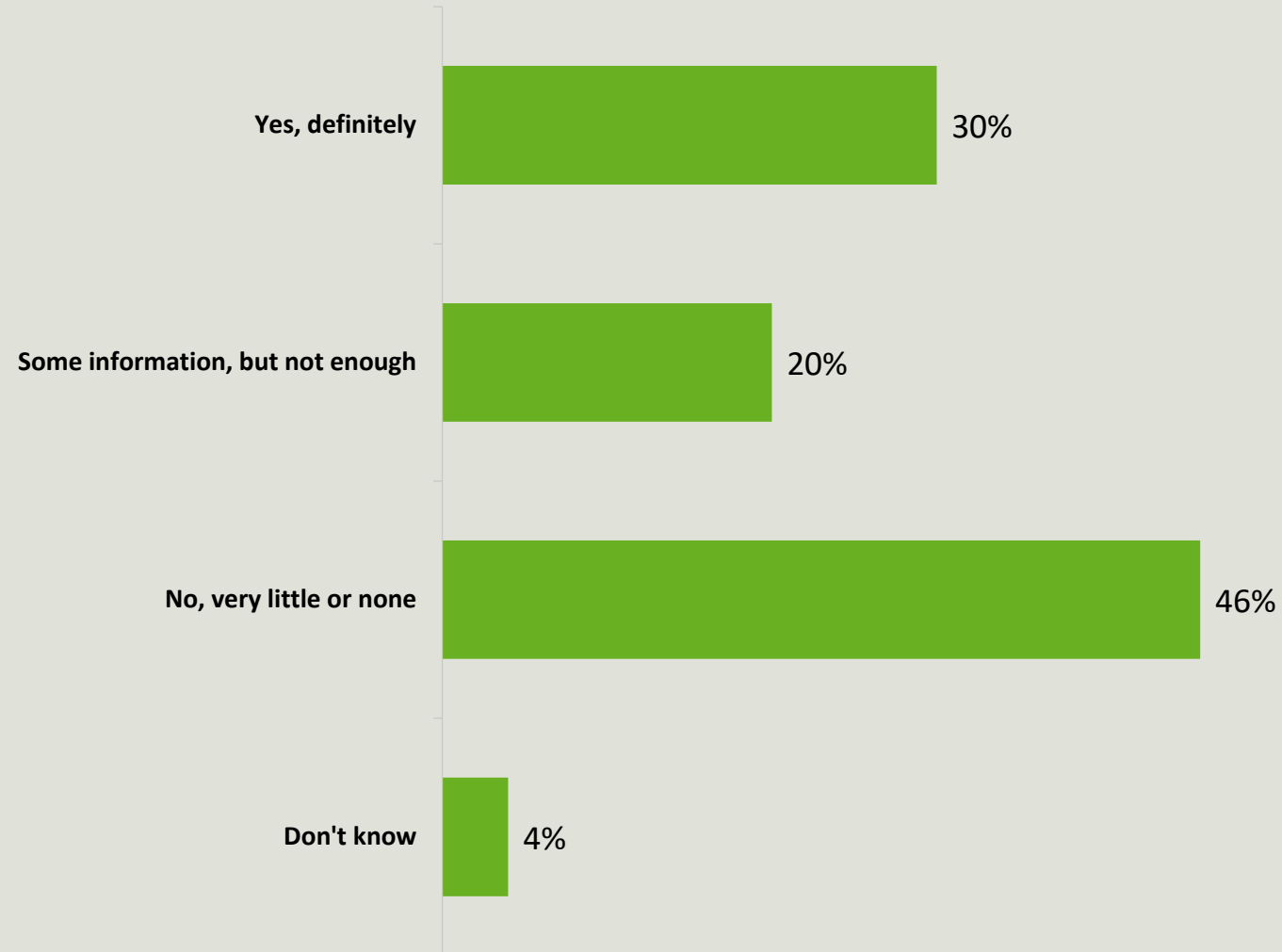
Q92. Overall, how well do you think the situation has been managed in your local area?



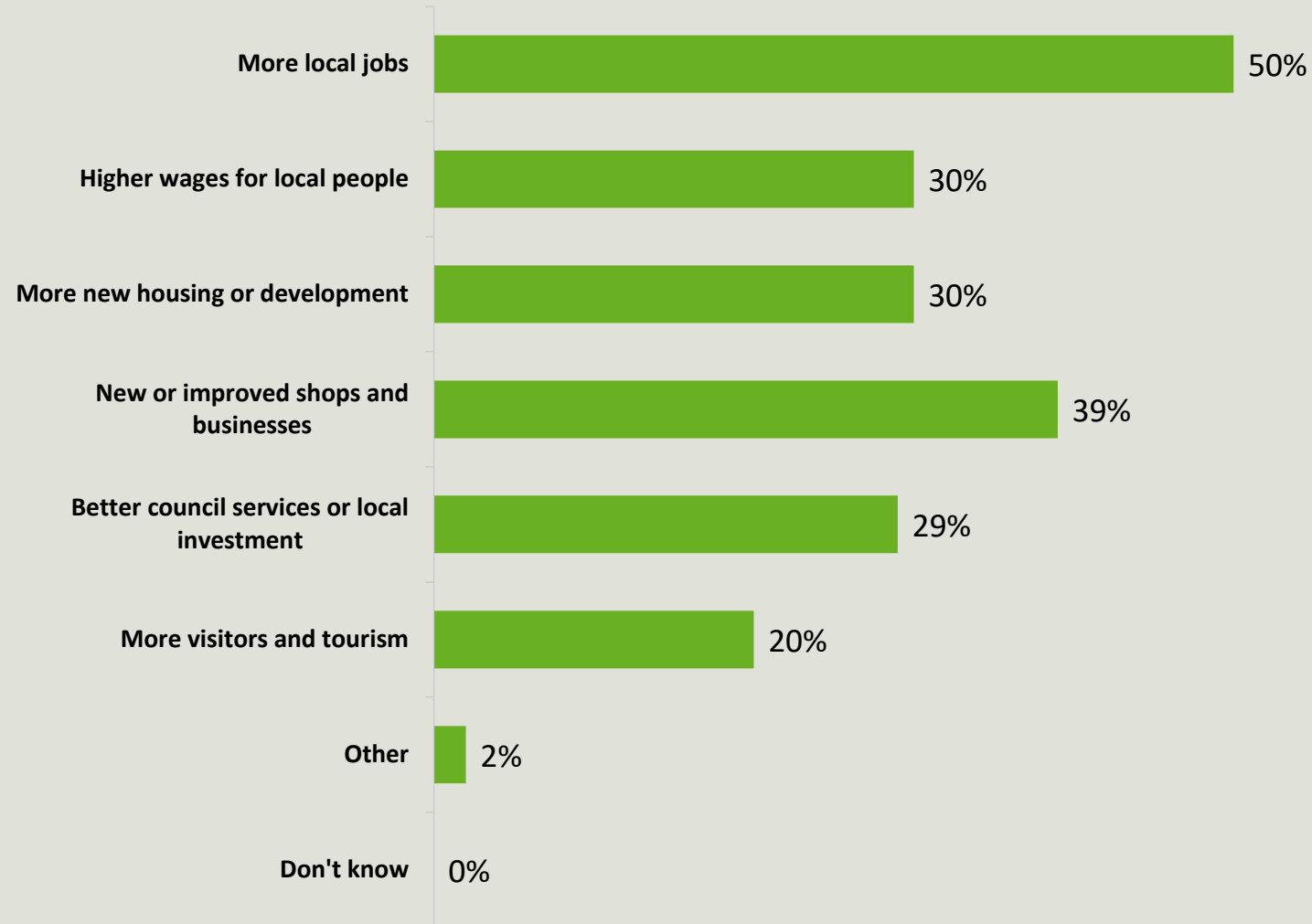
Q93-Q97_Summary. Thinking about the impact on your local area, how much of an effect - if any - has the use of such accommodation had on each of the following? (0 = No effect at all, 10 = A very large effect)



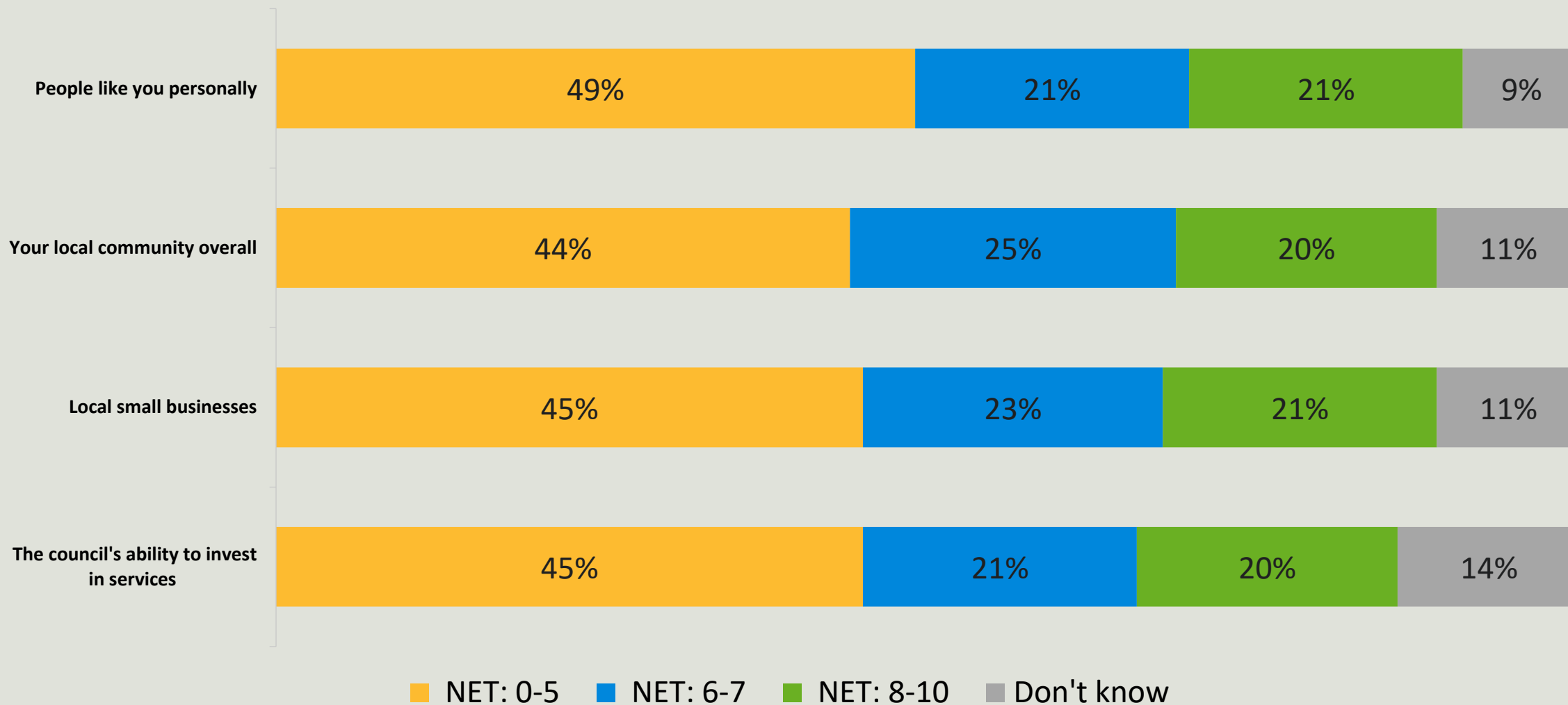
Q98. Overall, do you feel that your council has provided enough information to local residents about decisions involving this type of accommodation?



Q99. When you hear about 'economic growth' in your local area, which of the following comes to mind most?



Q100. People like you personally -On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'no benefit at all' and 10 means 'a great deal of benefit', how much do you feel recent economic growth (if any) has benefited each of the following?



What We've Learned From Councillors

- **Financial pressures remain real — but outlook has improved over the year**

Councillors still voice **serious concern** about long-term sustainability, but fewer now expect a Section 114/S95 notice than last year — a notable shift.

- Despite a decade of cuts, many councils are **holding the line on core services**.
- Planning and Housing Regeneration committee members are increasingly sceptical about new housing schemes in their area
- Still - majority support for **housebuilding, environmental measures, and practical climate action**
- Councillors continue to report **insufficient support from central government**, especially on asylum accommodation responsibilities.
- Standards and conduct systems are viewed as **functional but not fully effective**, signalling appetite for reform.

What We've Learned From the Public

- **Rising satisfaction.** While the public still recognises long-term pressures, satisfaction scores have increased across multiple services this year - a major positive for the sector.
- People more apt to attribute past decline to national funding decisions, not council mismanagement.
- Strong appetite for more local control and investment, reinforcing APSE's commitment to capable, resilient service delivery
- High support for air-quality schemes, neighbourhood improvements, and green transport
- A proportion of the public seek greater information on decisions relating to home office accommodation
- Local government continues to enjoy significantly higher trust than national government.

The Takeaway for APSE Members

- Local government is delivering despite funding pressure and people can see it.
- Fewer councillors expect a Section 114/S95 notice – the worst may be behind us
- Public satisfaction is **up** across key services.
- Residents and councillors trust **local delivery** far more than national government.
- There is clear public backing for **investment, local control, and cleaner, greener places.**
- **Your work is driving improvement.**
The public mandate is there.

APSE & Survation 2026 – Annual Polling of Councillors & The Public.



Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

Methodology: Councillor survey was conducted online.
Email invitations were sent to elected councillors in the
UK.

Fieldwork: 5th November – 18th November 2025

Sample size: 504

Survation.