




The State we're in - highways and street lighting

Rob Bailey, Principal Advisor, APSE



Highway maintenance budgets CUT to average of **£26m**



A One-time Catch-up would take 12 years to Complete



and Cost **£16.81bn**


52% of local roads



have less than 15 years' structural life left





Roads resurfaced every 93 years



A pothole filled every 18 seconds every day for **10 years**

Average carriageway budget shortfall per authority



£7.4m

New Government



- New plans for Highways Block Grant
- 25% funding held back
- New Performance regime



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Policy paper

English Devolution White Paper

Published 16 December 2024



Angela Rayner

Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
by Command of His Majesty

Foreword by the Deputy Prime Minister

The British people deserve an economy that works for the whole country, with control

APSE Councillors Survey – Councils Under Pressure



Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

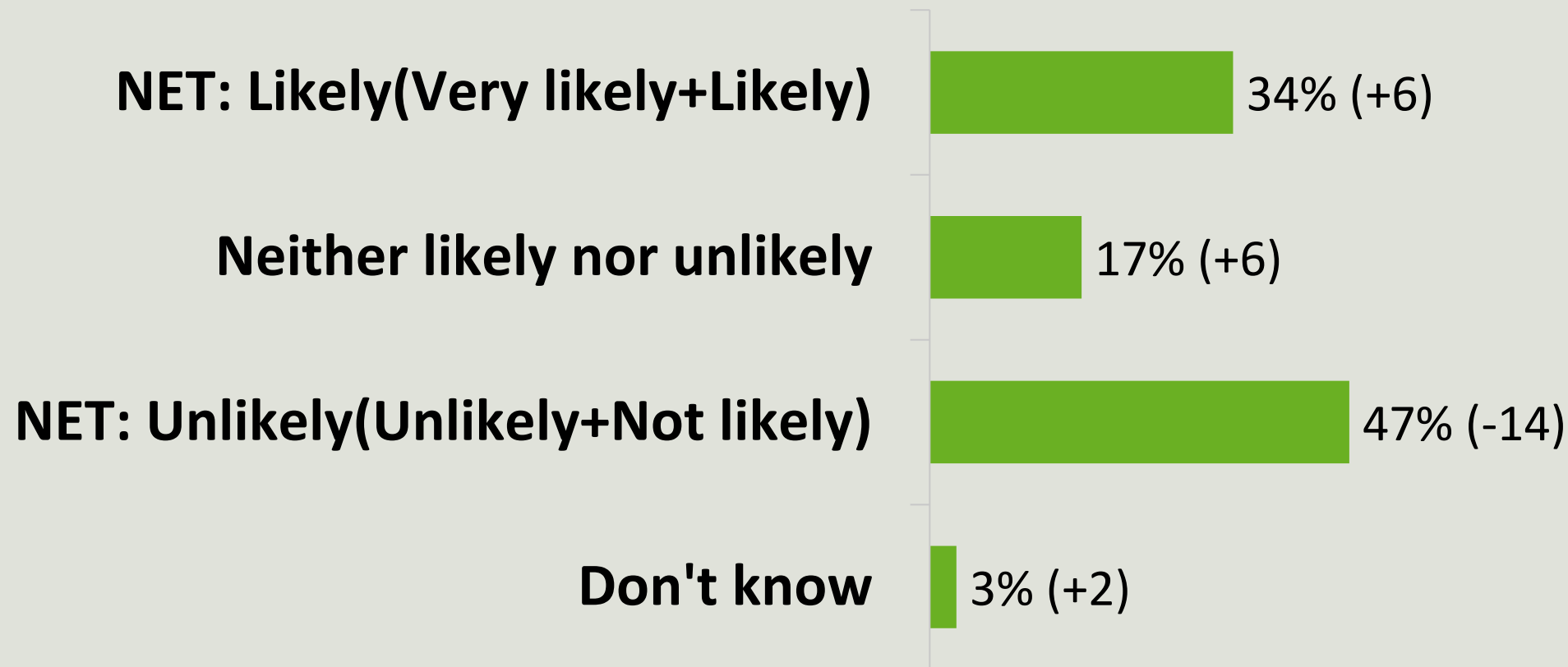
Methodology: Survey was conducted online. Email invitations were sent to all elected councillors in the UK.

Fieldwork: 18th – 27th November 2024

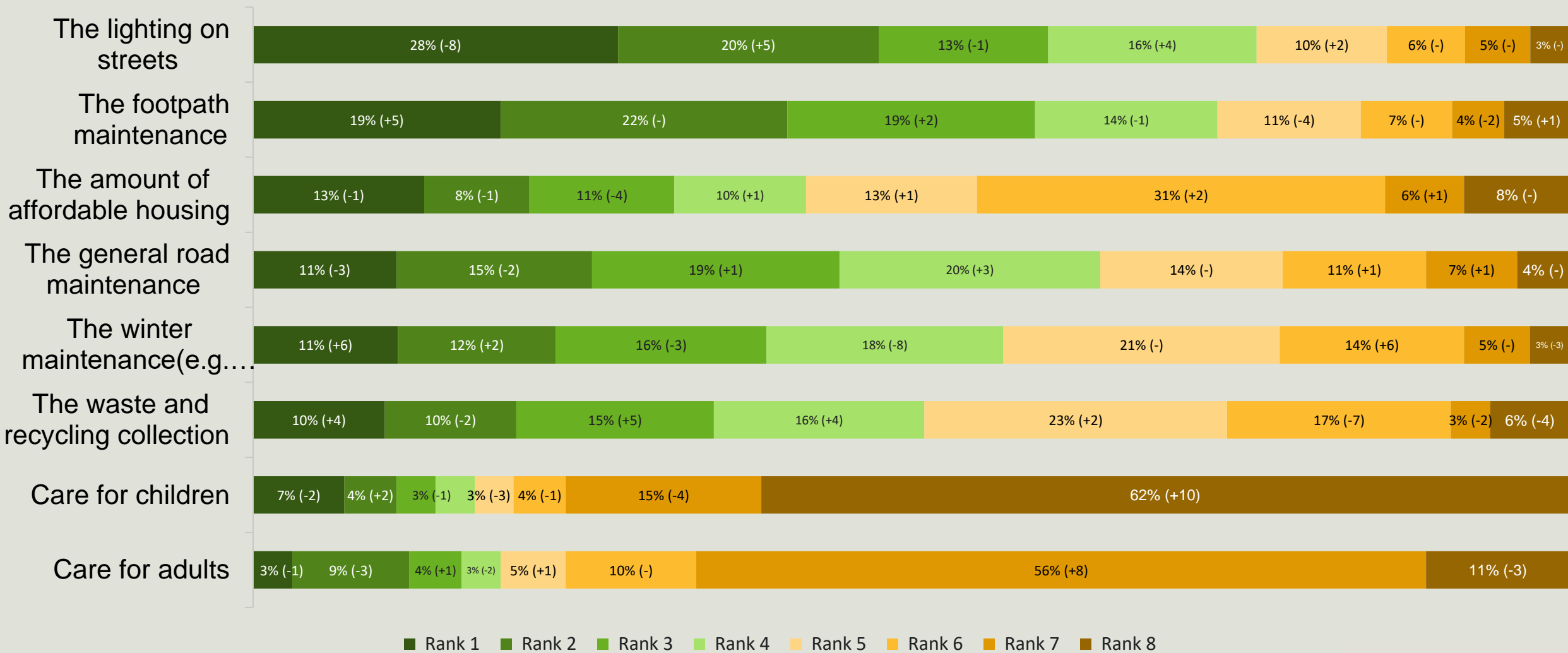
Sample size: 517

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?

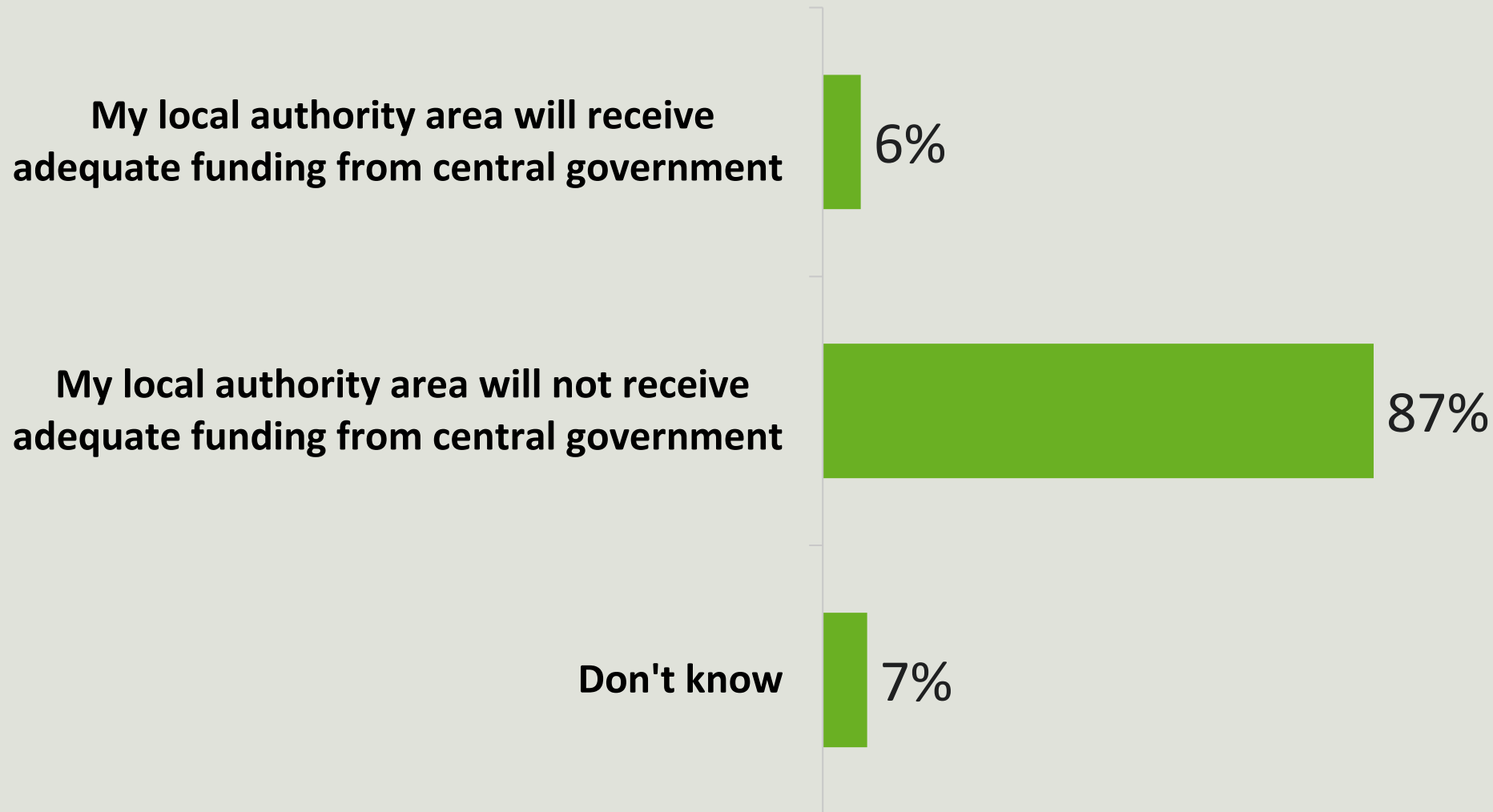


Q2_Summary. One way local authorities try to avoid issuing a section 114 notice (or S.95 in Scotland) is by cutting spending on certain services or stop providing altogether. Please rank each of the following services in order of how comfortable you'd be to see cut if your local authority were facing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



BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 517. Changes vs 2023 survey.

Q4. At the recent budget, the Chancellor provided an additional £1.3 billion in financial support for local government. Thinking about the financial situation of the council you sit on, which of the following is closest to your view?



Public Opinion of Council Services in 2024?



Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

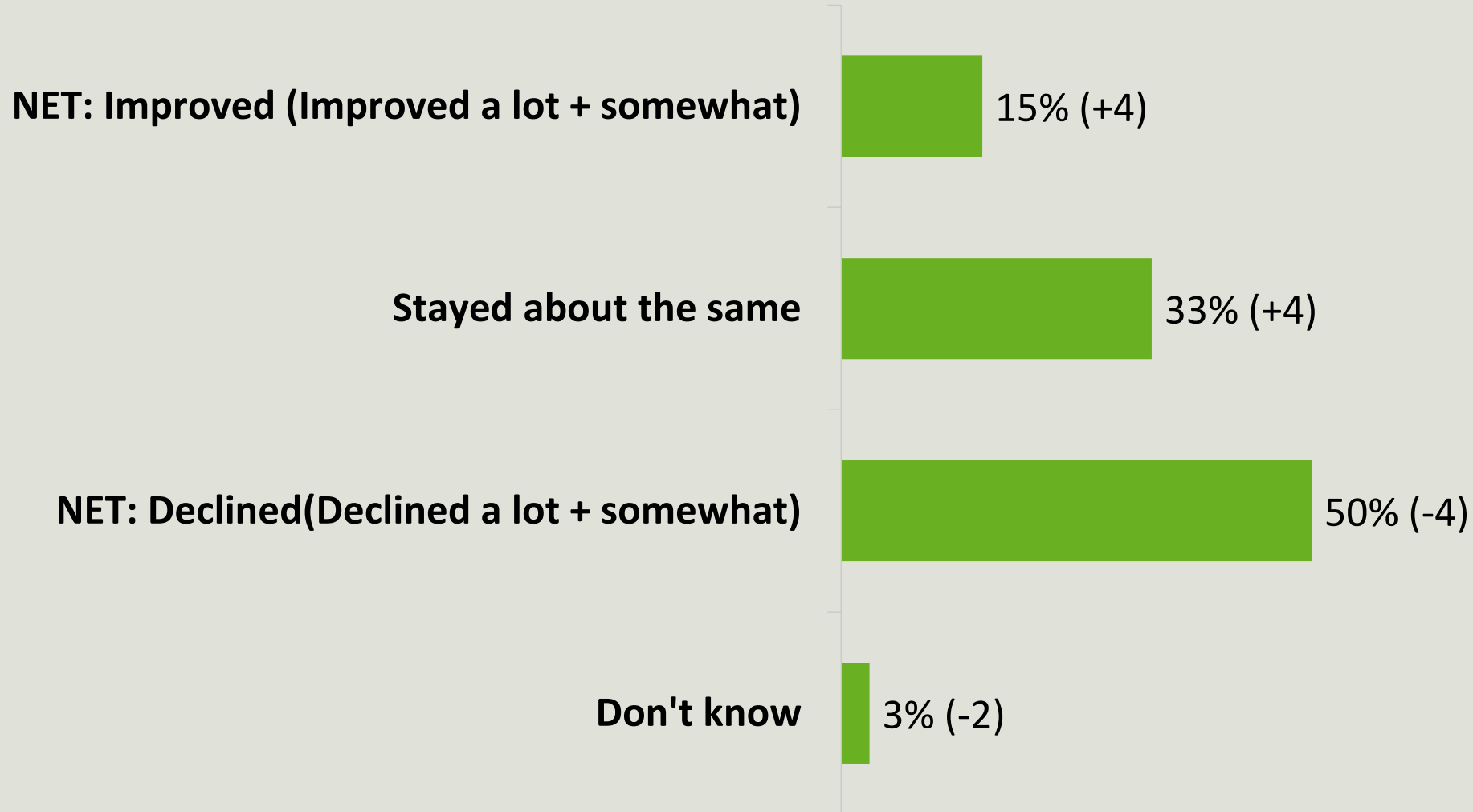
Methodology: Survey was conducted via online panel.

Fieldwork: 18th – 27th November 2024

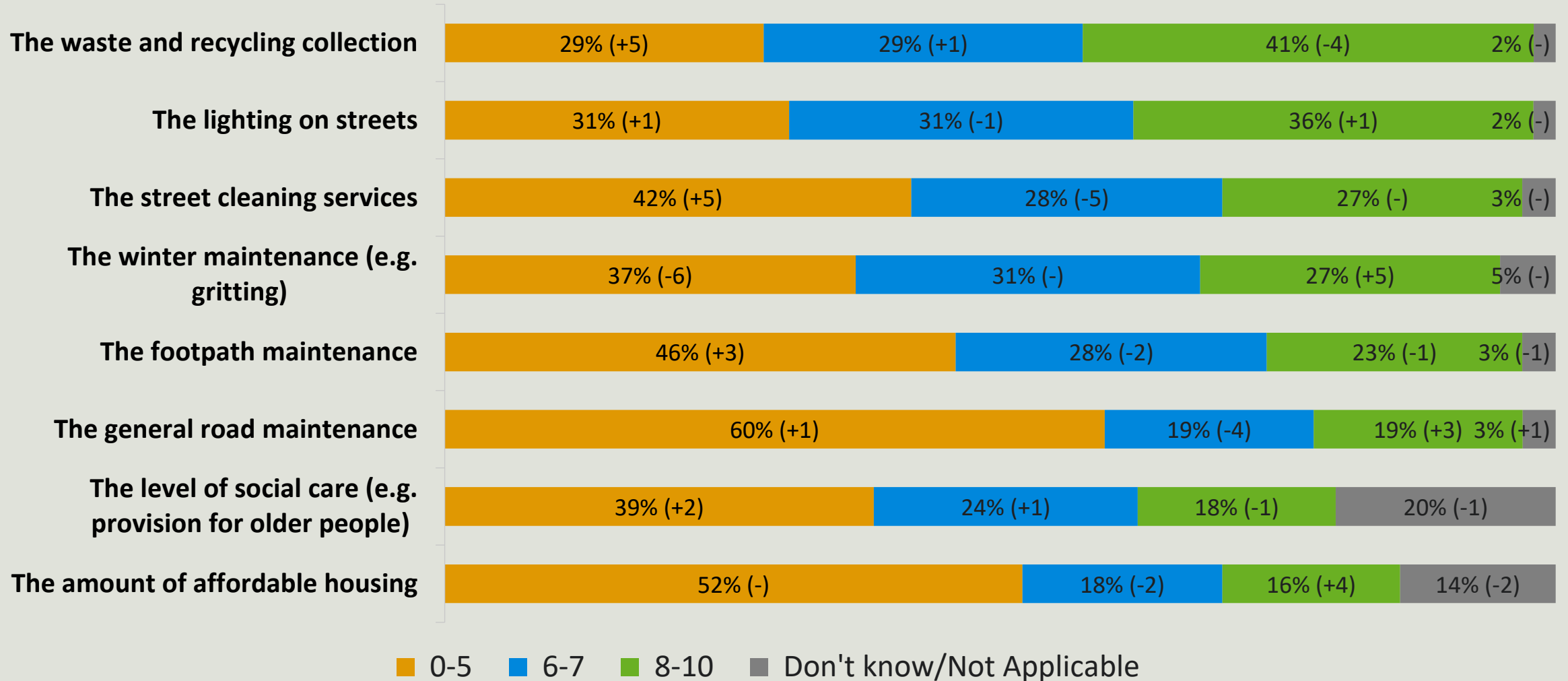
Sample size: 517

Survation.

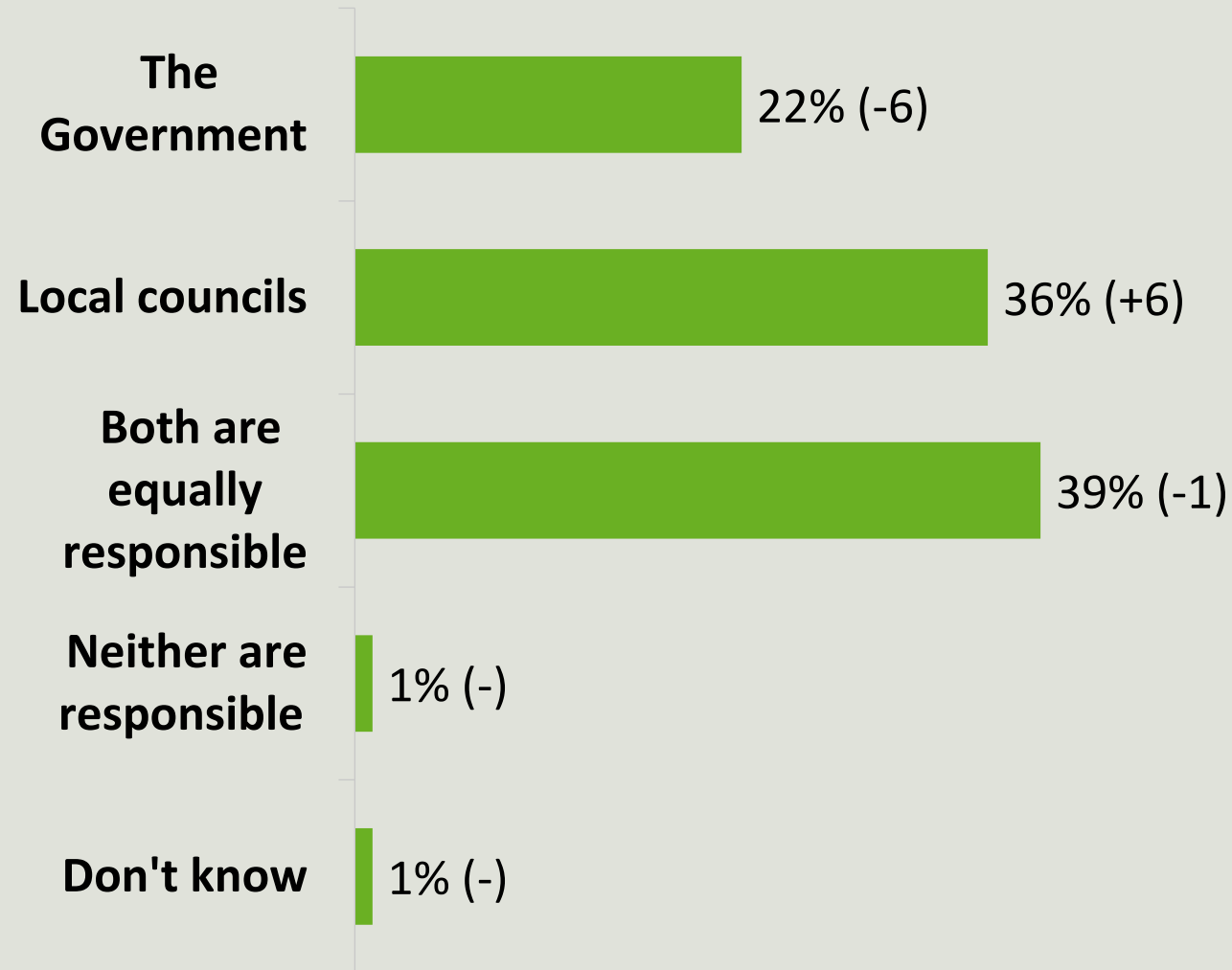
Q17. Do you think that local services have declined or improved in your local area in recent years?



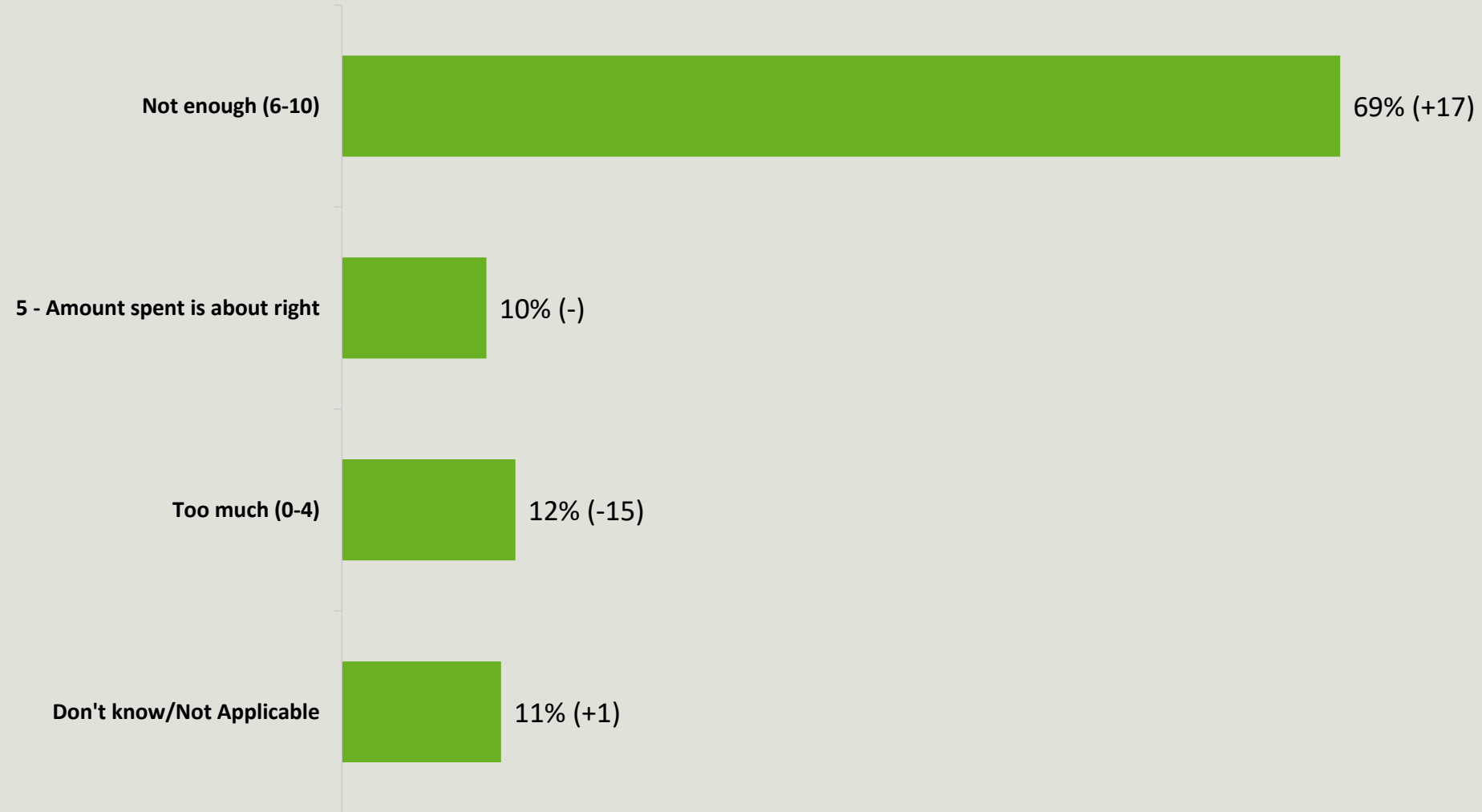
Q9_Q16_Summary. On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 meaning very dissatisfied and 10 meaning very satisfied, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following services in your local area?



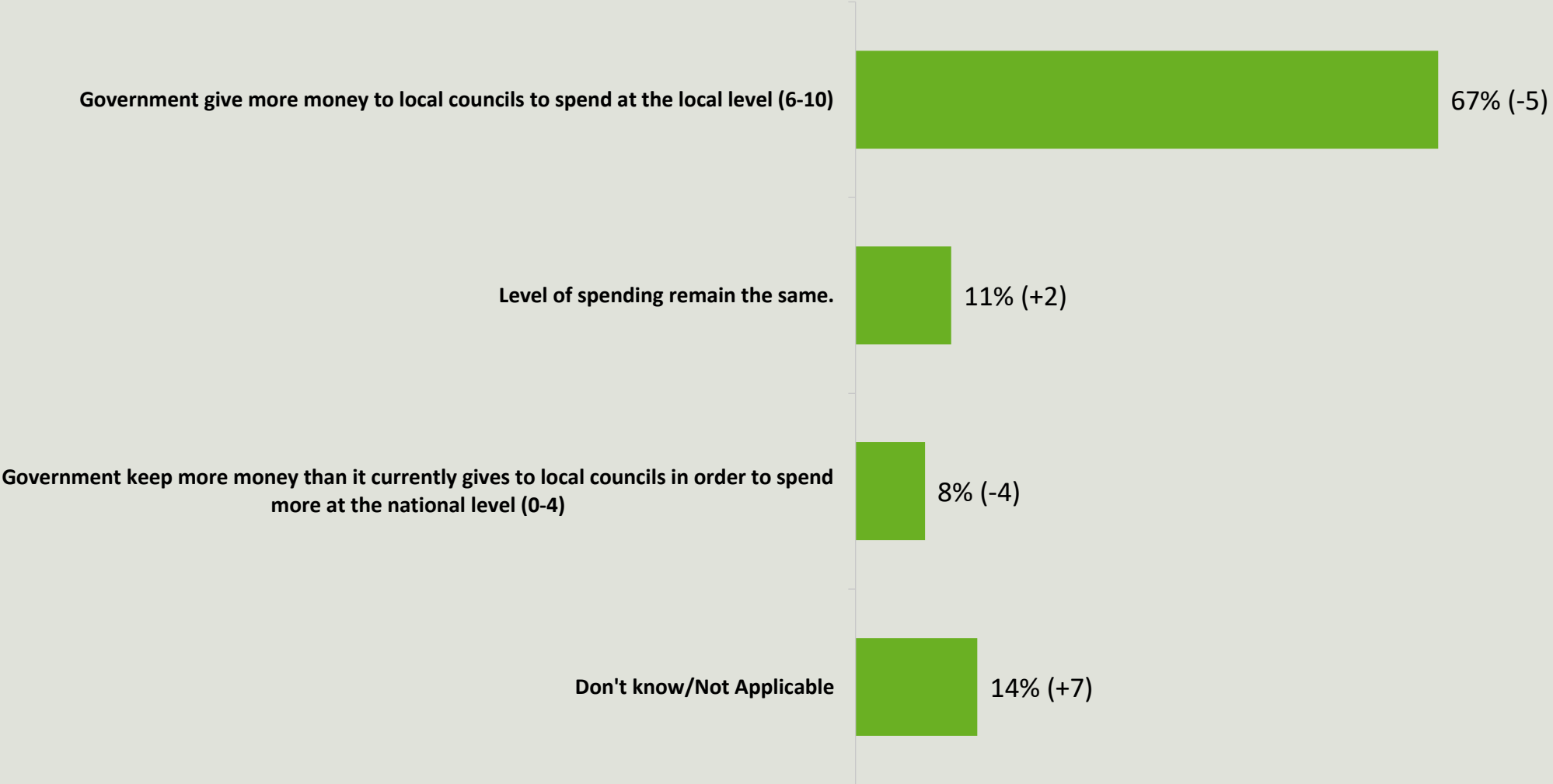
Q18. You said that local services have declined in your local area in recent years. Who do you think is the most responsible for this?



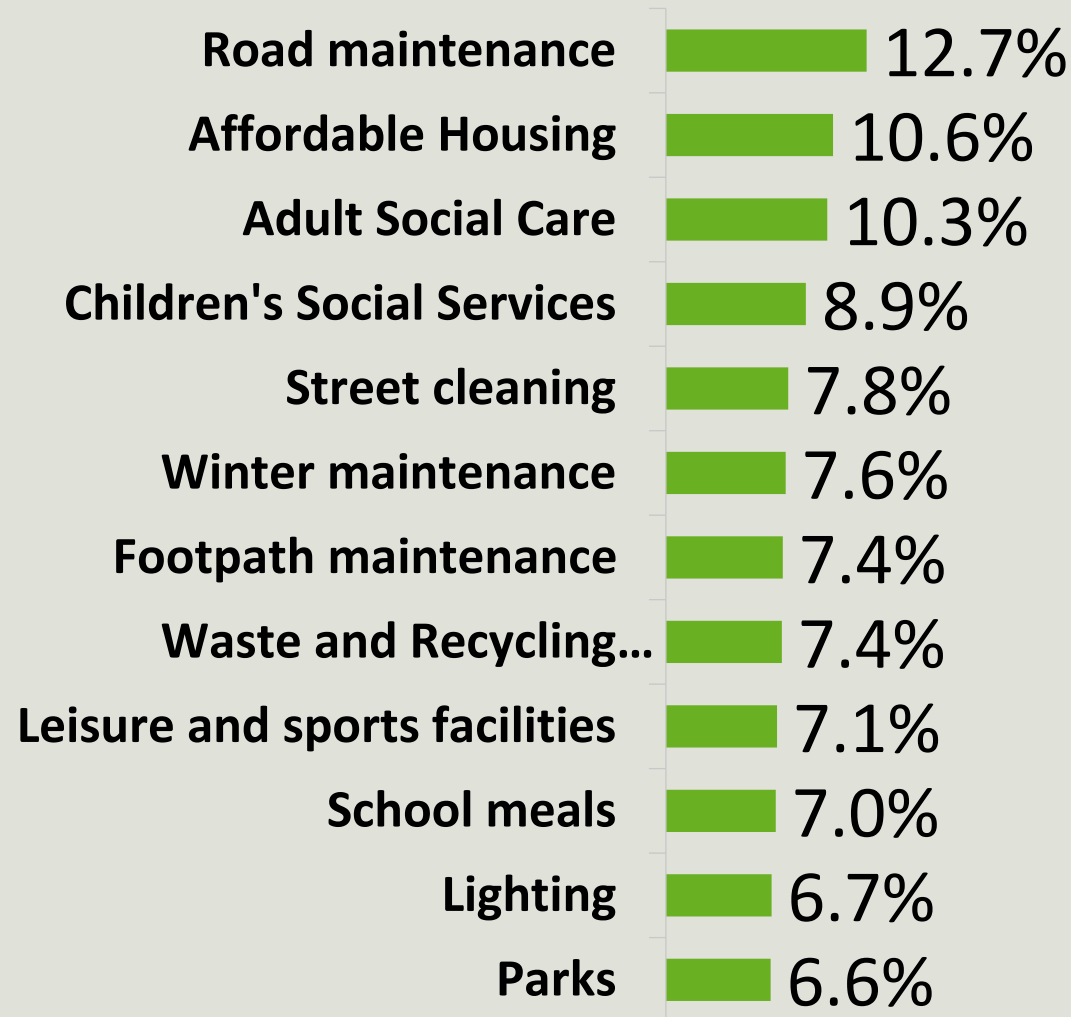
Q19. On a scale from 0 to 10, do you think that enough of your tax is spent on services in your local area?



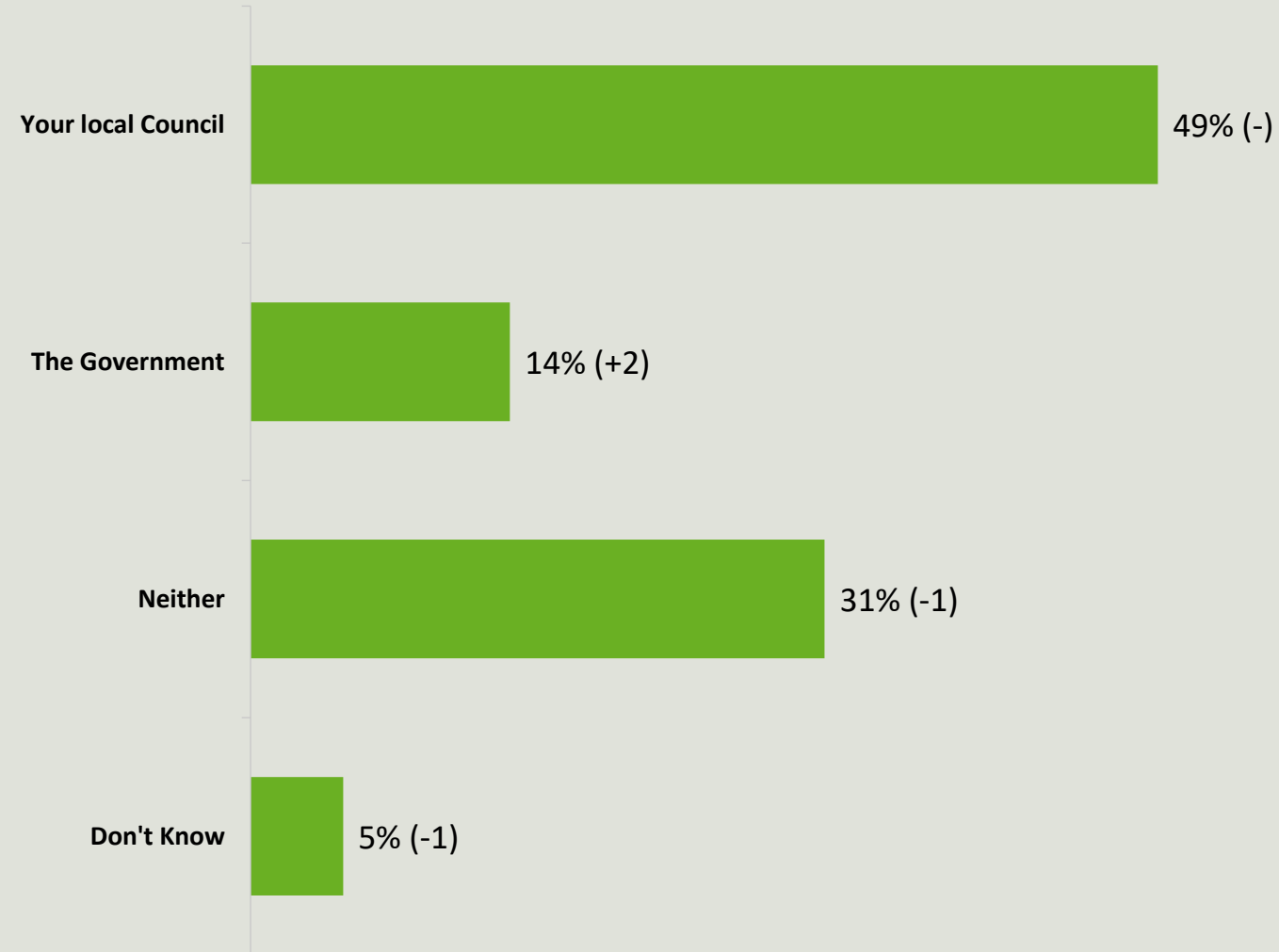
Table_Q20. Please place yourself on the 0-10 scale below with respect to your opinion on spending in your local area. 0 means that you would like to see the government keep more money than it currently gives to local councils in order to spend more at the national level and 10 means that you would like 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.



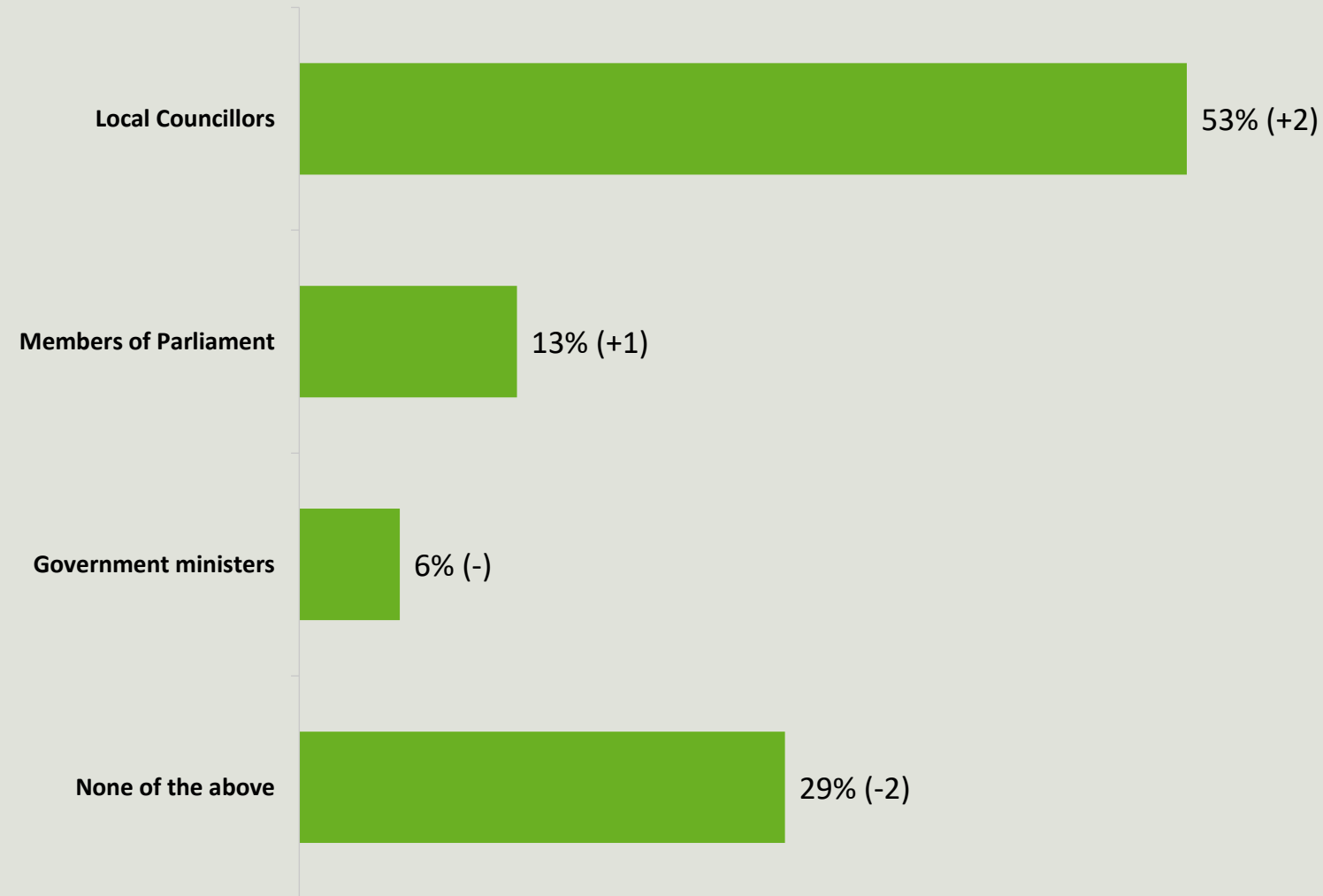
Table_Q21_Q32_Summary. You stated that you would like to see **MORE** money given to local councils than is done so currently. If you had the choice, what percentage of the extra money would be spent on each of the 12 services below?



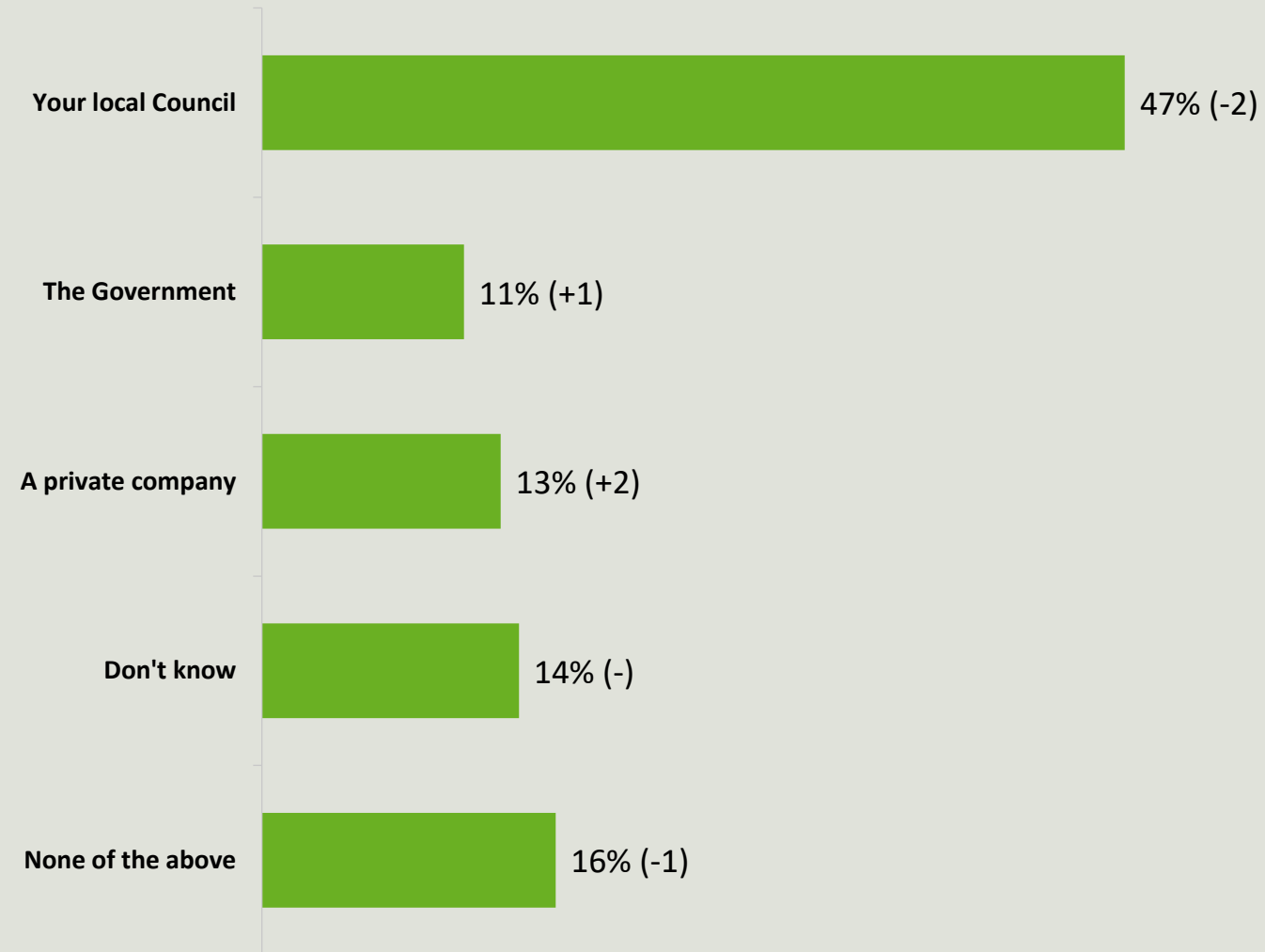
Q57. Who do you trust the most to make decisions about how services are delivered in your local area?



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?



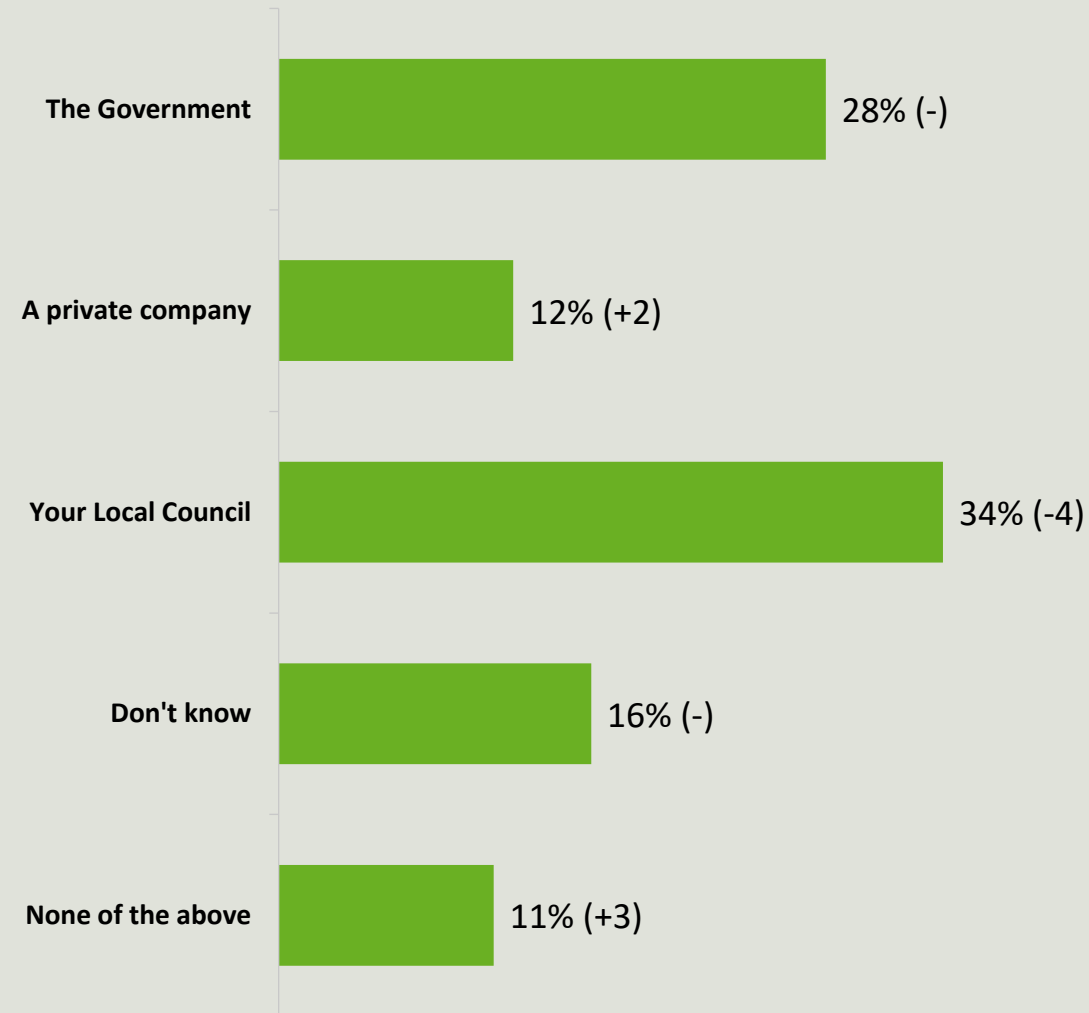
APSE Public Opinion Survey – Climate Change & Councils



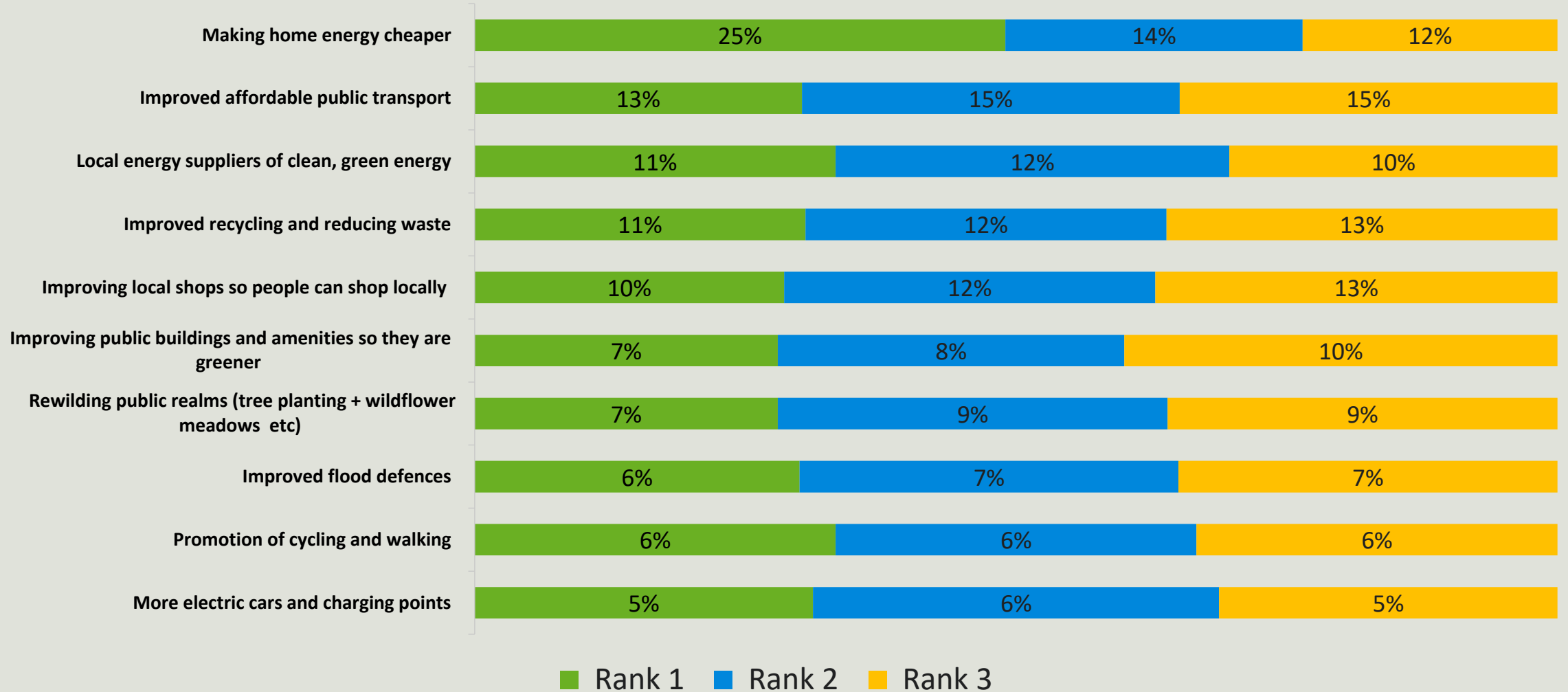
Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

Survation.

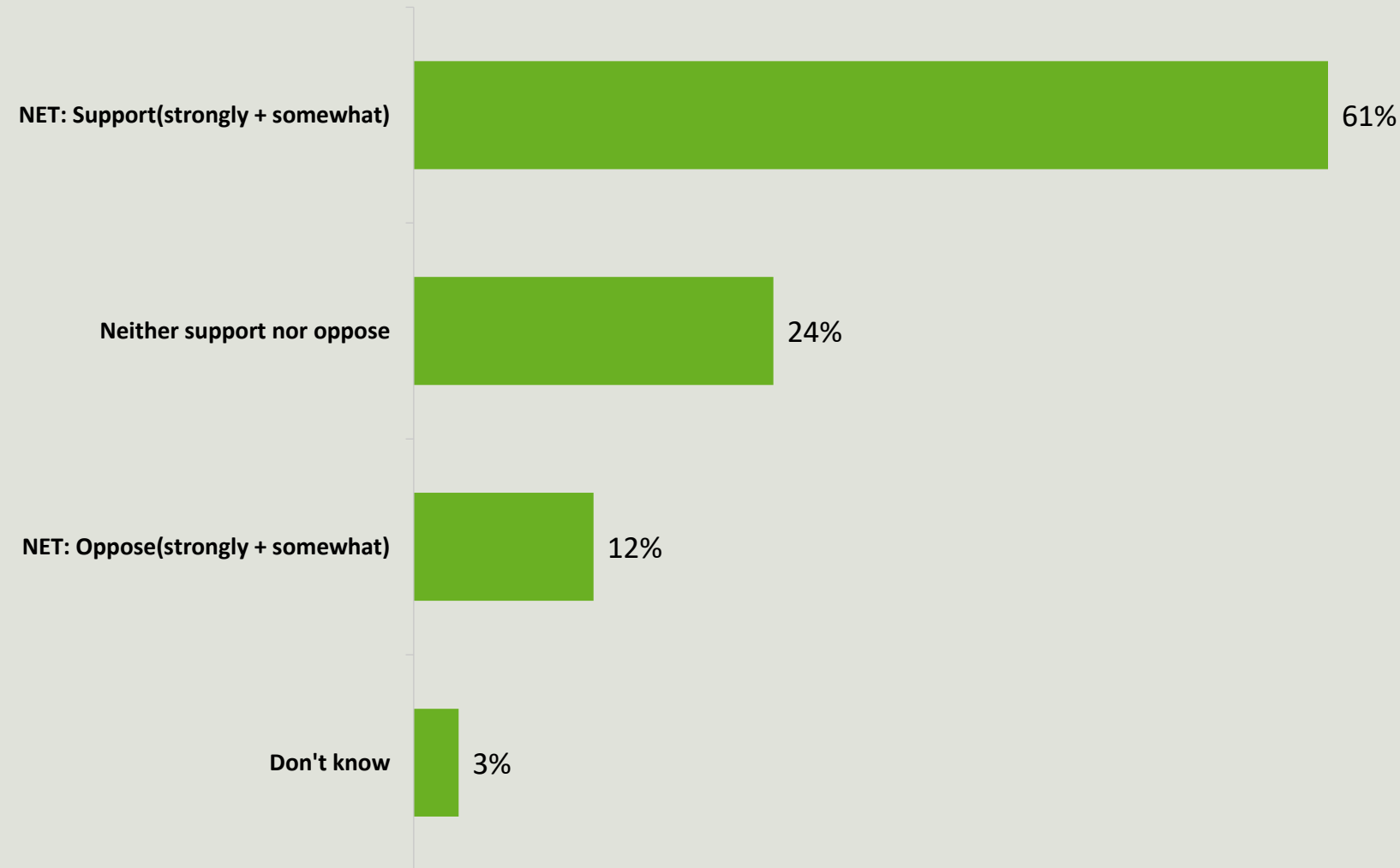
Q60 . Who do you think is best placed to implement practical local steps to combat the effects of climate change in the local area?



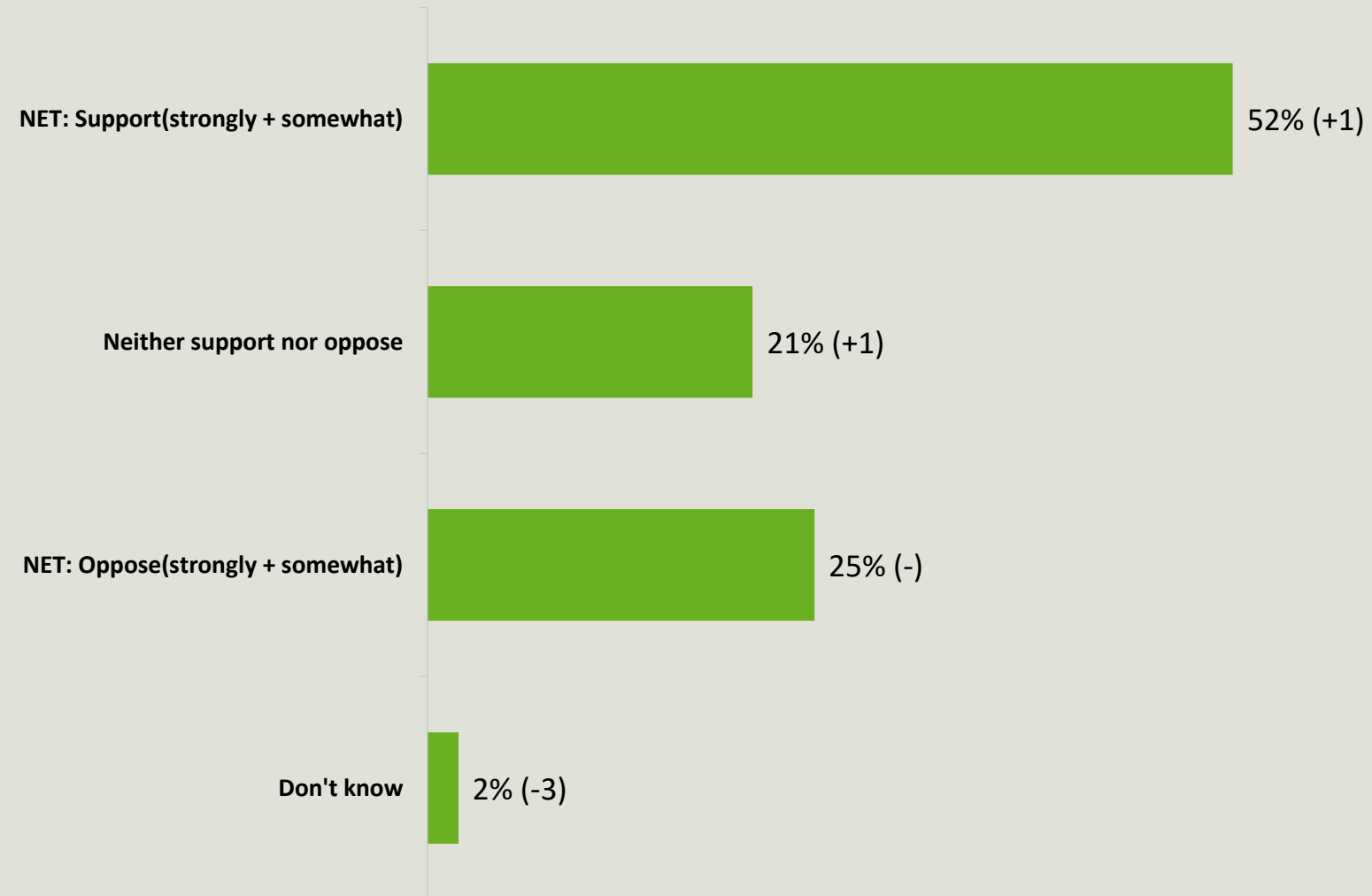
Q61_Q70_Summary. Thinking about your local area and the steps required to combat the effects of climate change, what are your top 3 priorities? Please rank your top 3 in order of preference



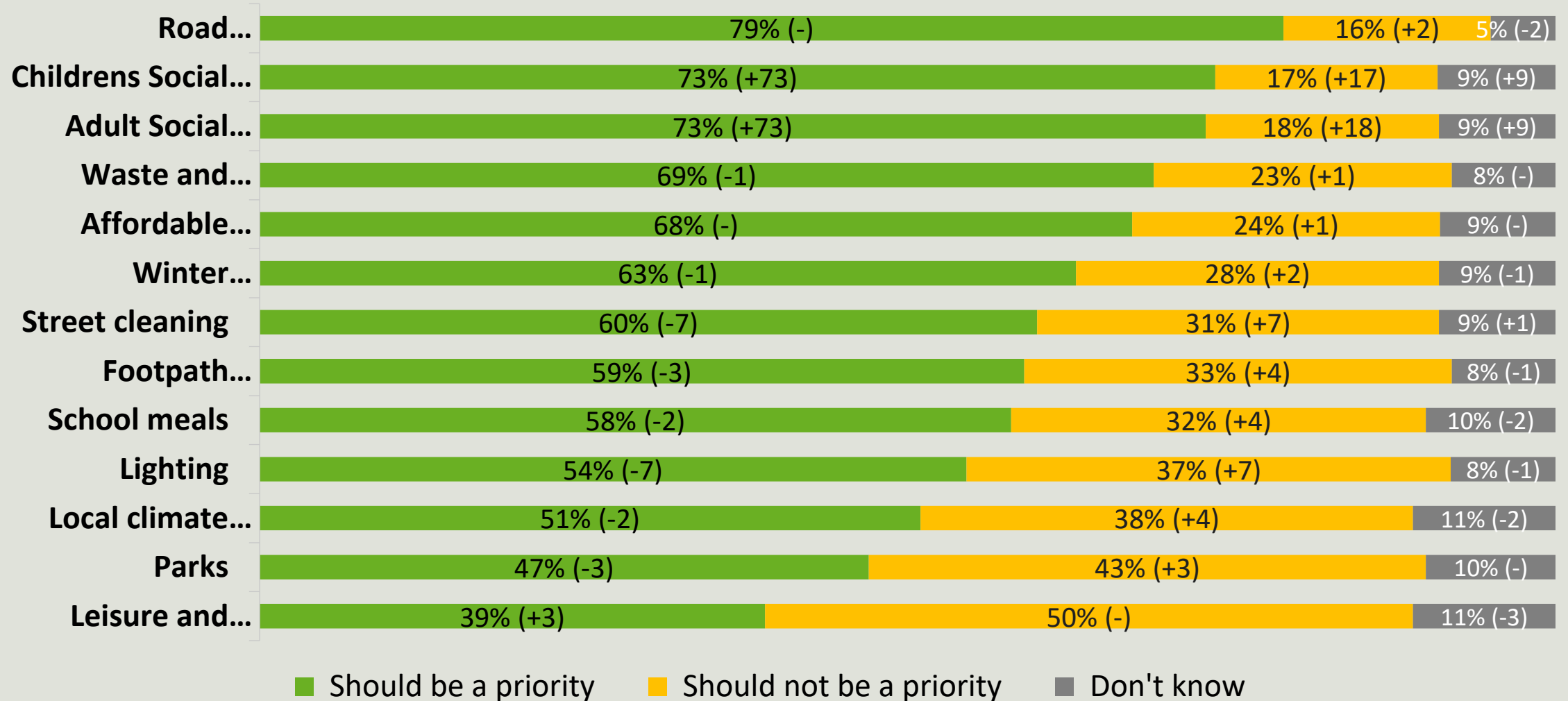
Q85. To what extent do you support or oppose councils introducing policies and schemes that are designed to directly address air pollution and improve health?



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?



PUBLIC PROTECTION PRIORITIES Q71-Q83. If the local government was making cuts to public services, should the following be a priority to protect?

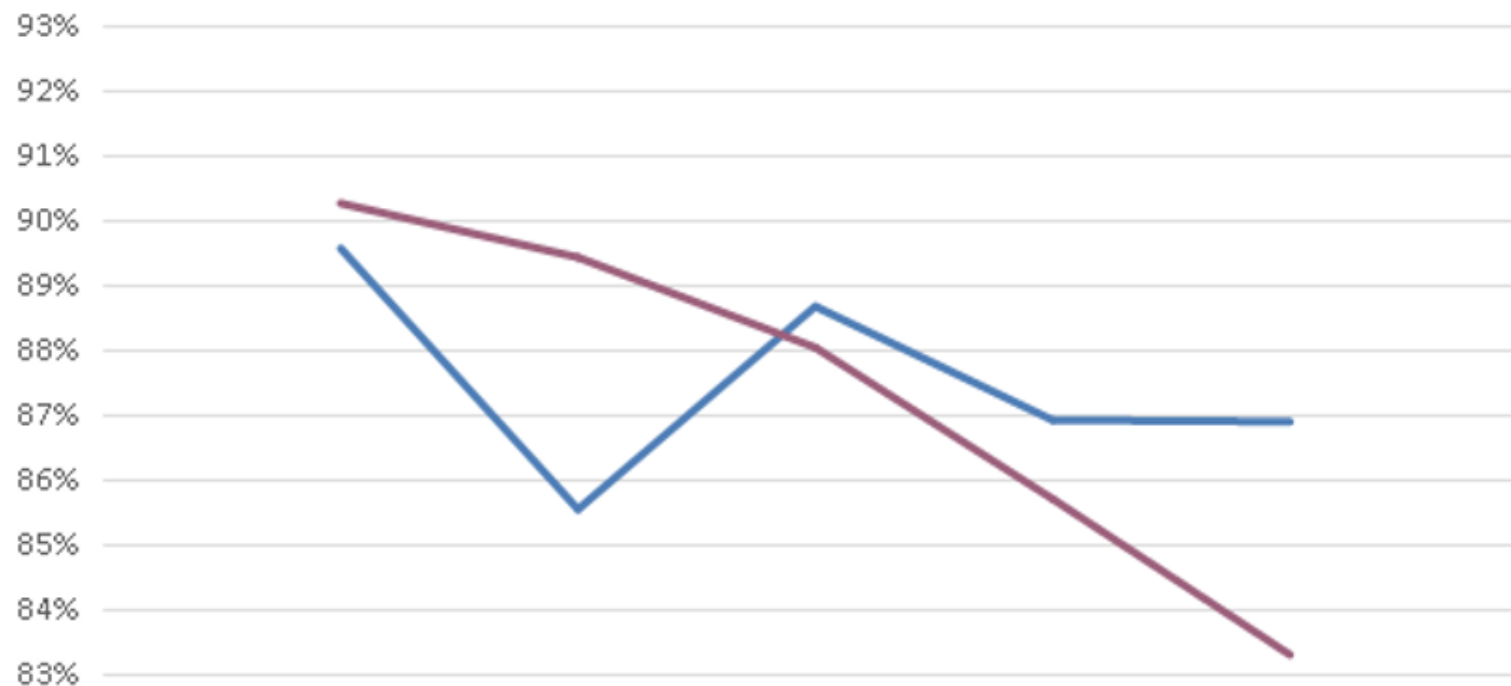




The State we're in - highways and street lighting

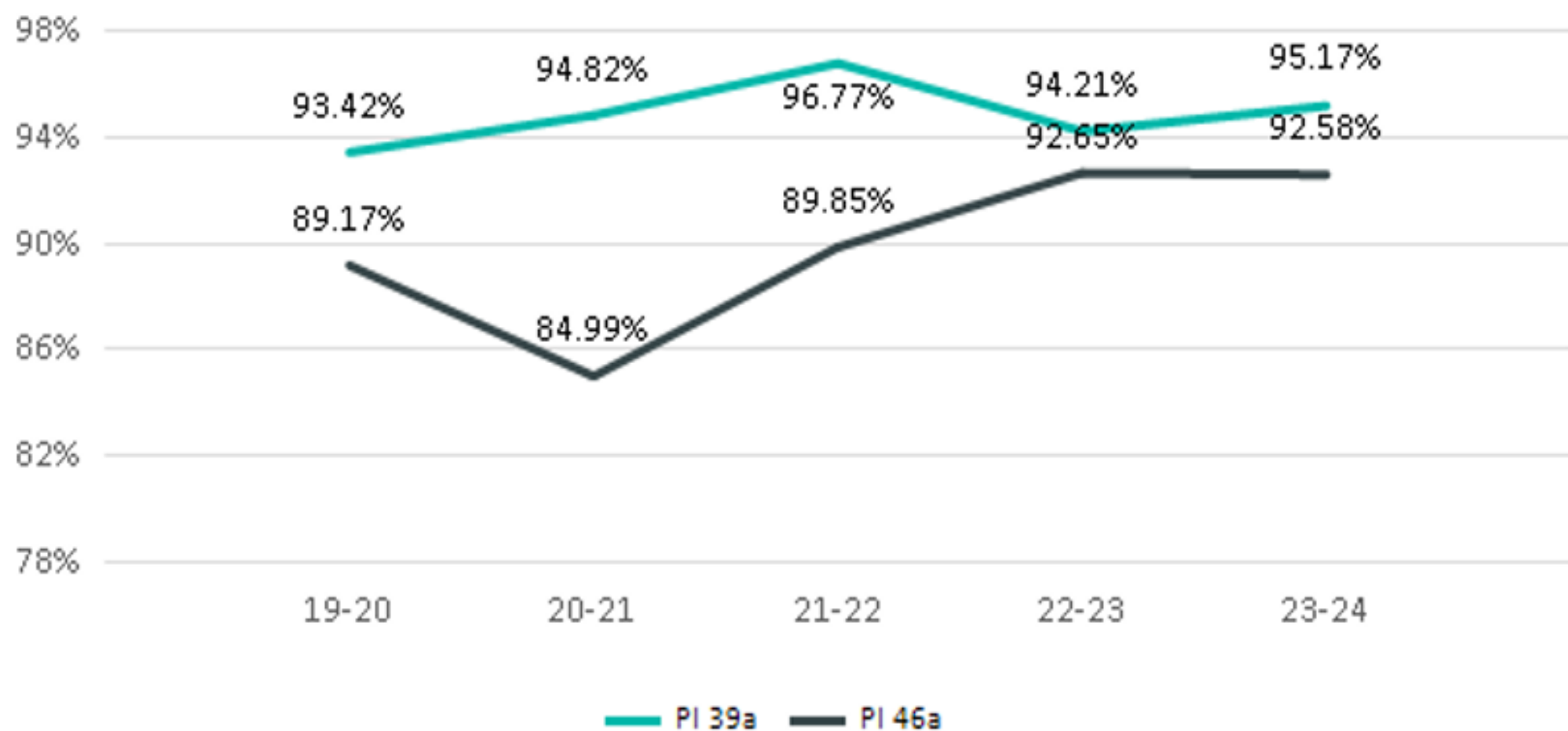
Rob Bailey, Principal Advisor, APSE

PI 03a % damaged roads made safe in target times
 PI 45a % damaged footways made safe in target times

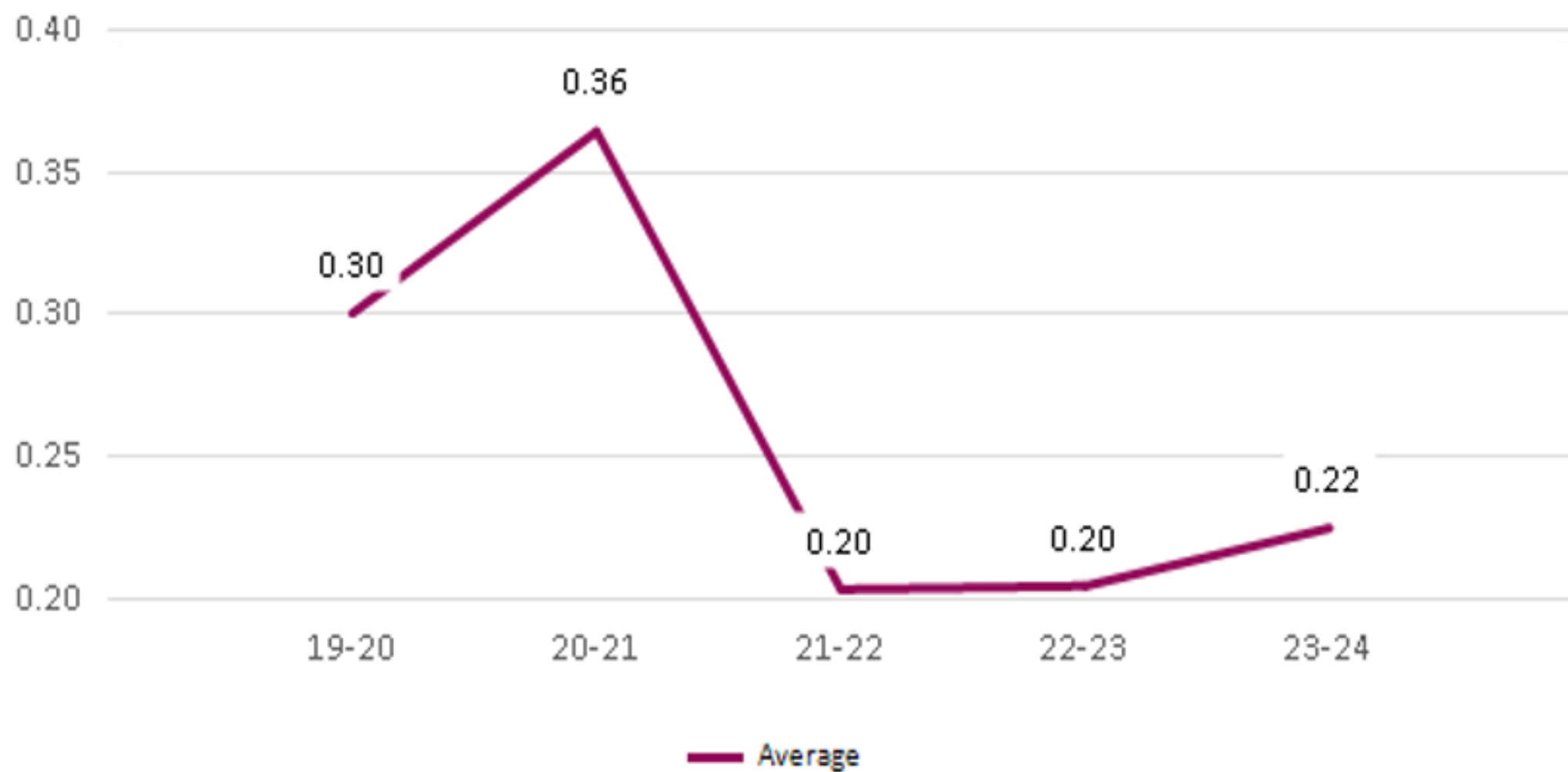


		19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Carriageways	— PI 03a	89.58%	85.55%	88.68%	86.92%	86.90%
Footways	— PI 45a	90.28%	89.44%	88.05%	85.71%	83.30%

PI 39a Percentage of safety inspections completed on time (carriageways)
PI 46a Percentage of safety inspections completed on time (footways)

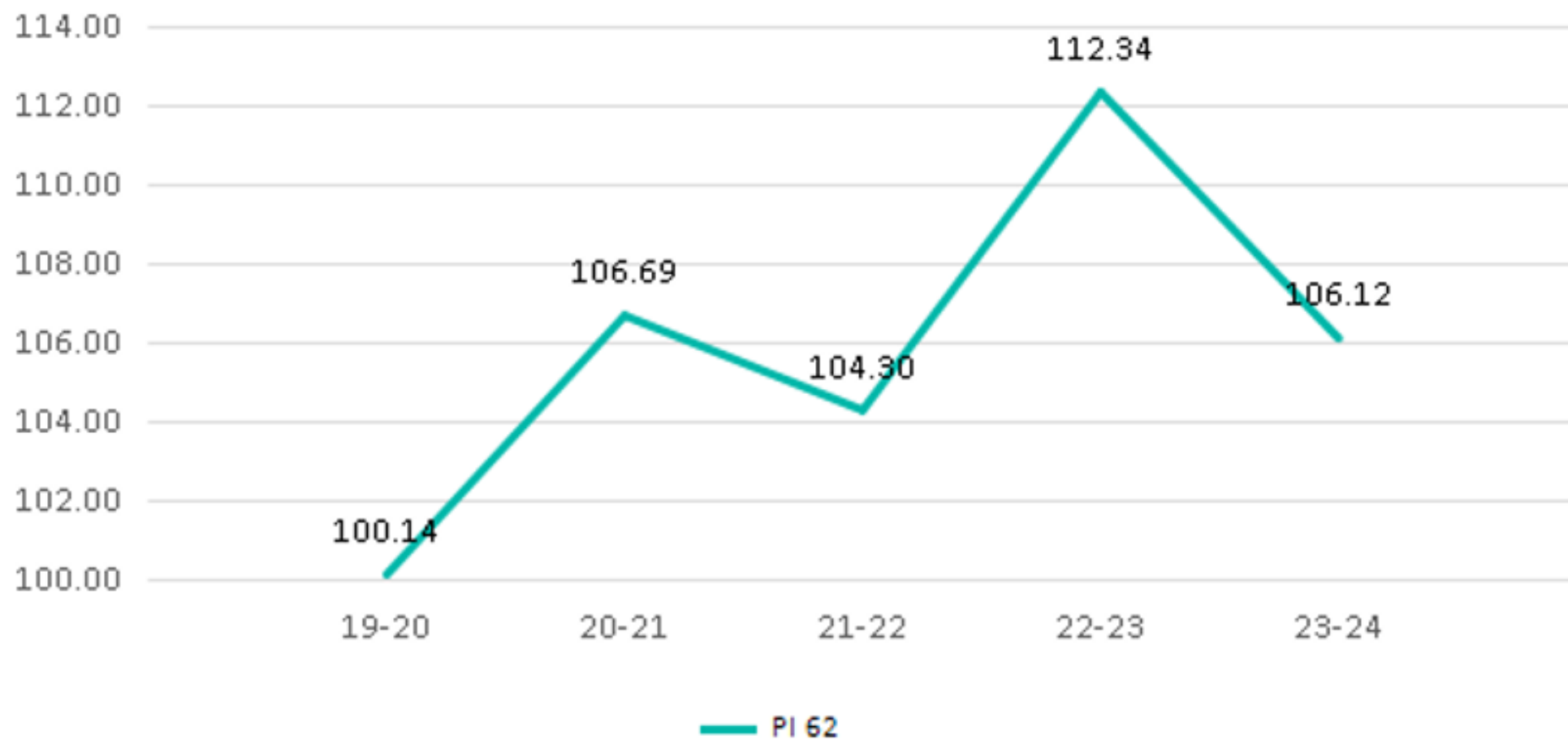


PI 28 Number of emergency (cat 1) defects per km of maintained carriageway



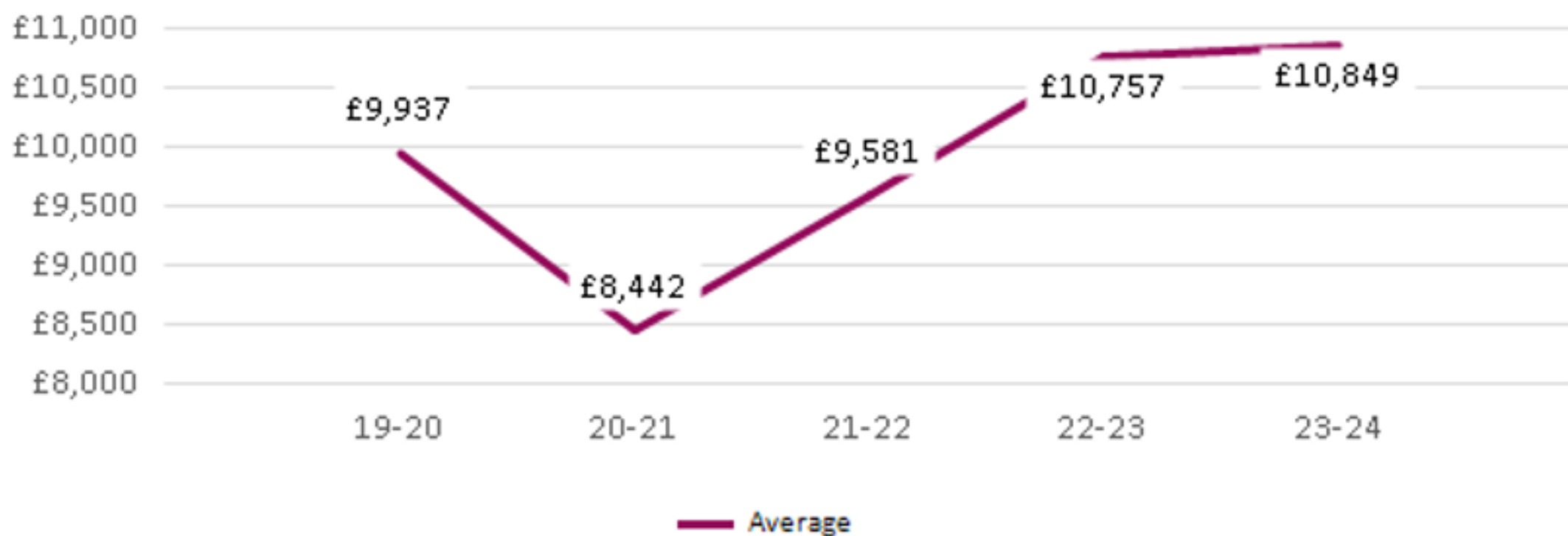
Winter maintenance

PI 62 Kg of salt used per km of road treated



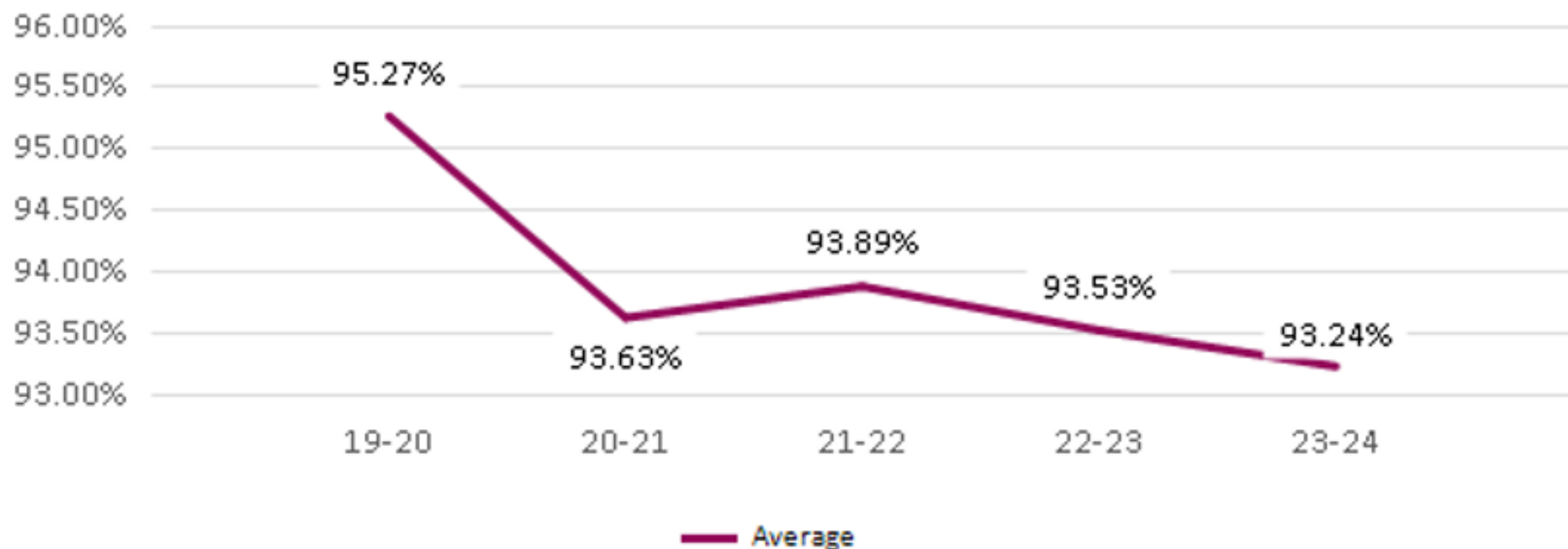
Expenditure

PI 63a Total expenditure by carriageway network length

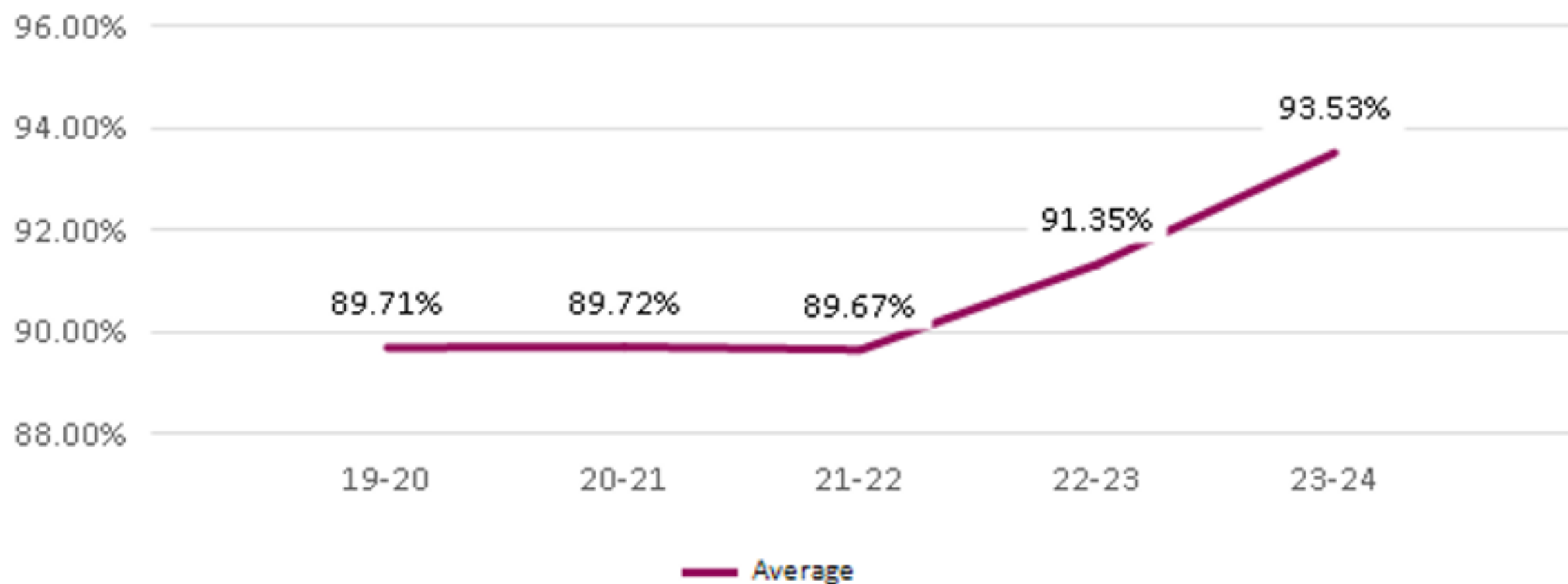


Traffic management systems

PI 55 Percentage of faults rectified within target time

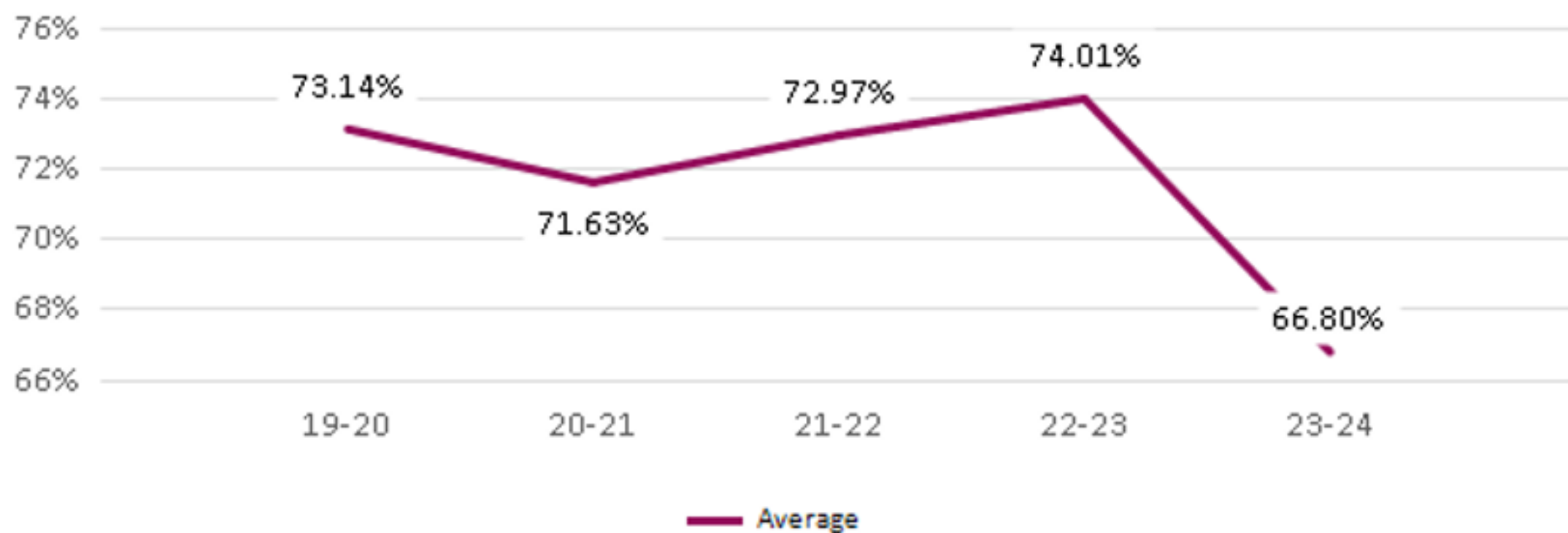


PI 56 Percentage of faults rectified on first visit

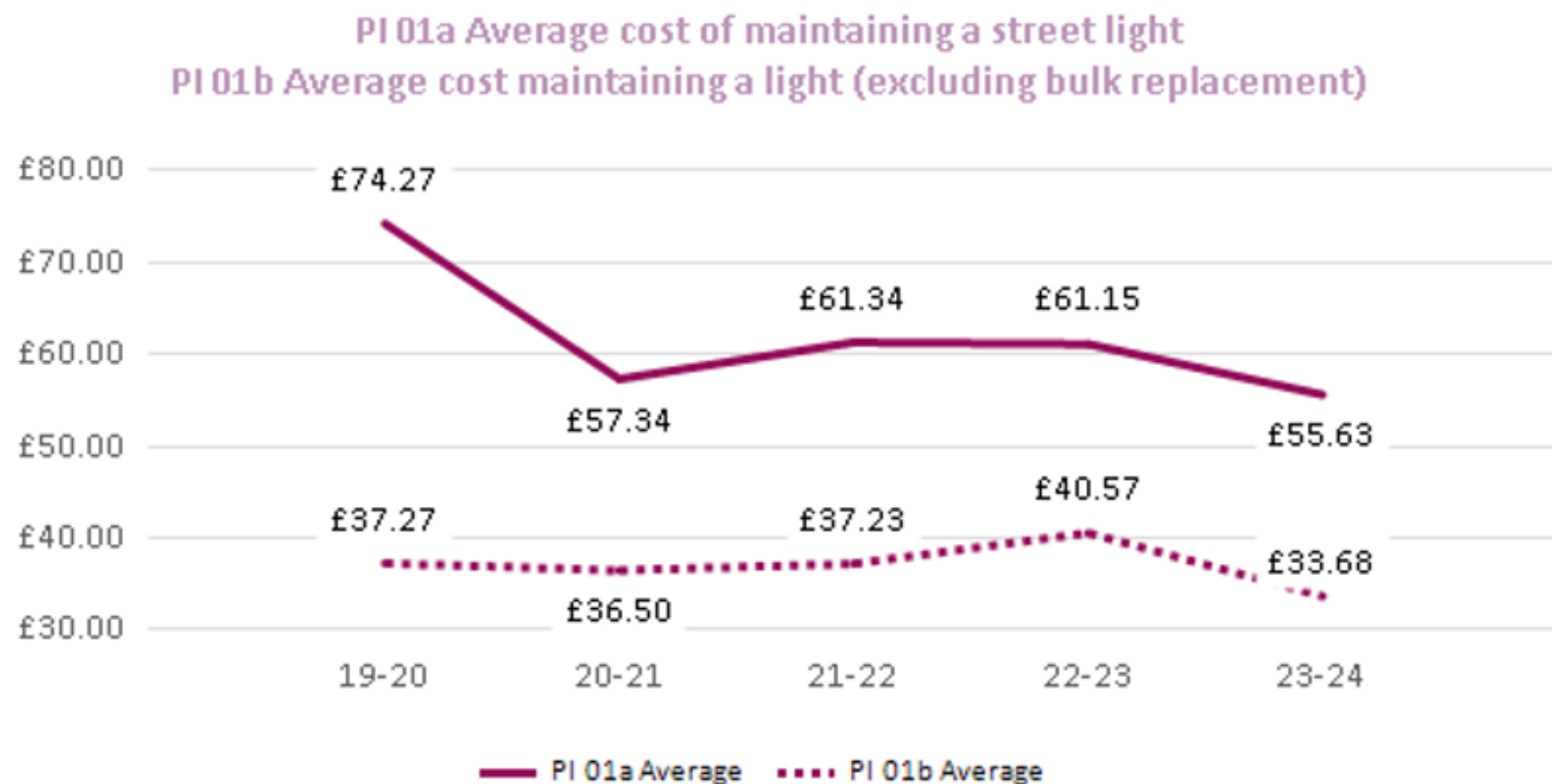


Bridges and structures

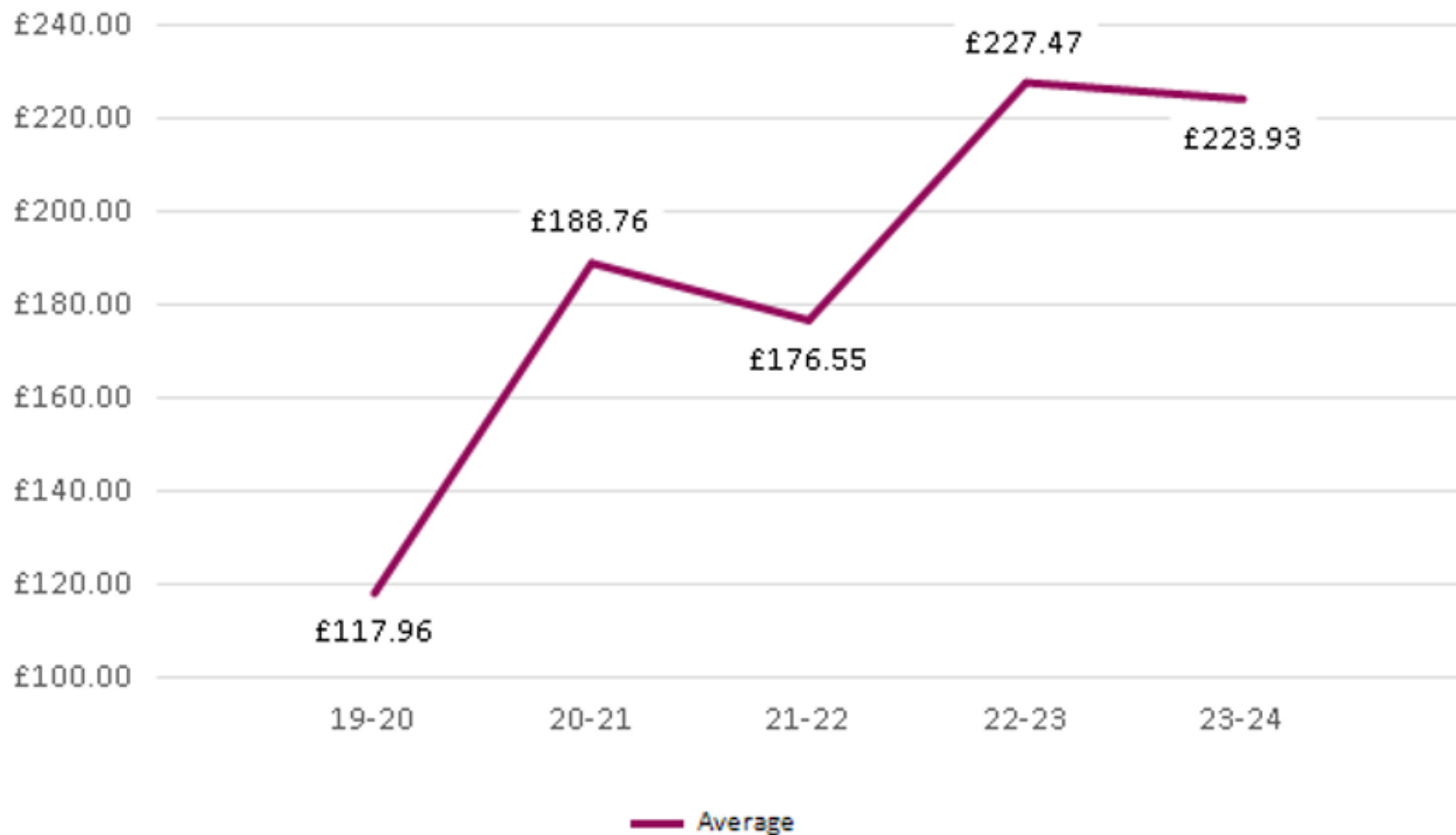
PI 300 Percentage of principal inspections completed on time



Expenditure



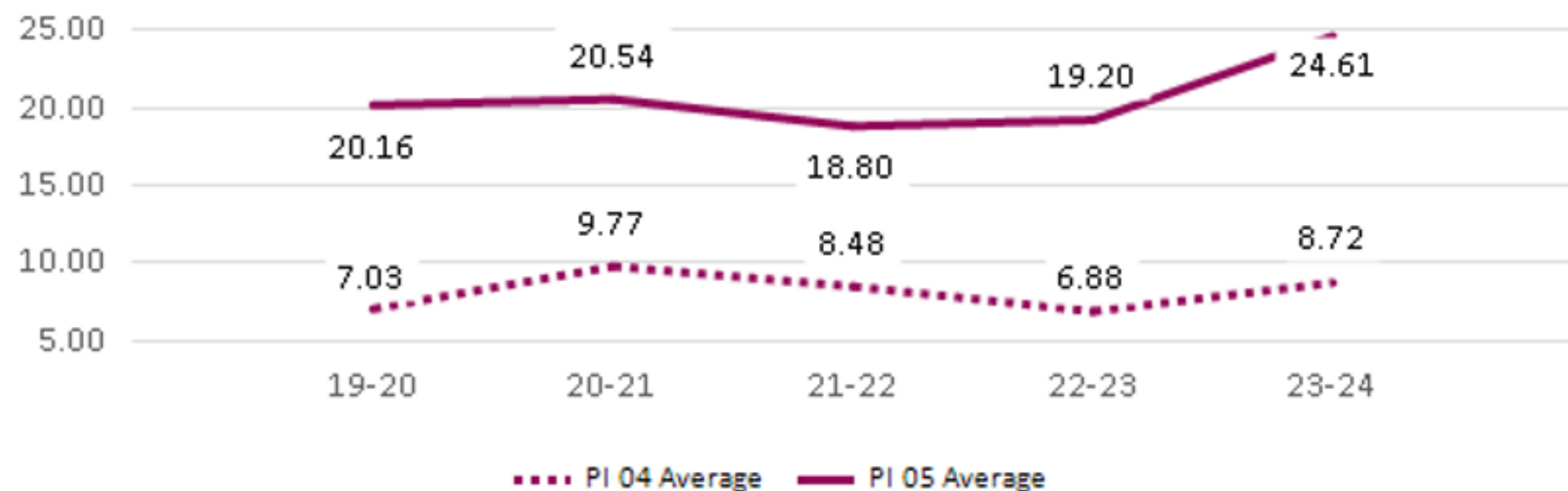
PI 33 Average cost per routine fault repair



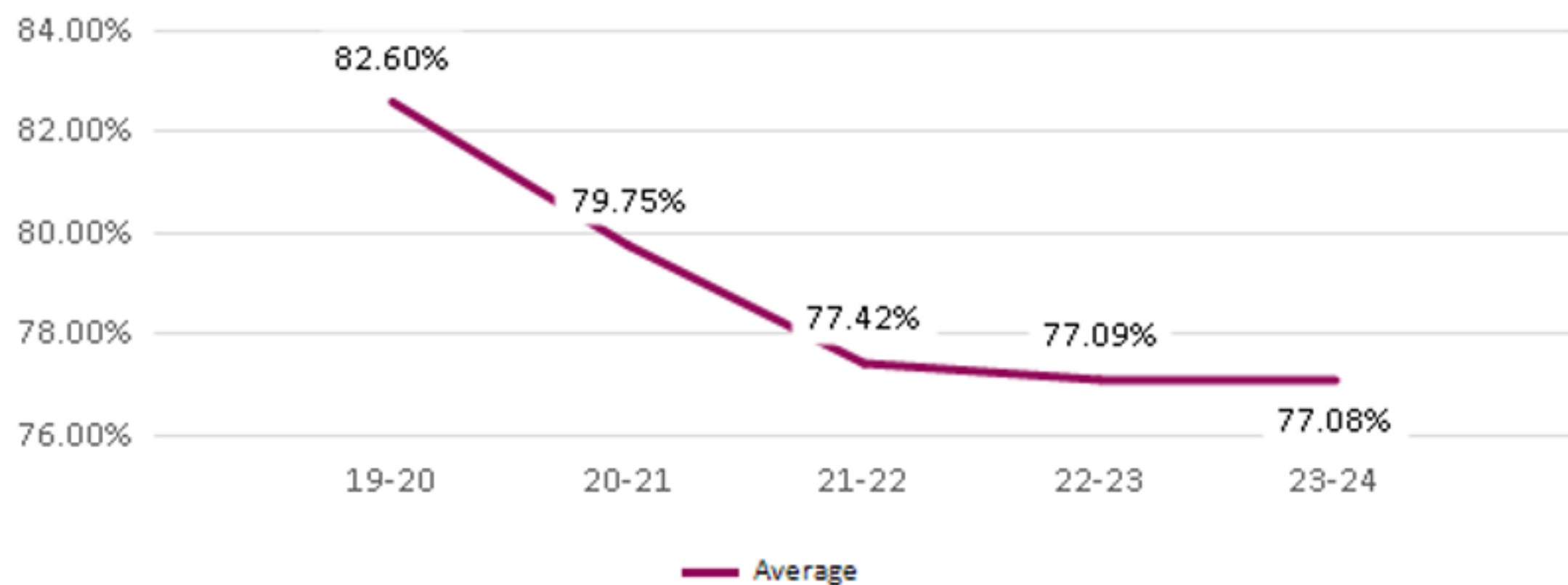
Average time to repair street lamps (days)

PI 04 - authority only

PI 05 - electricity supplier

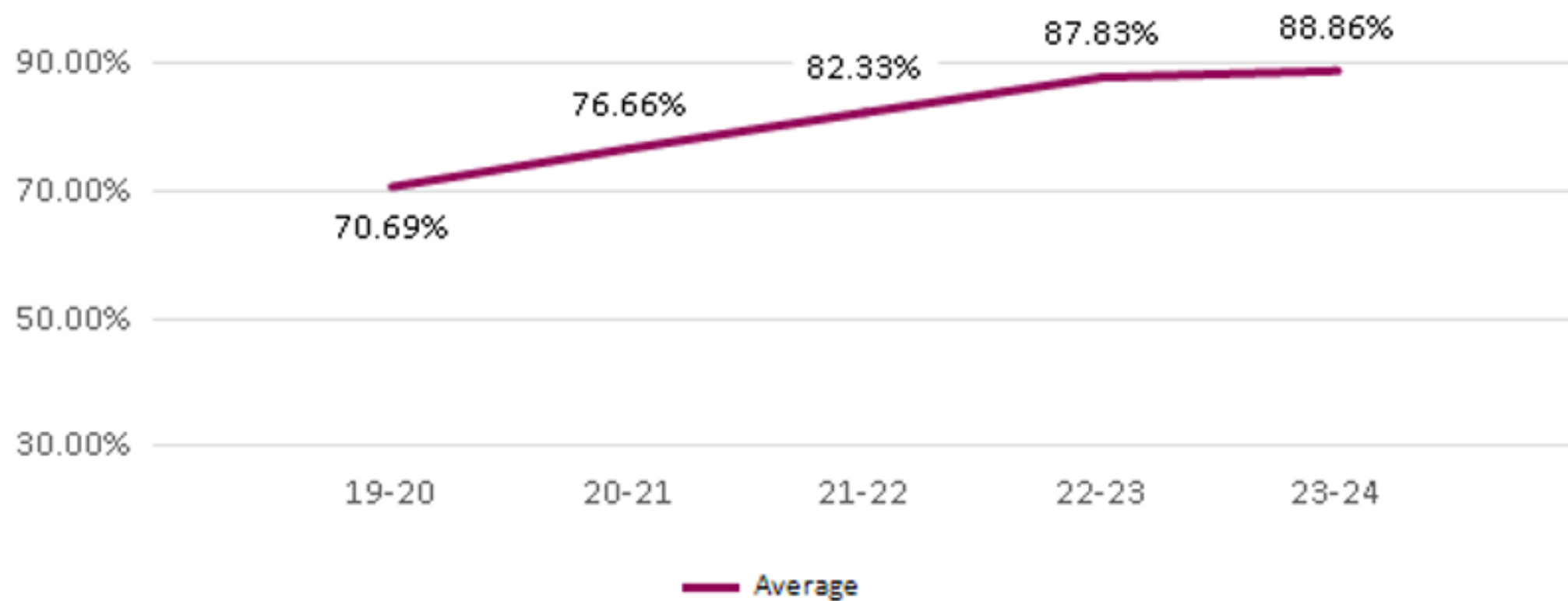


PI 03a Percentage of lamps restored to working condition within 7 days

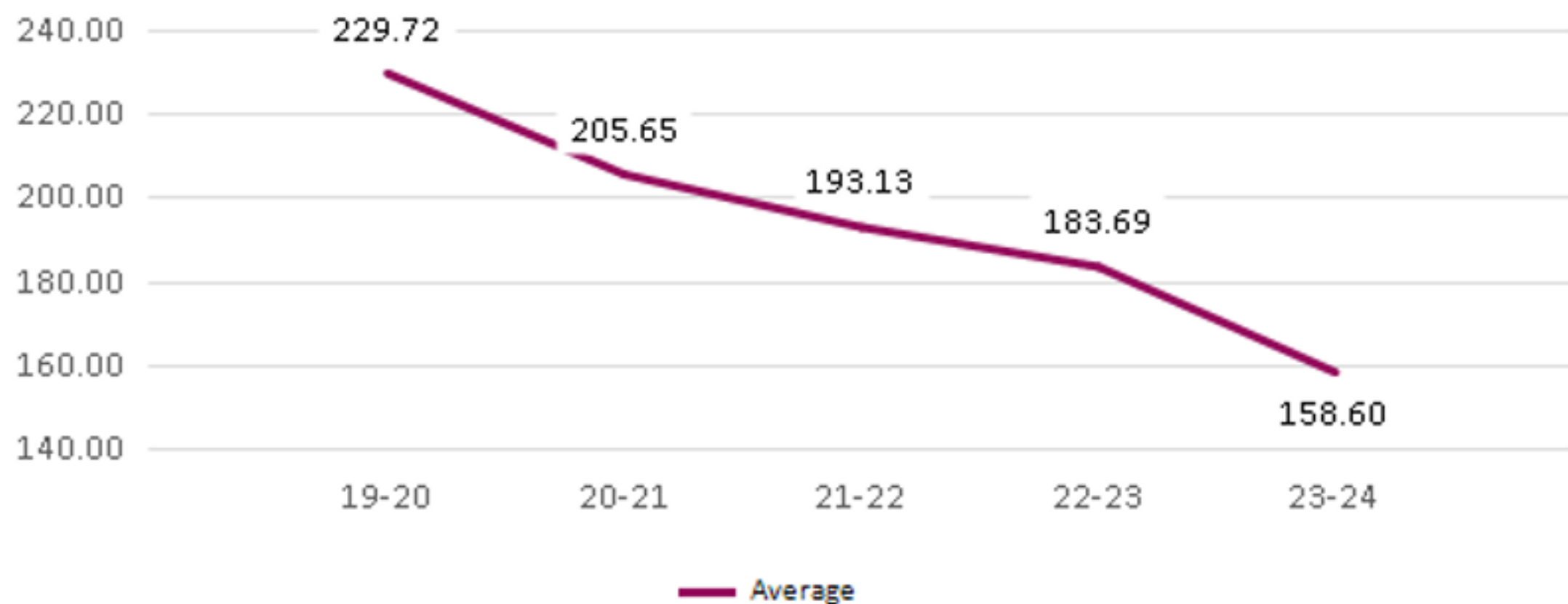


Environmental

PI 44a Percentage of street lamps that are LED



PI 18b Average annual electricity consumption per light (KWH)



NEWS

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Councillor says 'we look stupid' over potholes



LDRS

There are currently 11,000 pothole repair jobs in Lancashire County Council's "work in progress" pile

Paul Faulkner

Local Democracy Reporting Service

Top Stories

Russian arrests as ballot boxes targeted in Putin vote

1 hour ago

Driver in school bus crash died of natural causes

56 minutes ago

McDonald's blames global outage on third party

45 minutes ago

Features

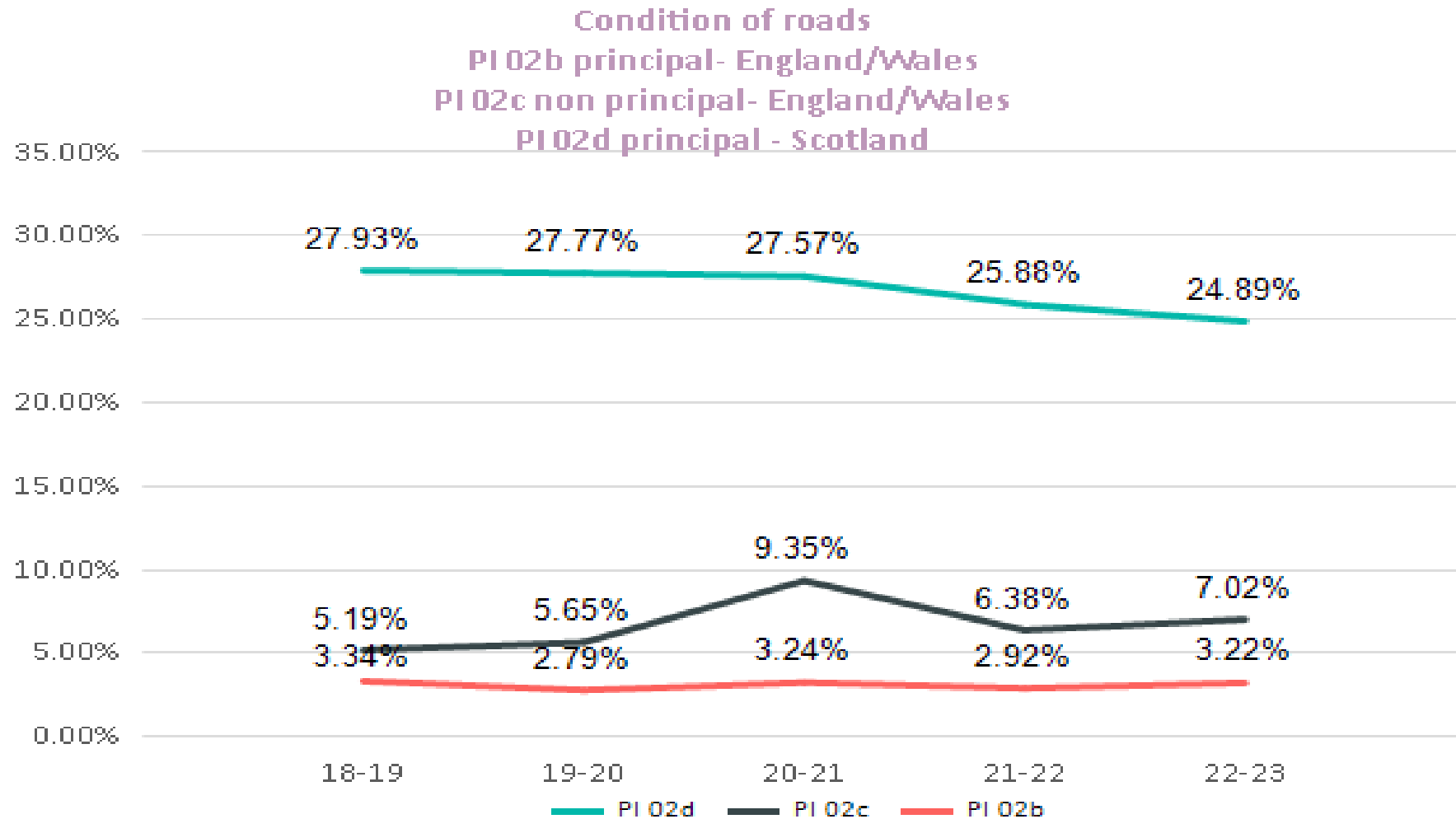


Trying to stay alive in a town tormented by drugs, alcohol and suicide

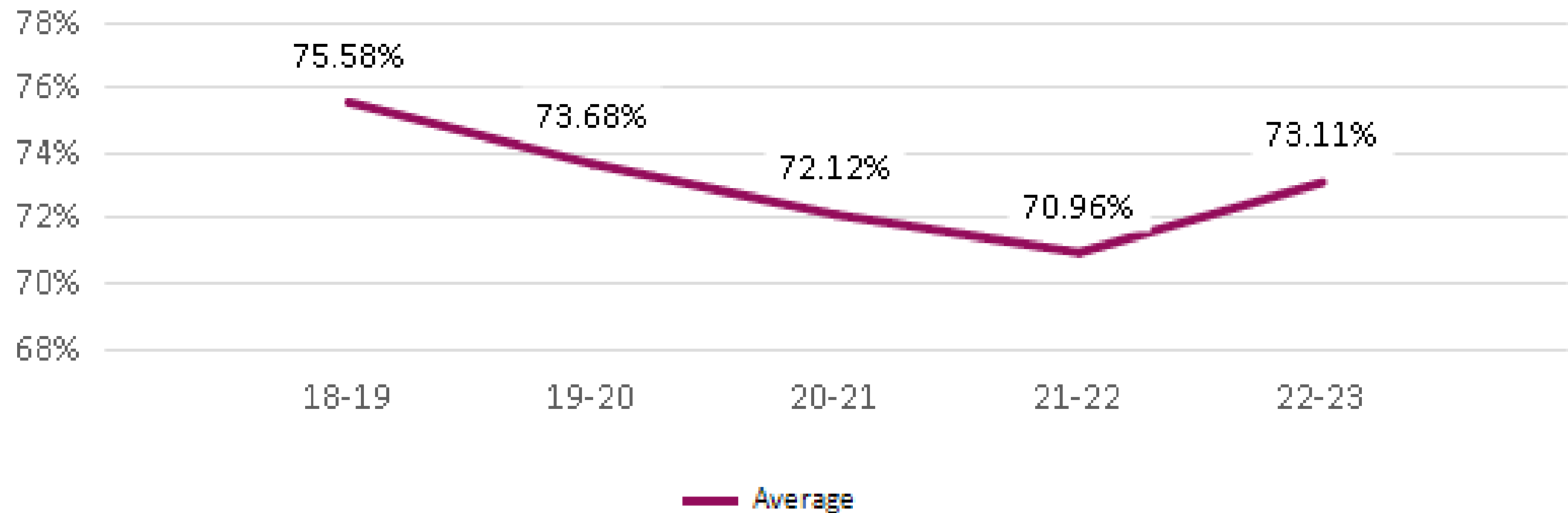


Association for Public Service Excellence



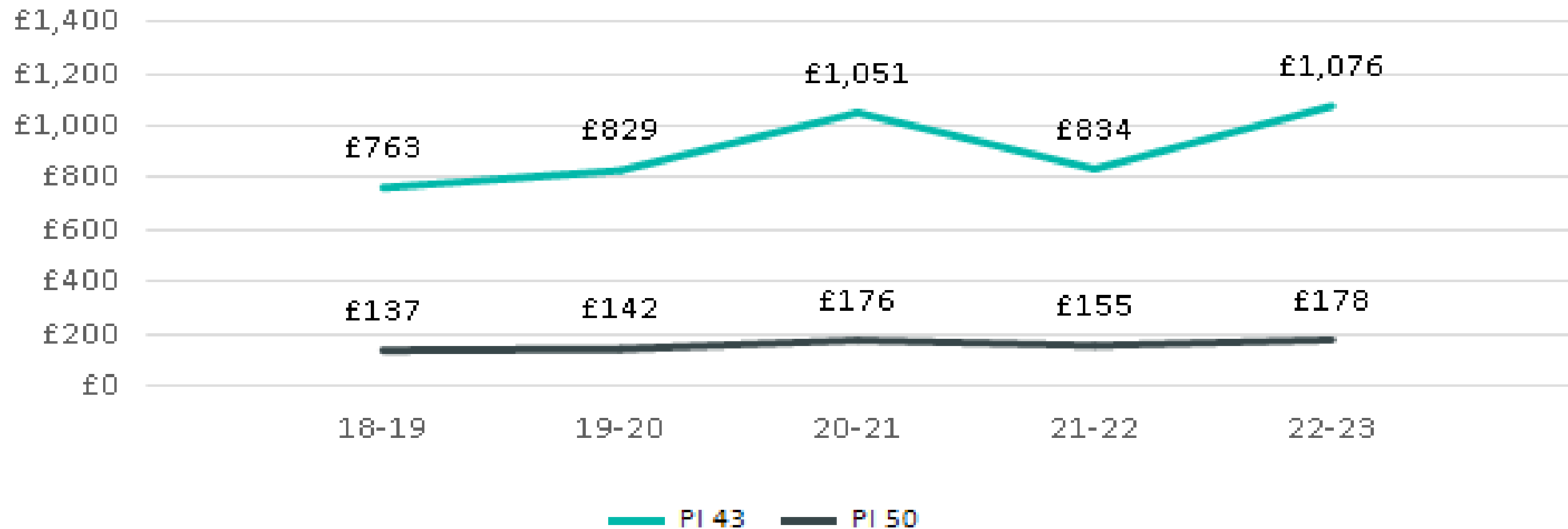


PI 16 Percentage of actual maintenance expenditure (carriageways and footways) which is planned

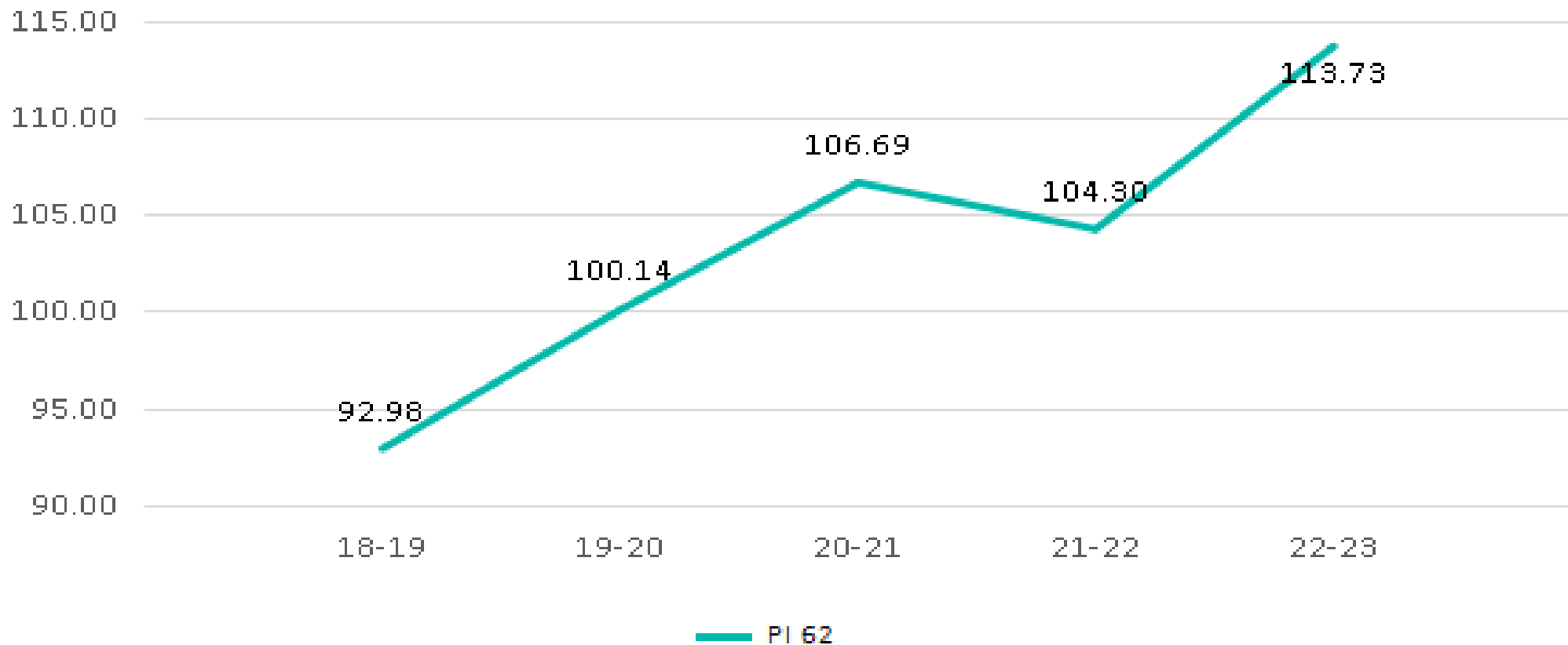


PI 43 Total cost for carriageway winter maintenance treatment over entire winter period divided by the total carriageway network length

PI 50 Total cost for footway winter maintenance treatment over the entire winter period divided by the total footway network length



PI 62 Kg of salt used per km of road treated



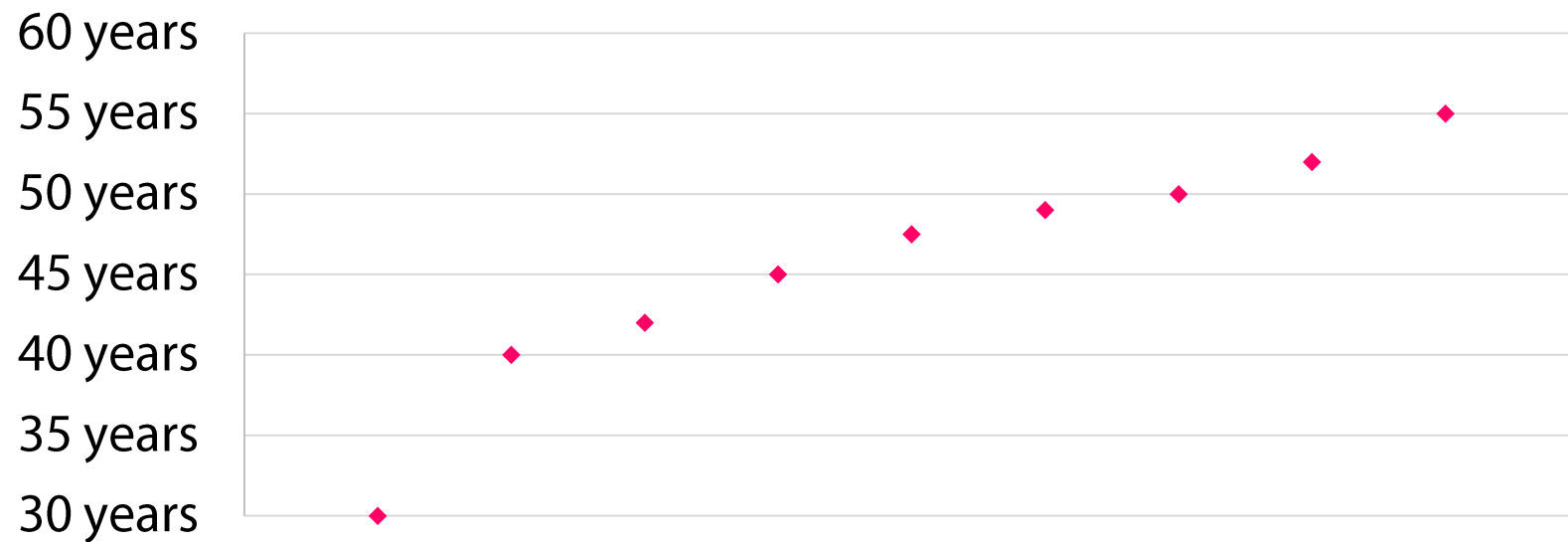
Operatives

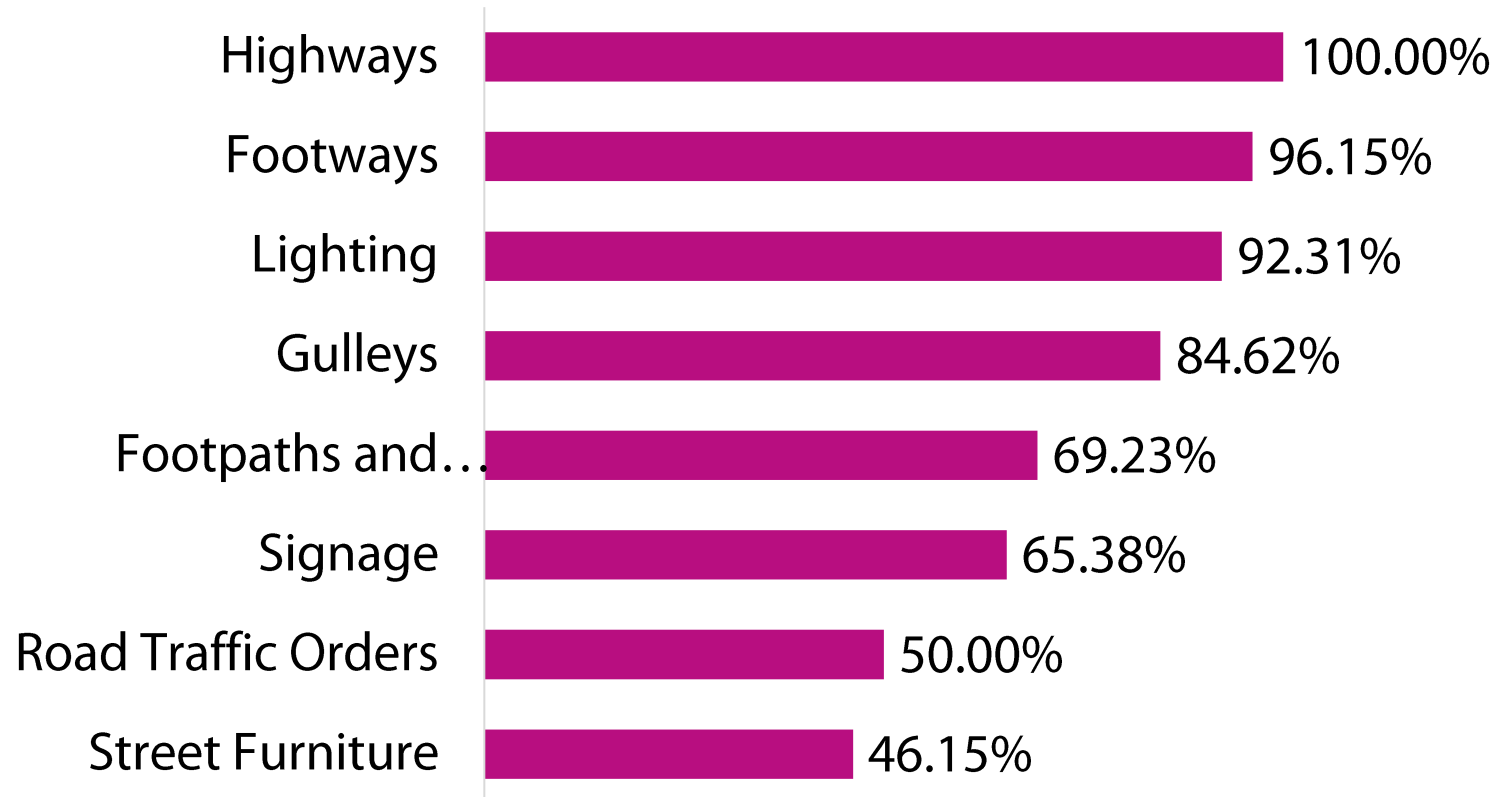


Technical/managerial staff



What is the average age of your highways maintenance operational staff?





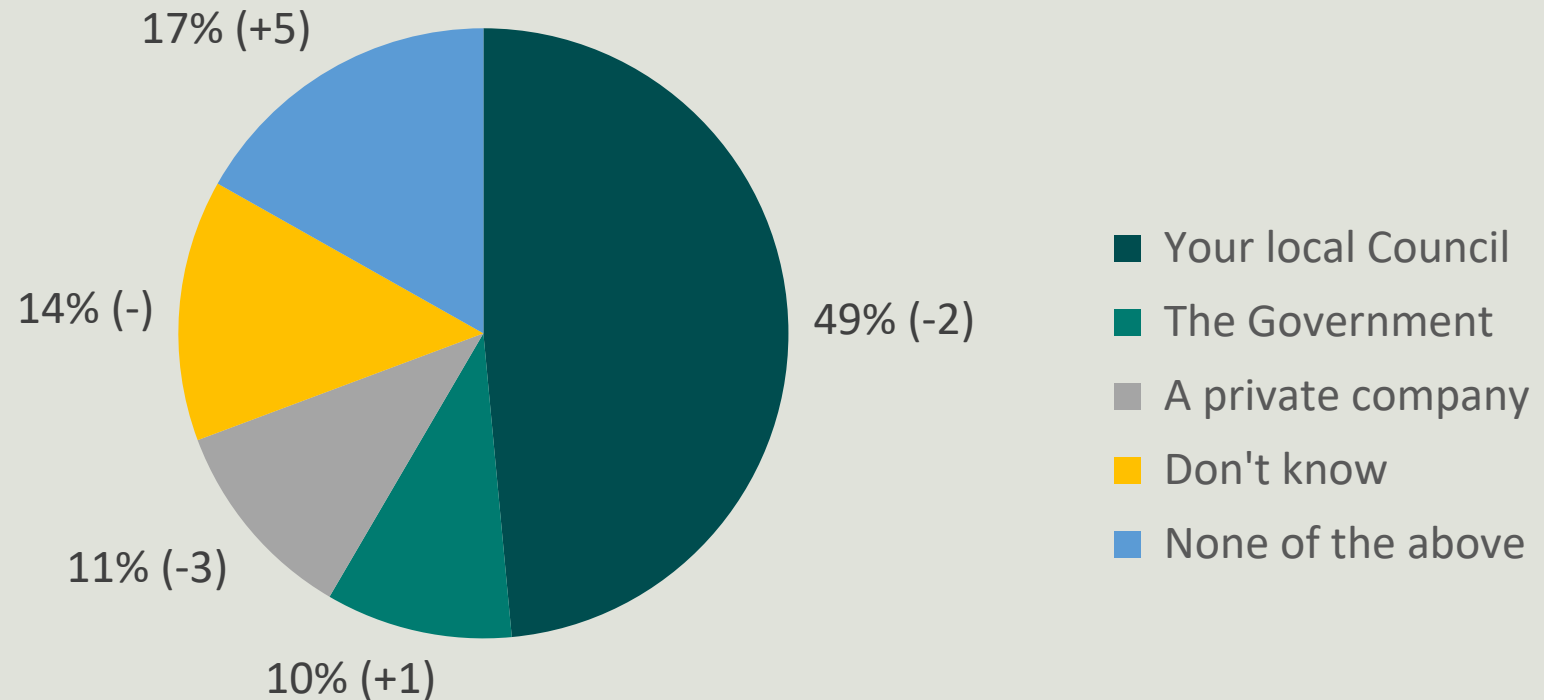
Key fact 1: Relative Trust in Councils high

Trust in Councils and Councillors has decreased slightly in the past year, as trust in Government and Ministers has also declined. However, trust in Councils and Councillors is still high overall compared to trust in Government and Ministers.

- **Four times as many people trust local councils (49%)** to make decisions about how services are delivered in their local areas compared to national government (12%).
- **Eight times as many people trust local councillors (51%)** more than government ministers (6%) to make decisions about how services are provided in their local area.
- **Local councils are trusted more than 4 times** than Government or Private companies to deliver services in their area

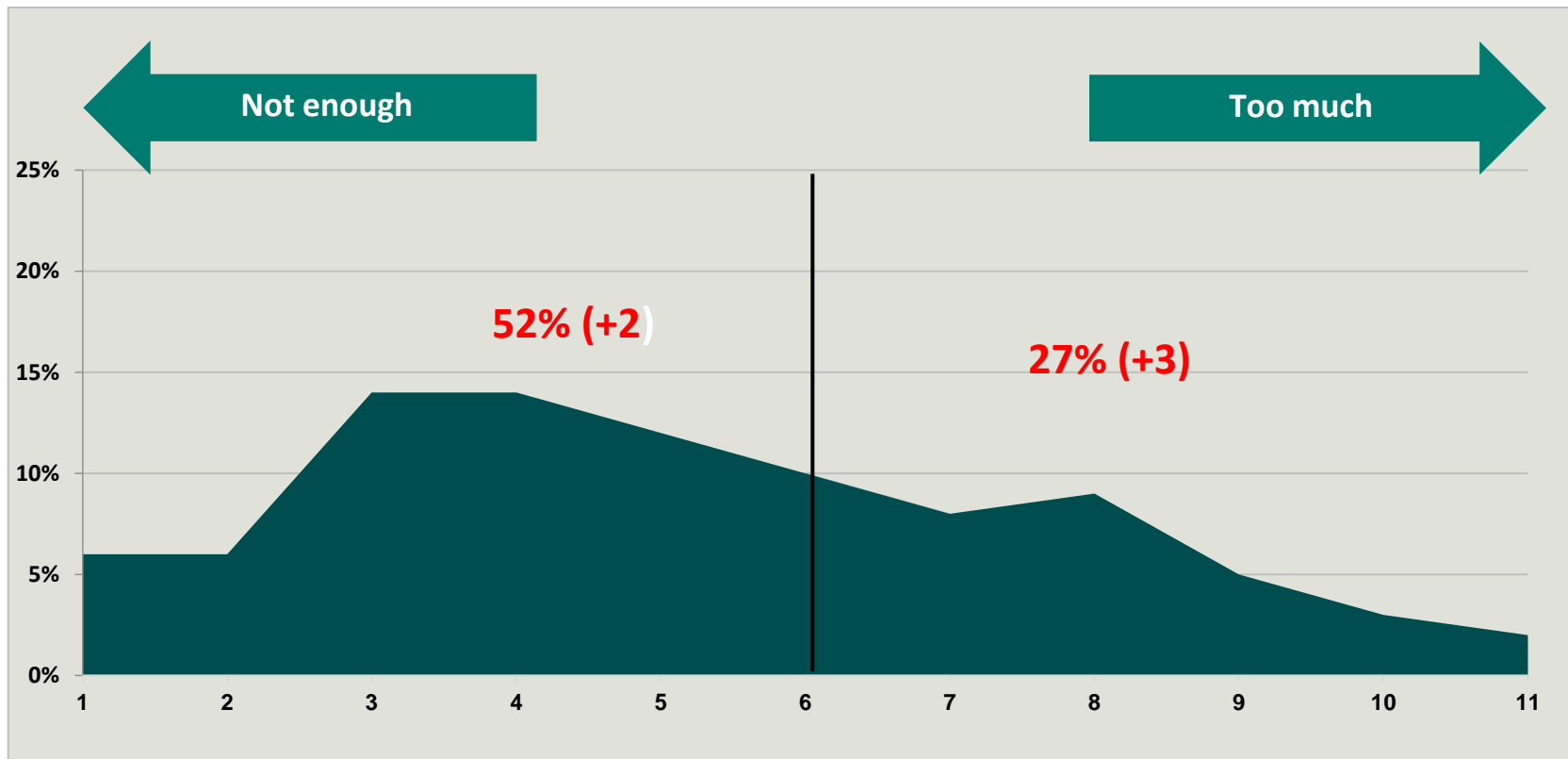
Councils trusted to deliver services over 4x more than the Government or private companies

Who do you trust the most to make decisions about how services are delivered in your local area? [Comparison with 2022]



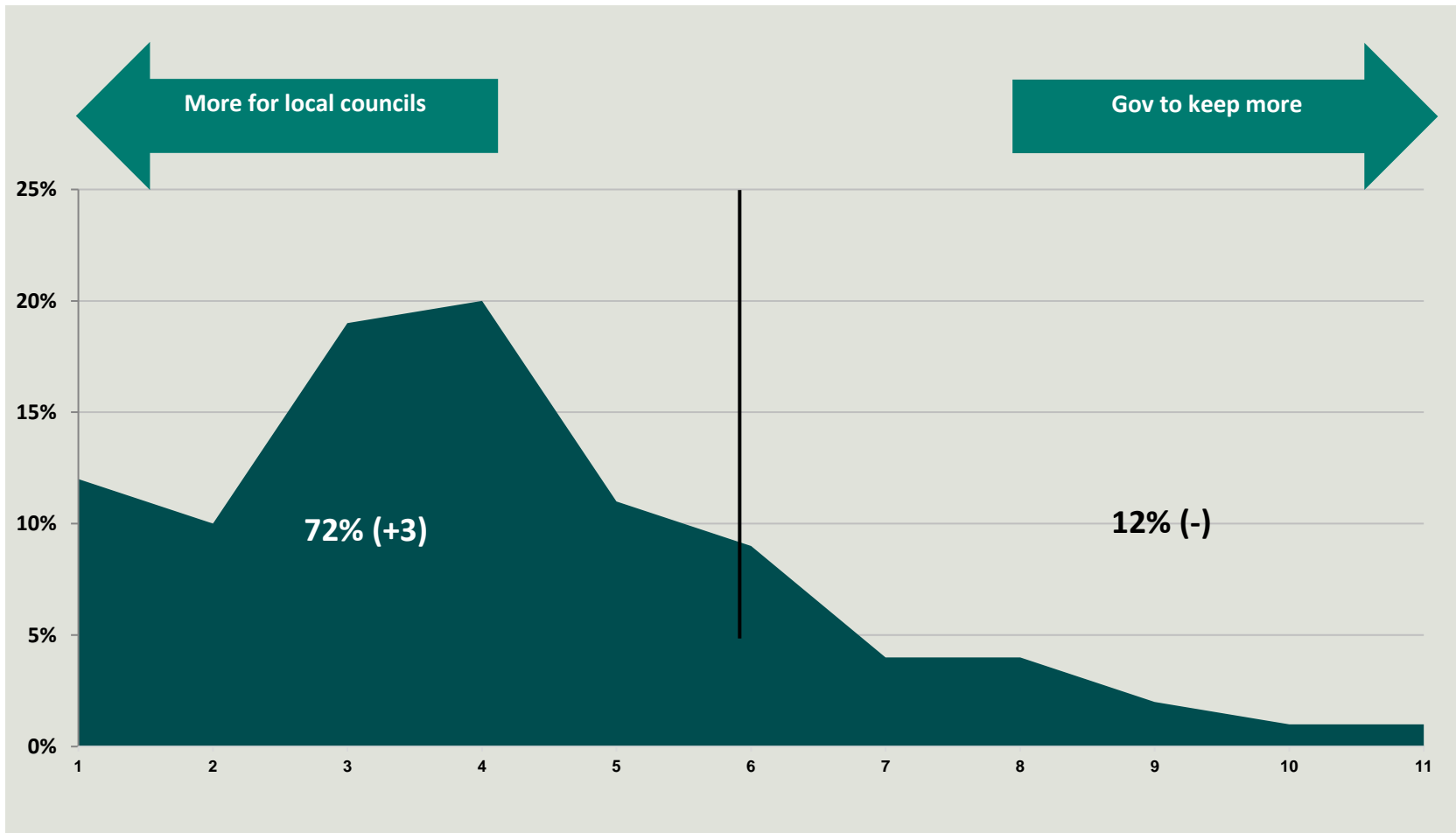
Enough of your taxes spent in your area?

Do you think that enough of your tax is spent on services in your local area? [comparison with 2022]

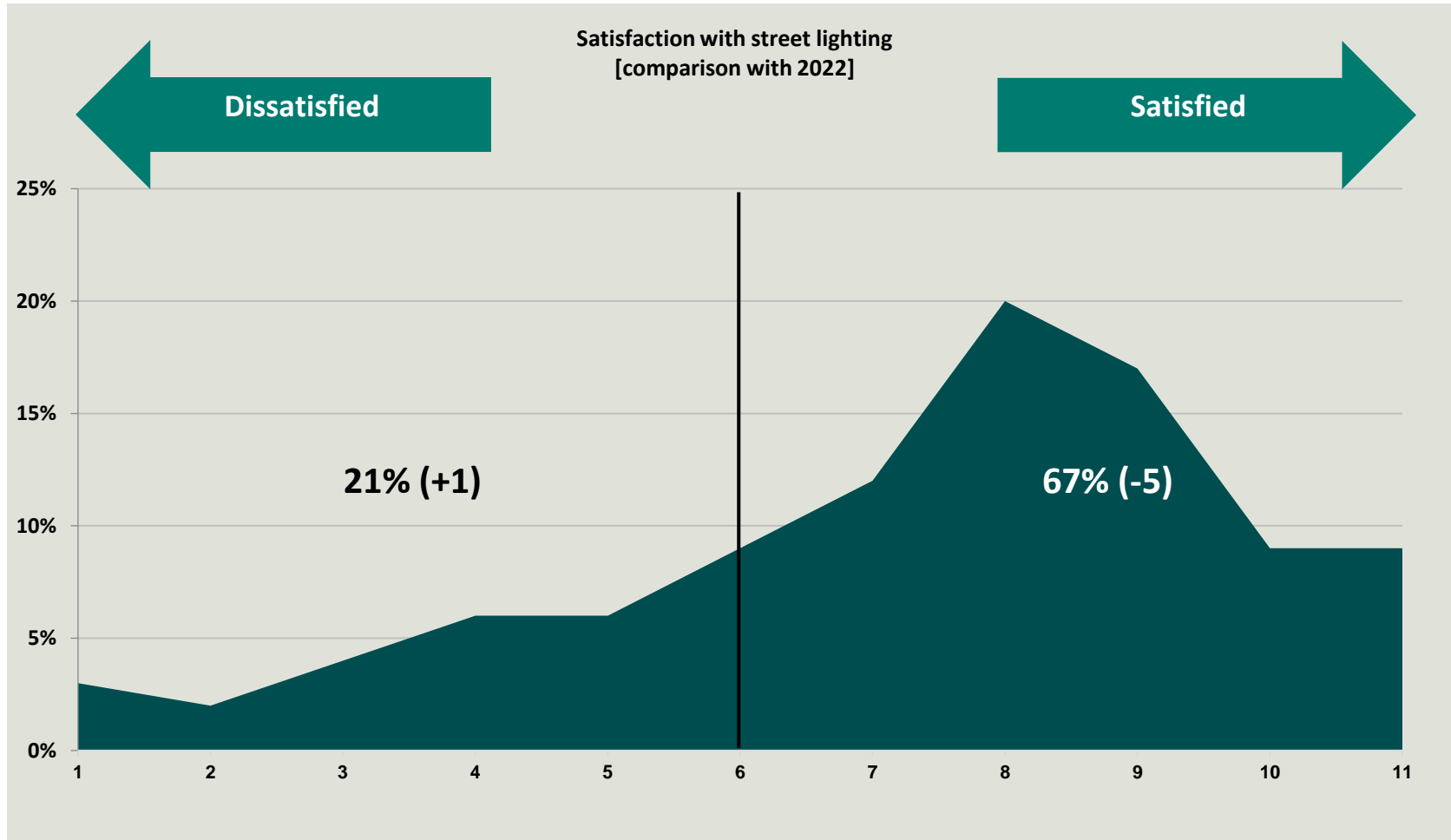


Public want Councils to get more funding

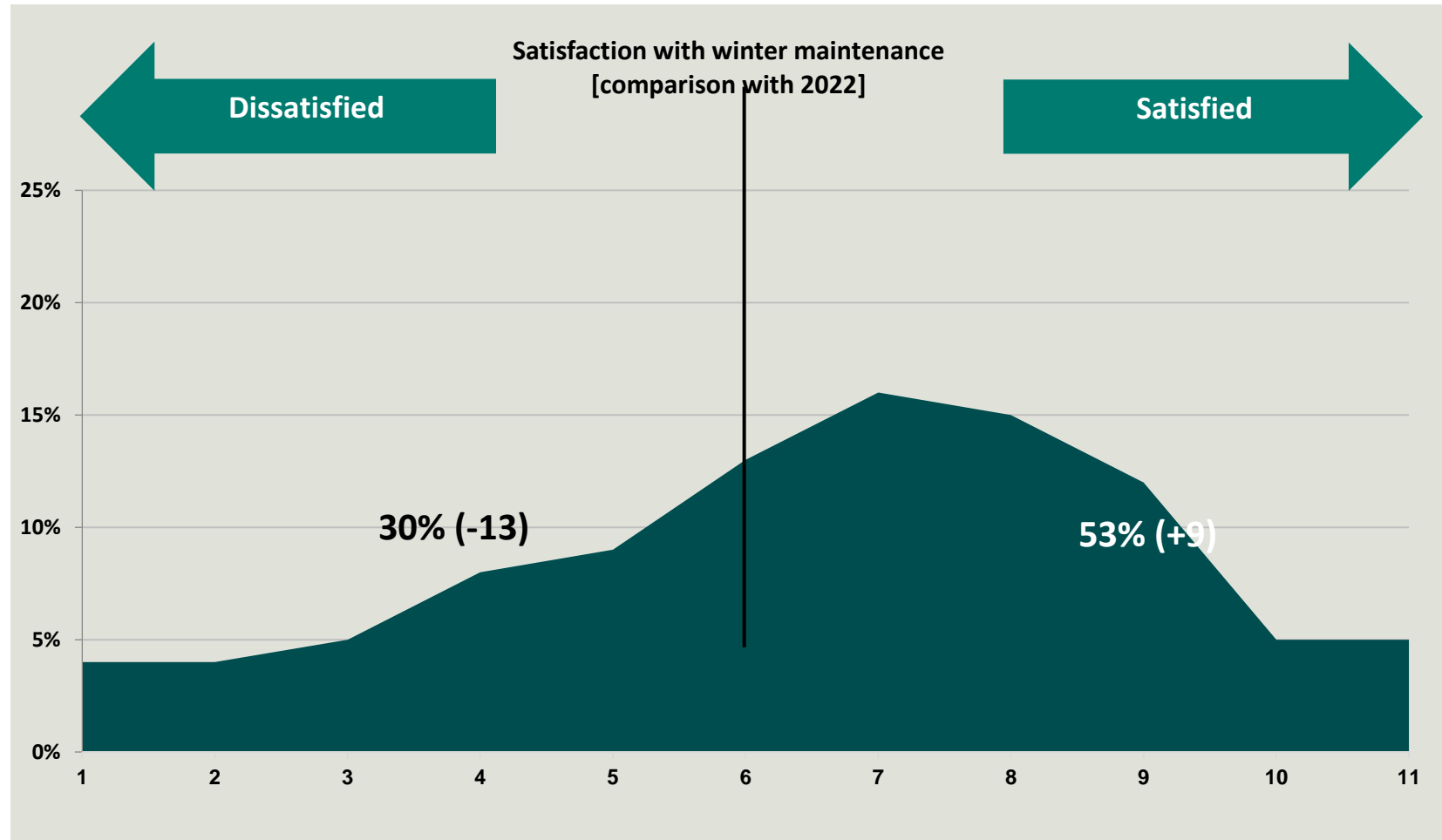
More funding for councils vs Gov to keep more [comparison with 2022]



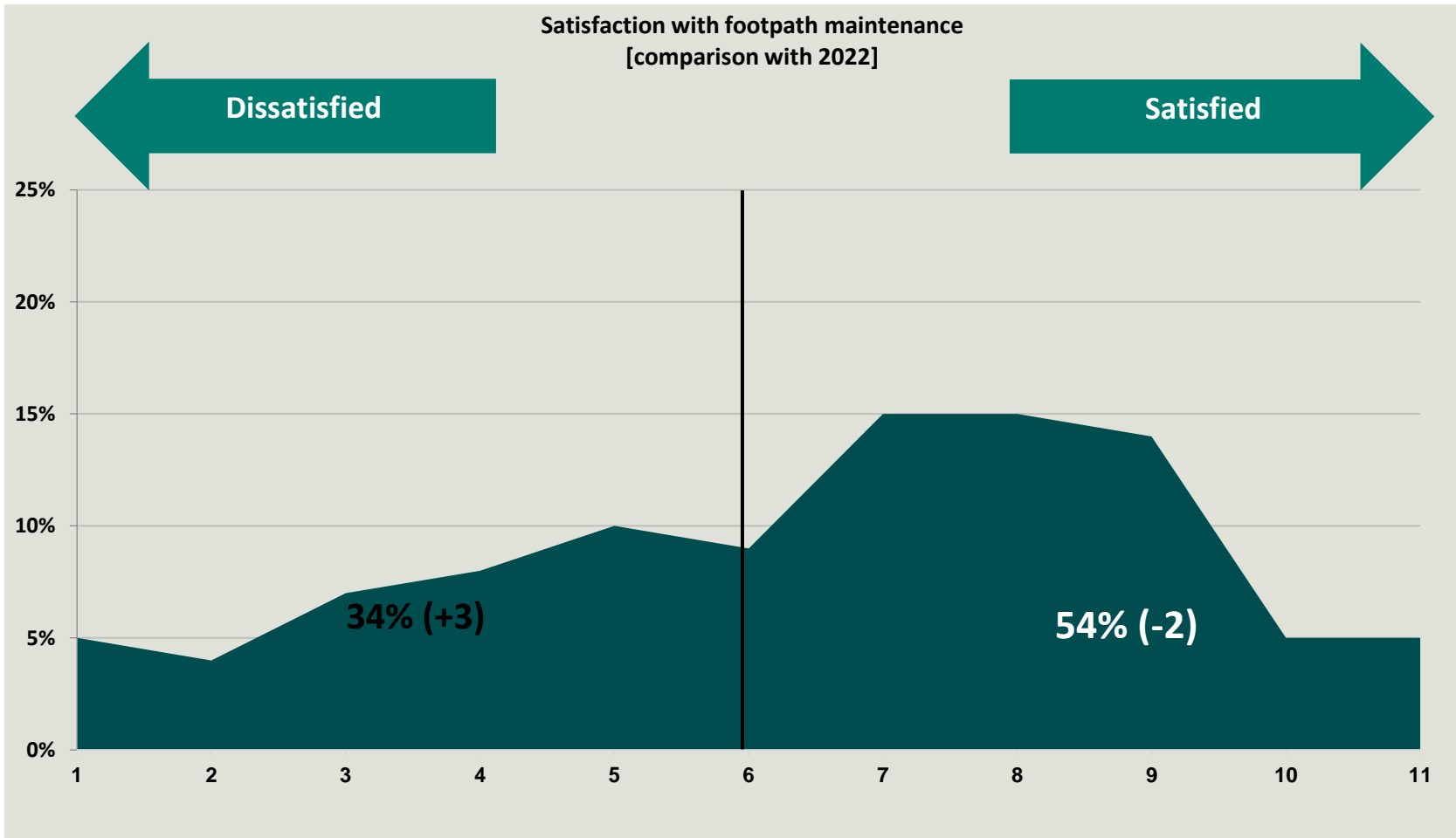
Street Lighting



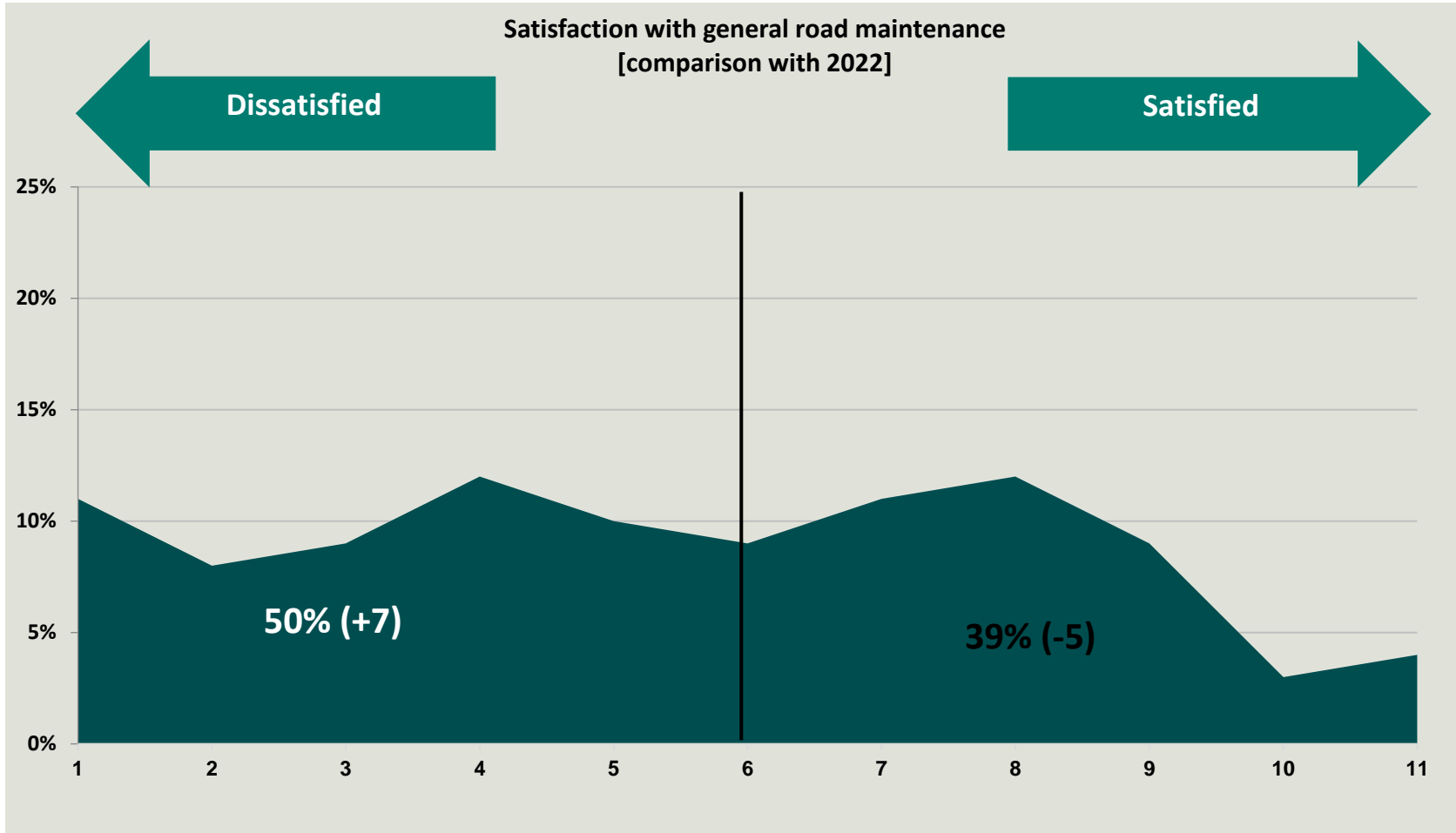
Winter Maintenance



Footpath maintenance

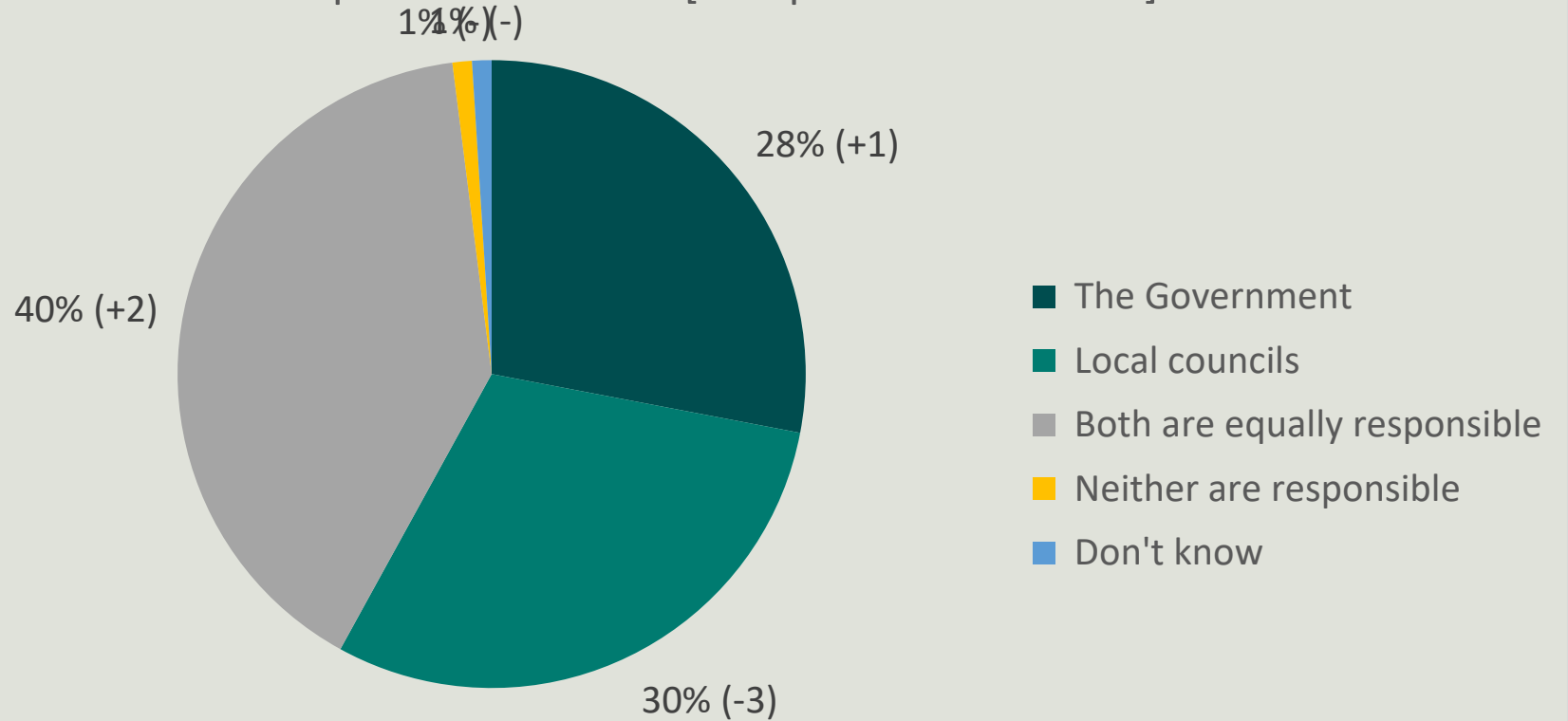


Road maintenance



Opinion divided about where blame for decline lies

You said that local services have declined in your local area in recent years. Who do you think is the most responsible for this? [Comparison with 2022]



Street lighting and Affordable housing top preferences for cuts in face of bankruptcy

Recently, Birmingham City Council declared itself bankrupt. 26 other local authorities are potentially facing bankruptcy. One way local authorities try to avoid this is by cutting spending on certain services or stop providing altogether. Rank each of the

- The lighting on streets
- The amount of affordable housing
- The footpath maintenance
- The general road maintenance
- The winter maintenance (e.g. gritting)
- Care for children
- The waste and recycling collection
- Care for adults

Highways

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Latest Issue



ALSO INSIDE:

- RSMA conference review
- Changing times at NWSRG

Essex plans to bring maintenance in-house

15/03/2024

Steve Menary

Essex County Council is planning to bring more highways maintenance in-house when procurement for a new contract starts next year.

The plans have been floated by the Conservative-led council, although its current contract with Ringway Jacobs, which was first agreed back in 2012, does not run out for another three years.



National Underground Asset Register (NUAR)

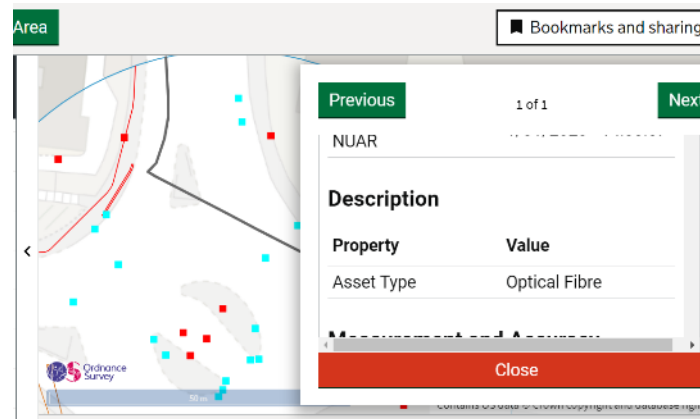
About NUAR – A request please, to help improve resilience!

- The Geospatial Commission is building a digital map of underground pipes and cables that will revolutionise the way we install, maintain, operate and repair our buried infrastructure - the **National Underground Asset Register (NUAR)**.
- NUAR will improve the efficiency and safety of underground works by creating a secure, auditable, trusted and sustainable platform.
- It will provide a consistent, interactive digital map of buried asset data, accessible when, where and how it is needed by those planning and executing excavations on behalf of underground asset owners.
- It will also lead to enhanced communication between parties and improve data quality.



£350m pa economic benefits

- The estimated economic cost of accidental strikes on underground pipes and cables is £2.4 billion a year
- The economic benefits of NUAR are estimated to be £350m per year
- This consists of benefits in efficiencies, reduced asset strikes and reduced delays to the public and businesses
- We have published the approach taken to estimate the relevant benefits

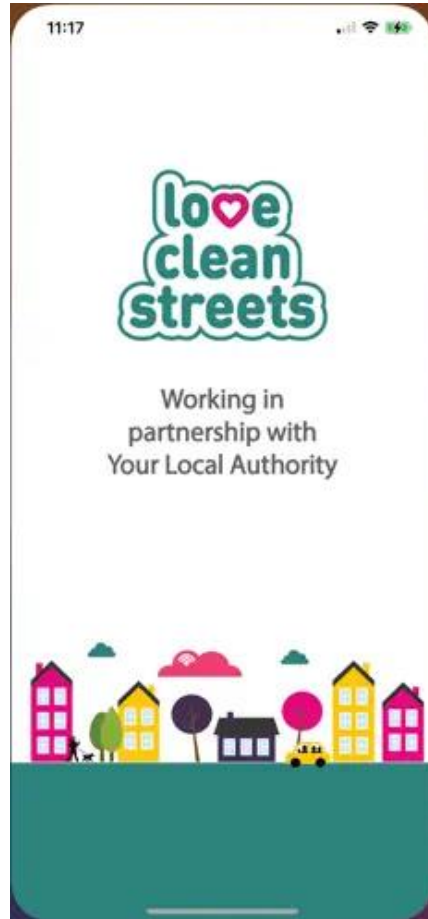


Benefits for a wide range of users

- Asset Owners - efficiencies in sharing data
- Excavators - reduced risks of asset strikes
- Data managers - improved data quality
- Planners - efficiencies in sourcing data and reduced risks of asset strikes
- Plant protection officers - greater knowledge of activity near assets
- General public and businesses - reduced delays from accidental strikes

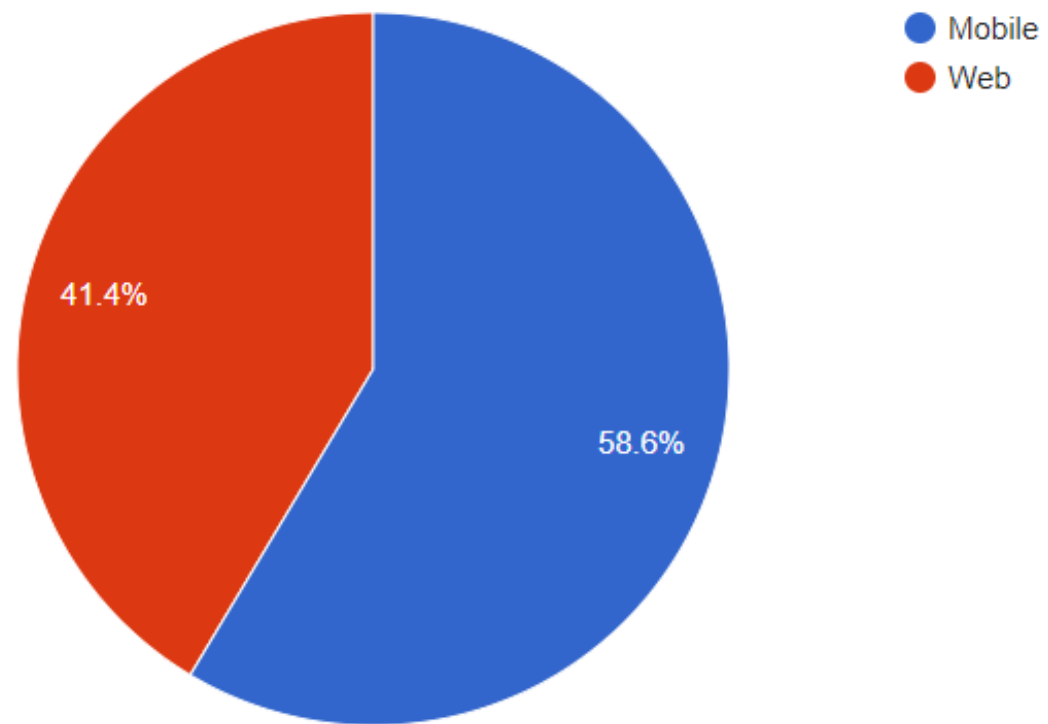
NUAR team have five 30-minute webinars scheduled for October and November. Sign-up using the links below, when we will be exploring:

- The Legal Framework surrounding NUAR on [Wednesday 8 November](#)
- Data and adding it to the platform on [Wednesday 15 November](#)
- The role of NUAR Administrators on [Wednesday 29 November](#)

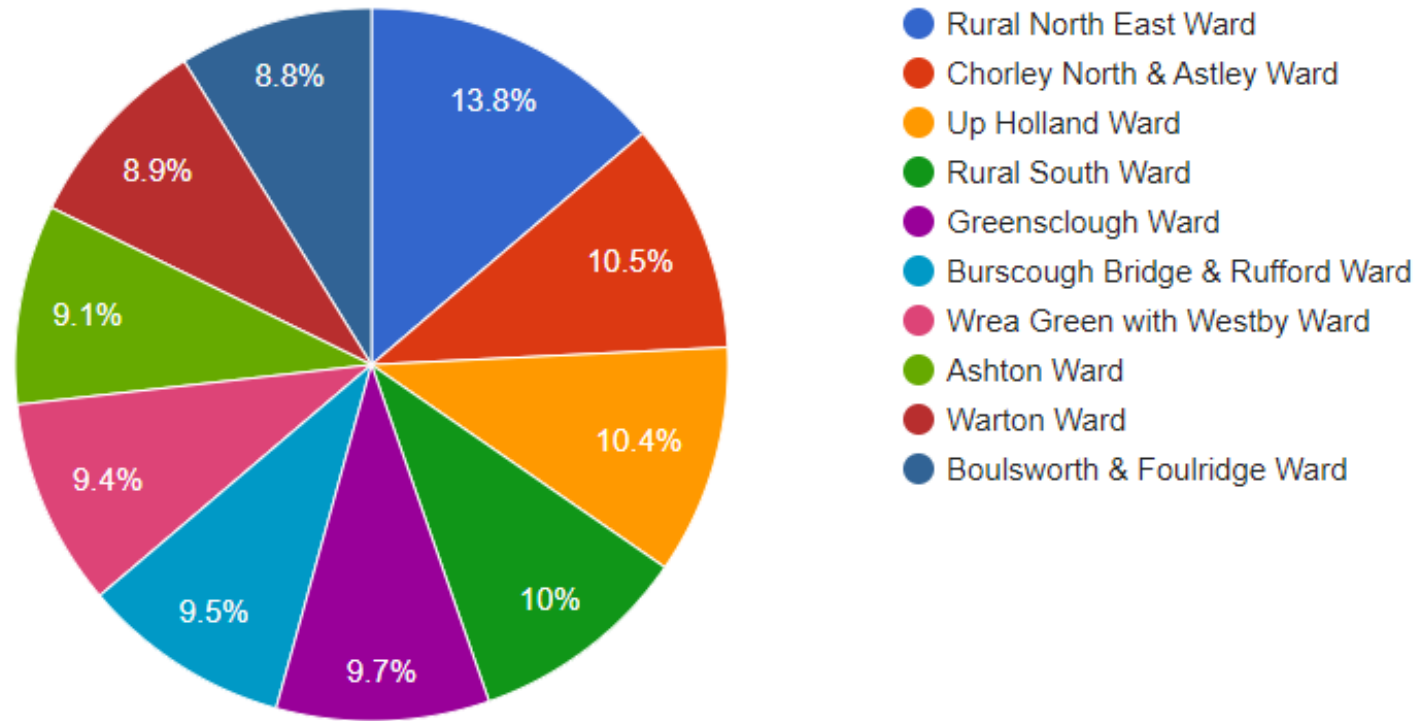




Reporting Channel between 01/01/2024 - 31/01/2024



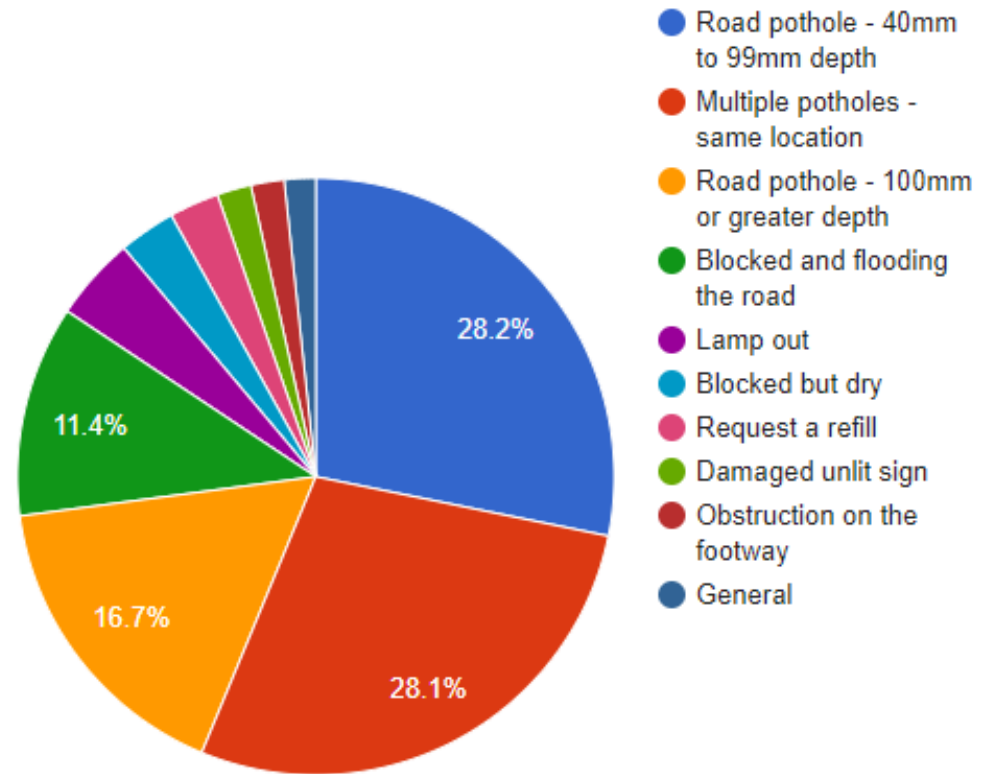
Reports by Ward between 01/01/2024 - 31/01/2024





Authority Stats	Number of Reports
Todays Reports	296
Yesterdays Reports	536
Last 7 Days	3,217
This Month	9,216
Last Month	11,795

Top 10 categories for the month





Top 10 Reported Categories

Provides the top ten most reported categories across the timescale you select

Please select your timescale
Last Month

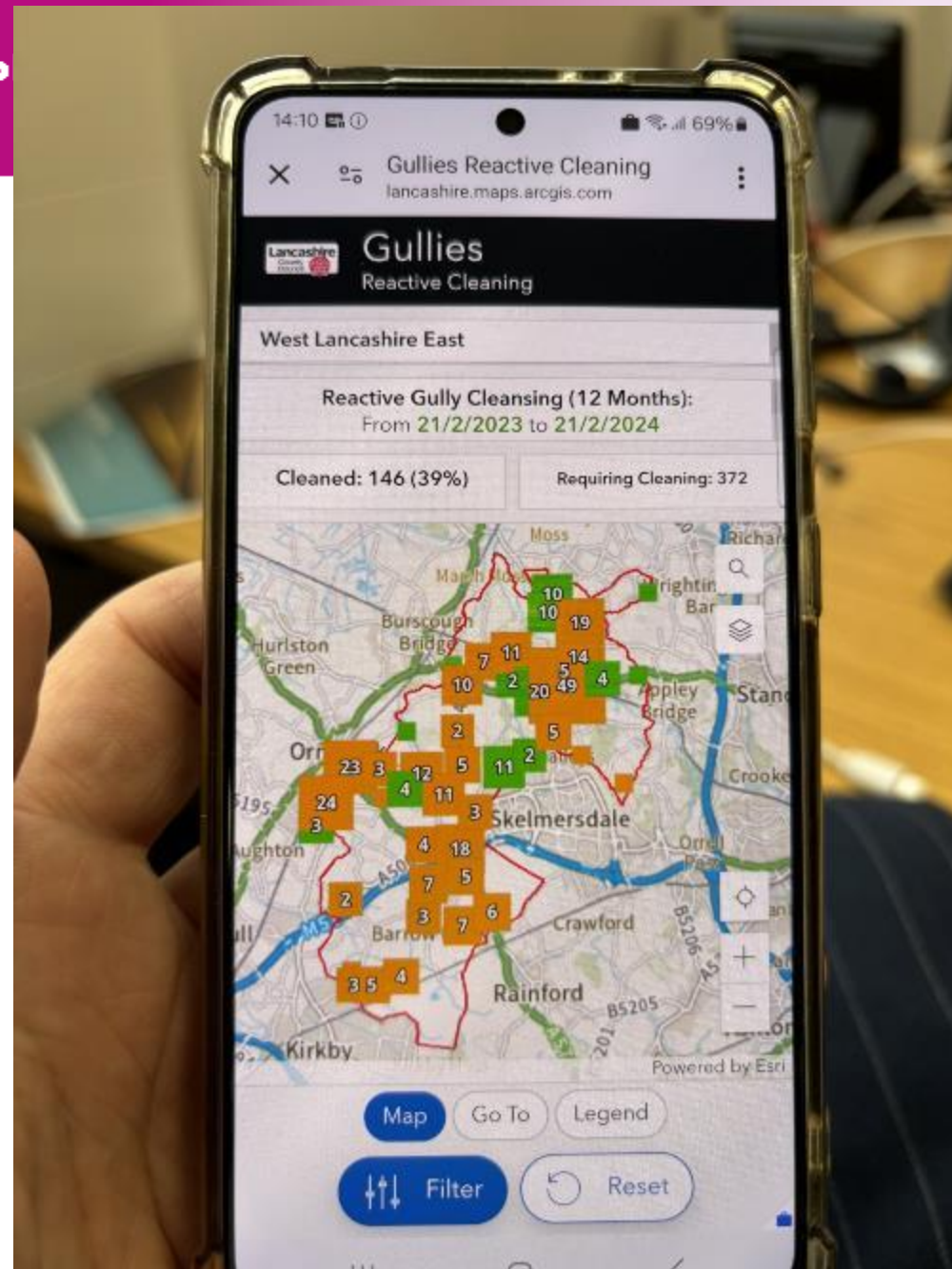
Start Date
dd/mm/yyyy

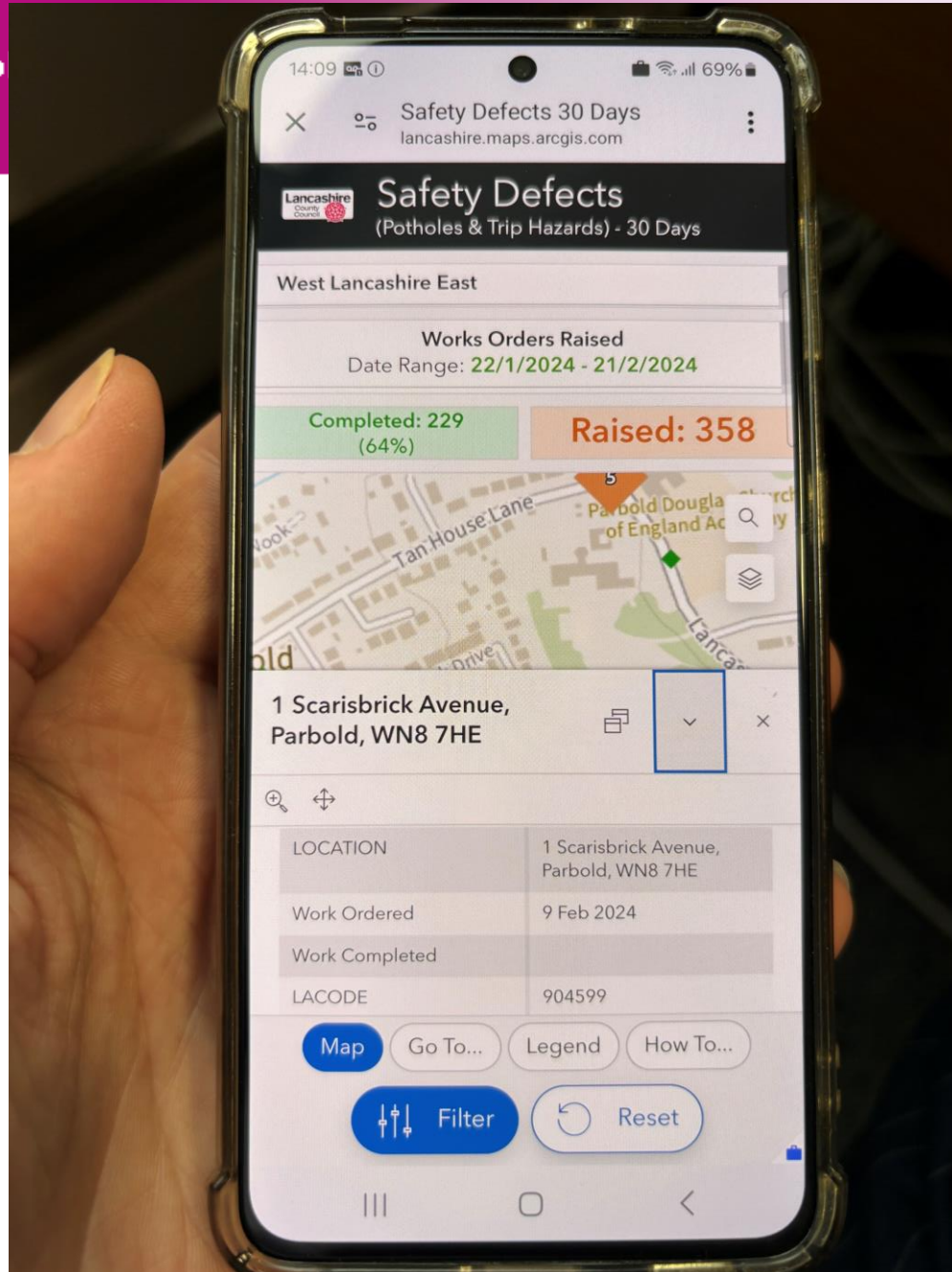
End Date
dd/mm/yyyy

Run Print

Top 10 Reported Categories between 01/01/2024 - 31/01/2024

Category	Number of Reports	Percentage
Road pothole - 40mm to 99mm depth	2,216	23.64
Multiple potholes - same location	1,901	20.28
Blocked and flooding the road	1,410	15.04
Road pothole - 100mm or greater depth	1,358	14.49
Request a refill	719	7.67
Lamp out	583	6.22
Blocked but dry	394	4.2
Request new grit bin	337	3.6
Damaged unlit sign	232	2.47
General	224	2.39







Contact details

Rob Bailey, Principal Advisor, APSE

Email: RBailey@apse.org.uk

Mob: 07789 844495



GB 11409



GB 11132



GB 14074

Association for Public Service Excellence
2nd floor Washbrook House, Lancastrian Office Centre, Talbot Road,
Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0FP.
telephone: 0161 772 1810
web: www.apse.org.uk