



# **APSE State of the Market in Parks and Open Spaces**

## **Survey Result and Analysis 2015**

**Mo Baines, APSE Head of Communication and Coordination**



## What does APSE Performance networks tell us?

- Costs down
- Frequencies are reducing
- Customer satisfaction?
- Can we sustain further reductions?

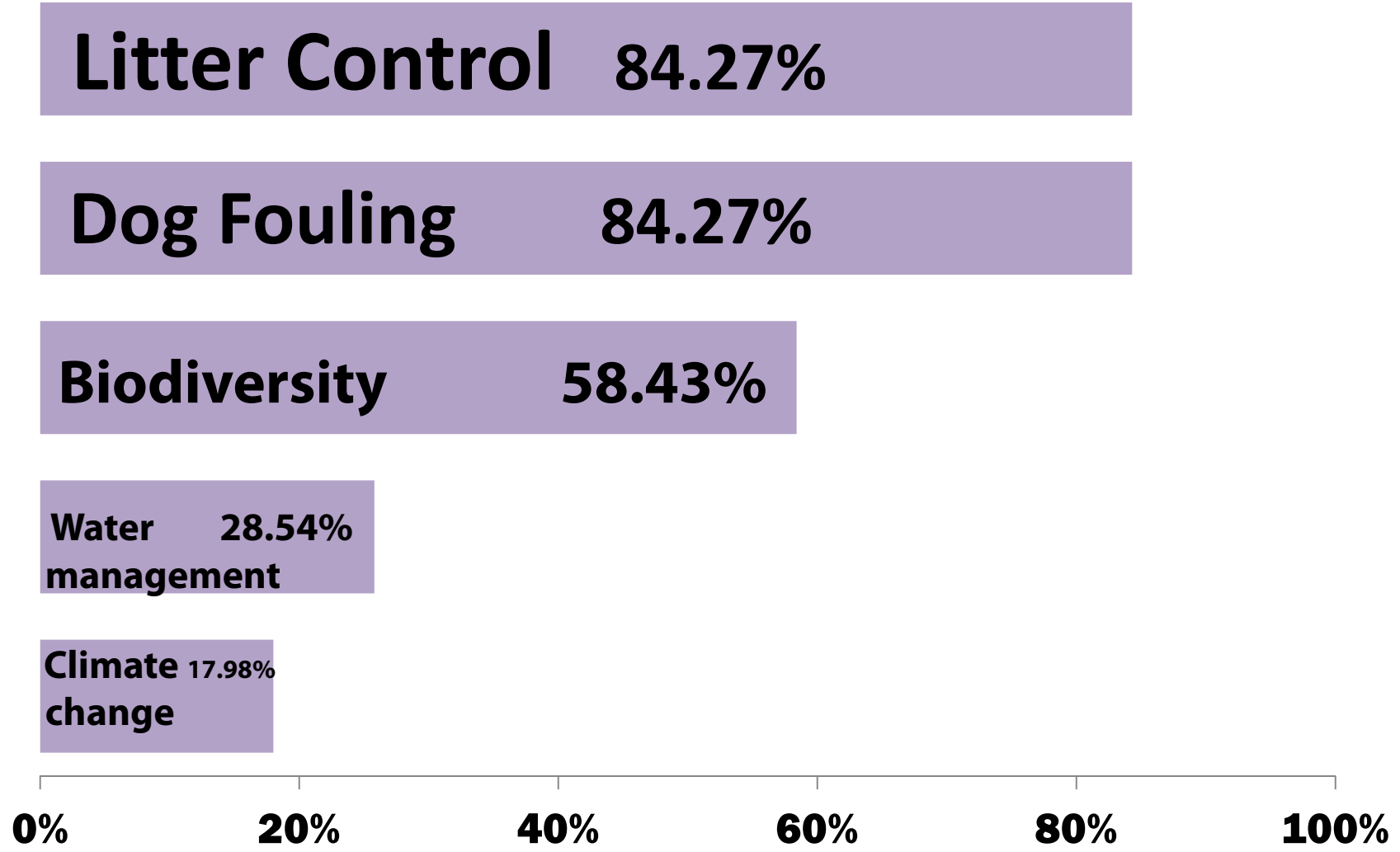
So what does the state of the market tell us?

# Please give your opinion on the following statements

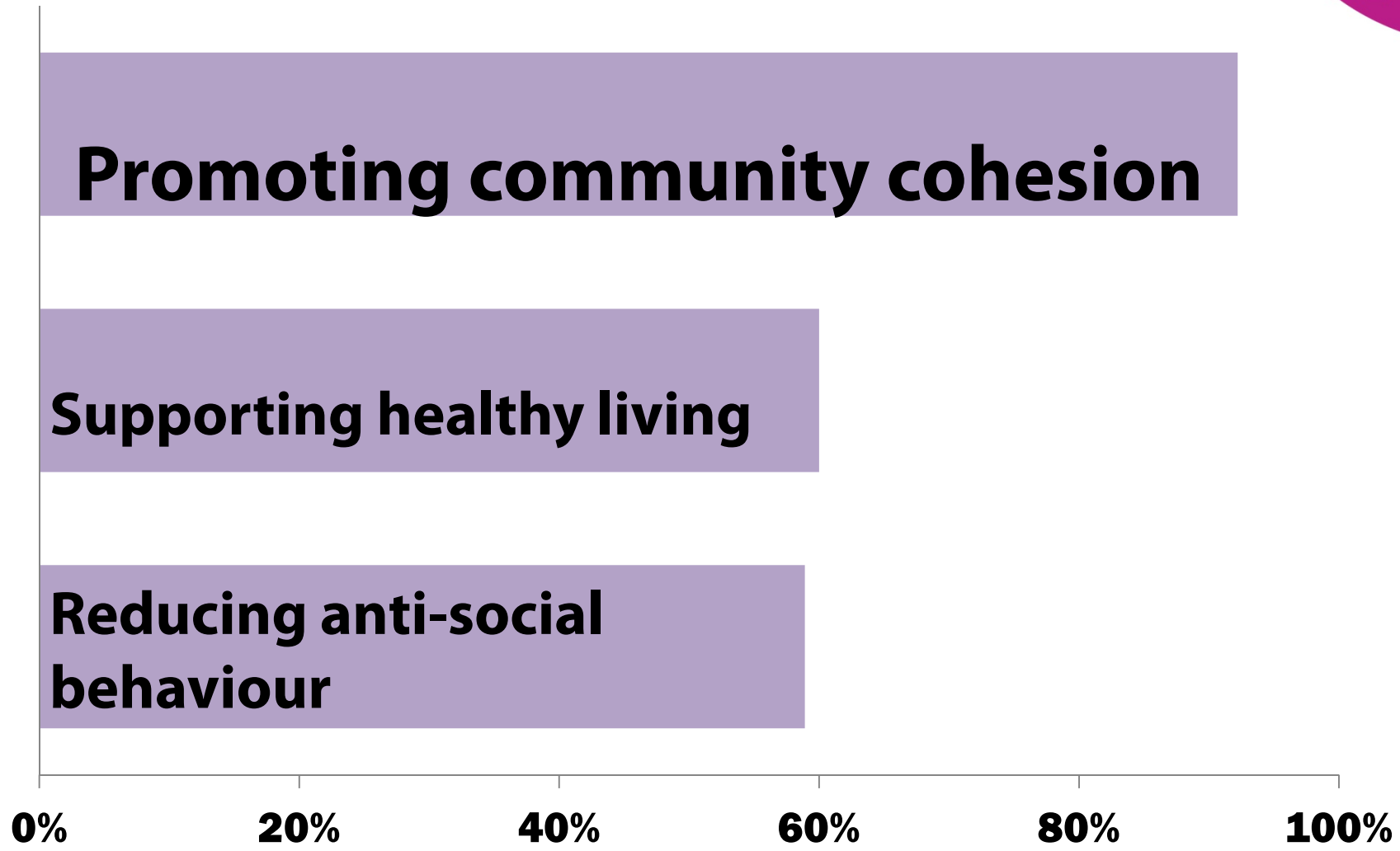


Answer Options	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	No opinion
The squeeze on public sector resources is affecting parks and green spaces disproportionately to other service areas	37.4%	37.4%	19.8%	1.1%	4.4%
Reductions in funding has resulted in a withdrawal of maintenance from some land and an increase in unmaintained land	34.1%	42.9%	20.9%	0.0%	2.2%
Lack of investment in parks and green spaces will have health and social impacts	56.7%	36.7%	3.3%	2.2%	1.1%
There is a clear link between parks/play provision and levels of crime/anti-social behaviour	31.5%	43.8%	9.0%	2.2%	13.5%
There's a limit to the extent to which volunteers can be involved in delivering parks and green space services	61.8%	25.8%	7.9%	2.2%	2.2%
The public should get free access to all parks	61.1%	27.8%	7.8%	2.2%	1.1%

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



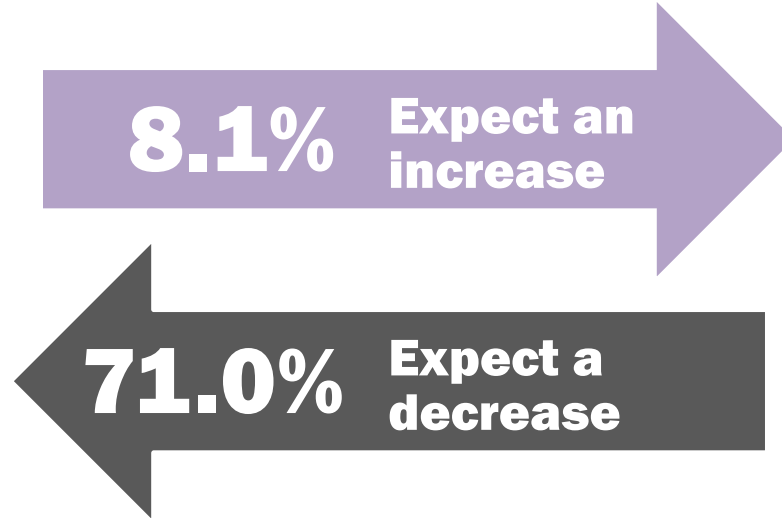
# What social issues are a priority for your parks and green space service?



# How do you expect the parks and green space budget to change over the next year?

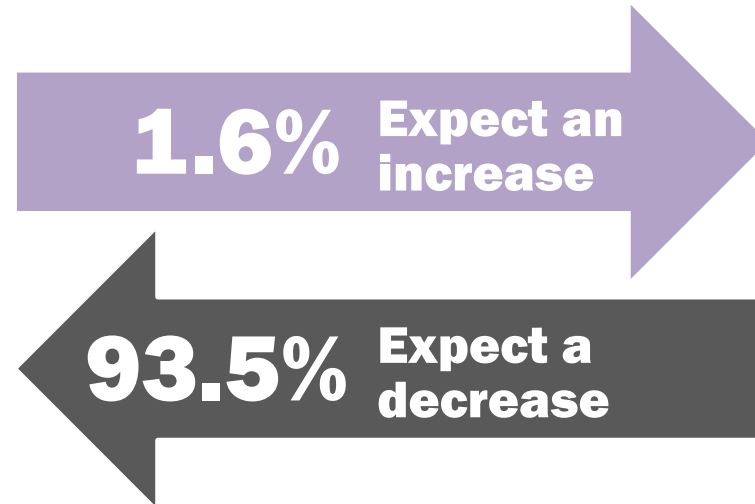


Capital expectations



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Revenue expectations



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

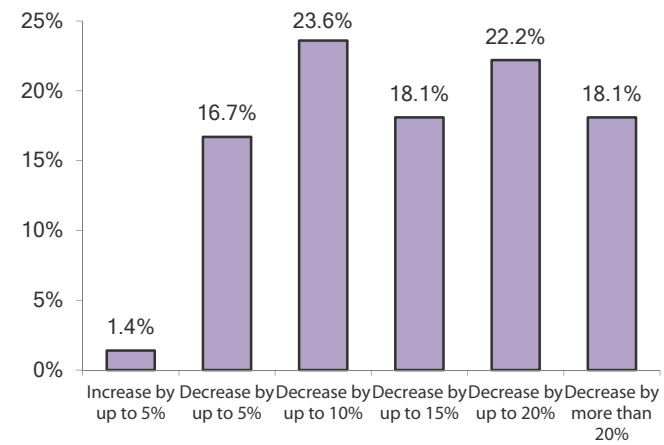


# 80.5%

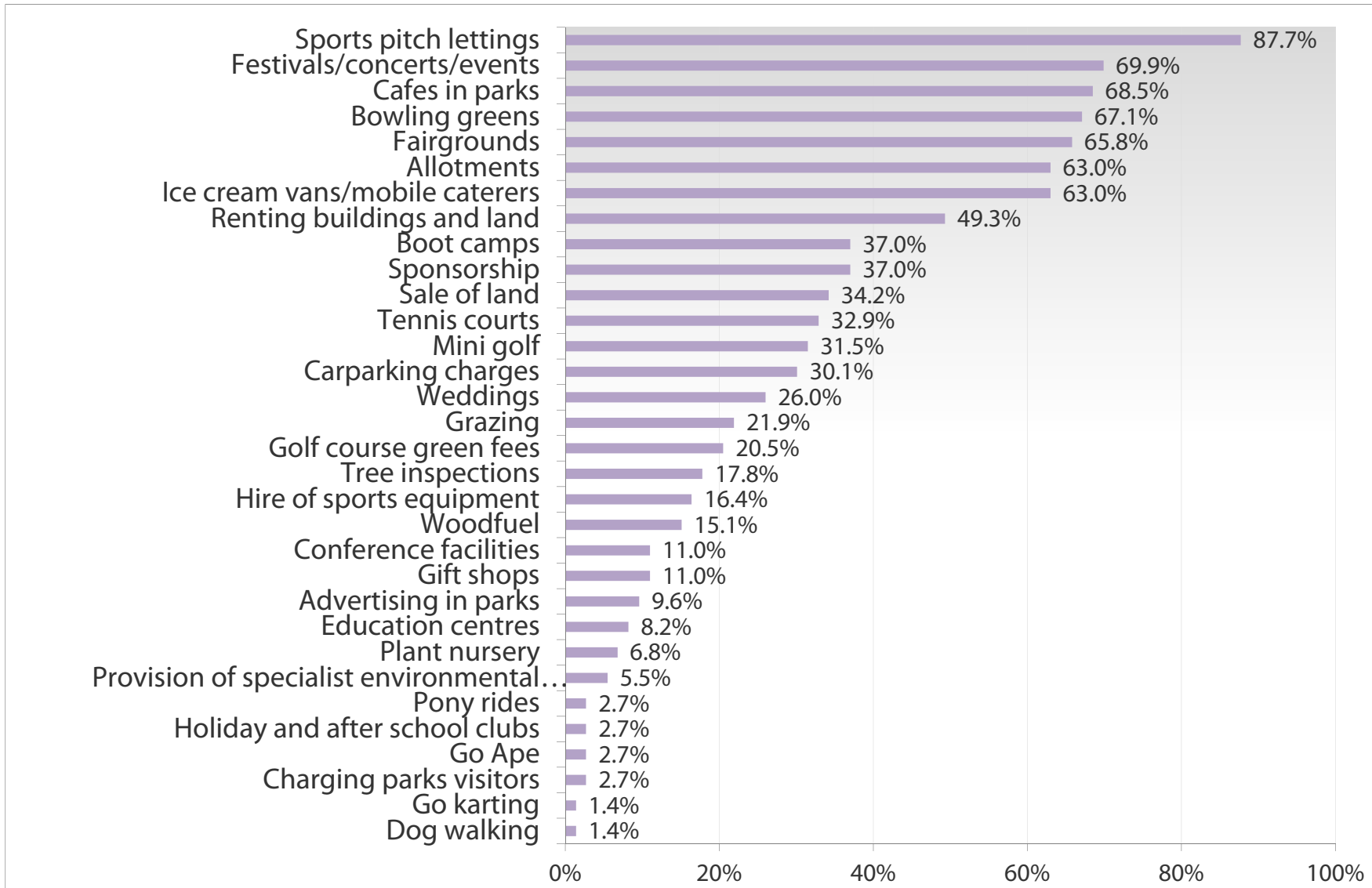
of respondents expect to lose between 5% and 20% of their budget over the next 5 years.

# 18.1%

expect to lose anywhere from 20% up to 50%!

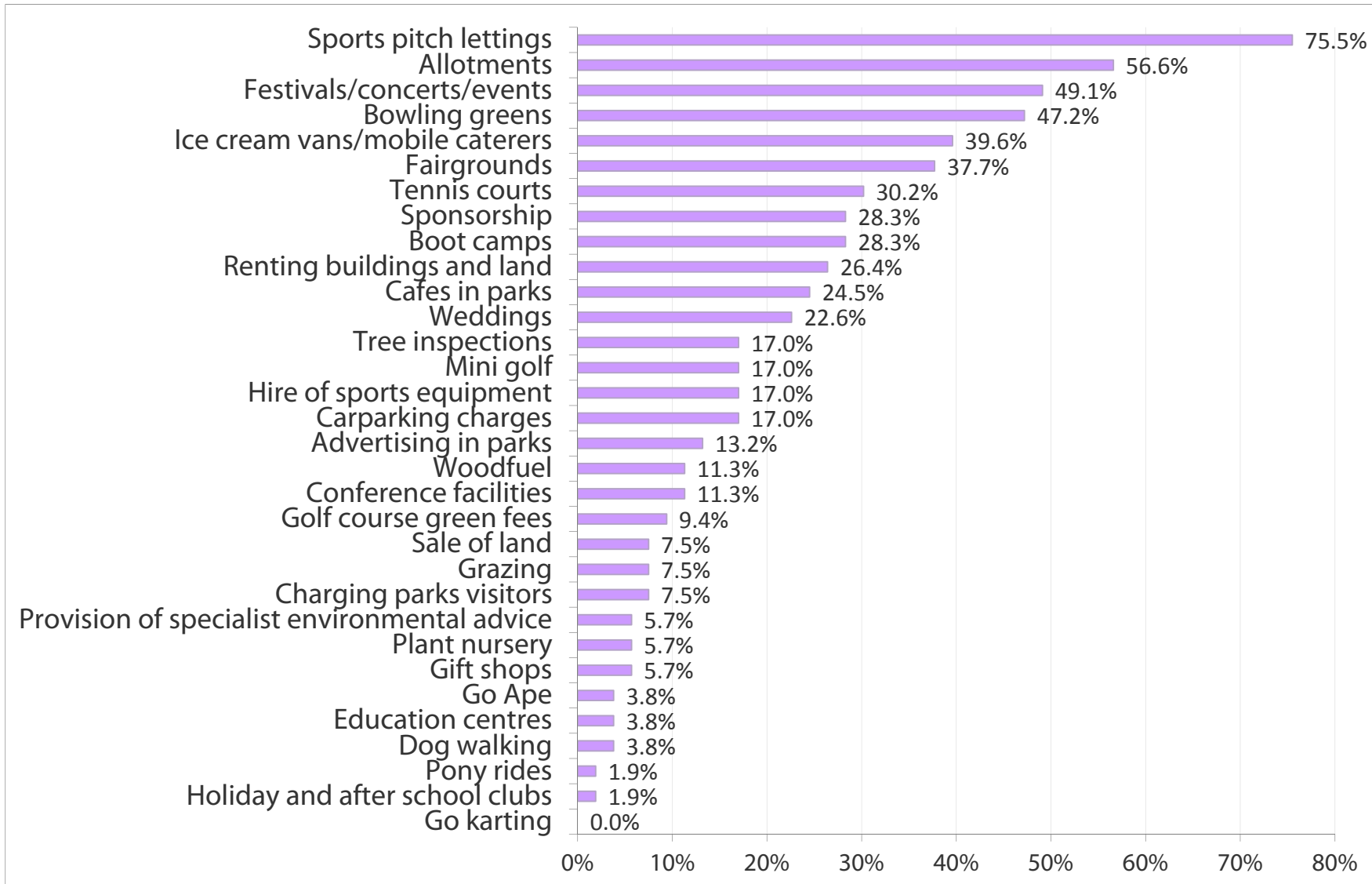


# What areas do you currently generate income in through fees and charges?

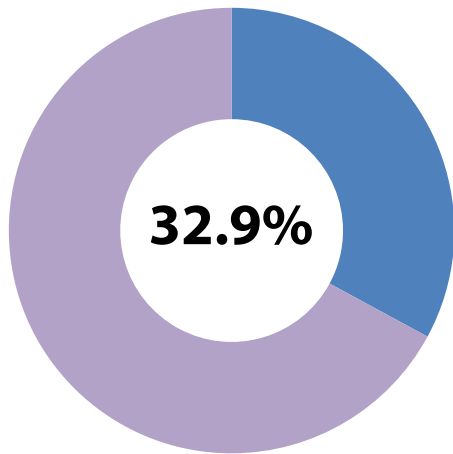




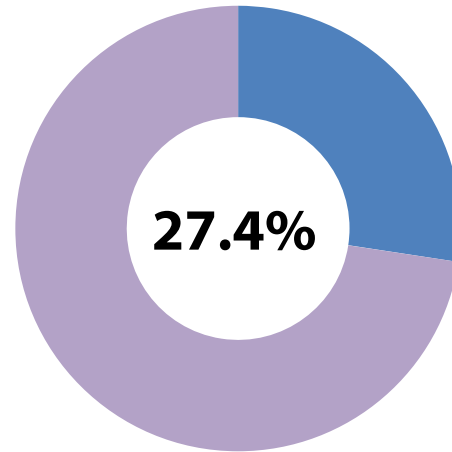
# What areas do you intend to increase fees and charges in over the next 2-3 years?



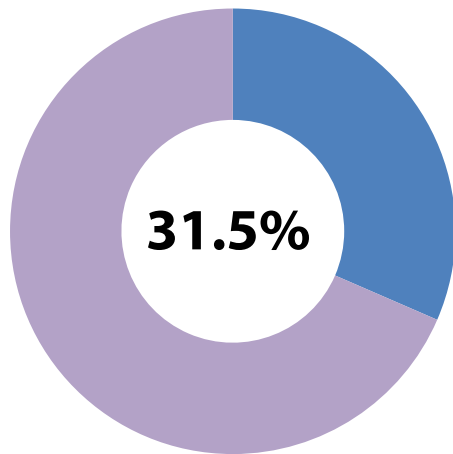
# Do you sell your services outside of the Local Authority?



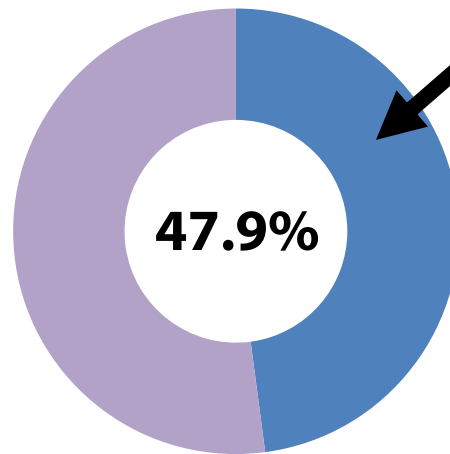
Private sector



Other local authorities

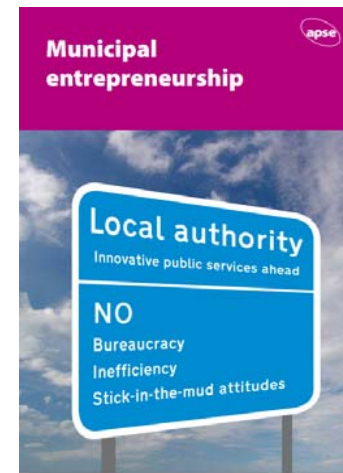


Other public sector bodies

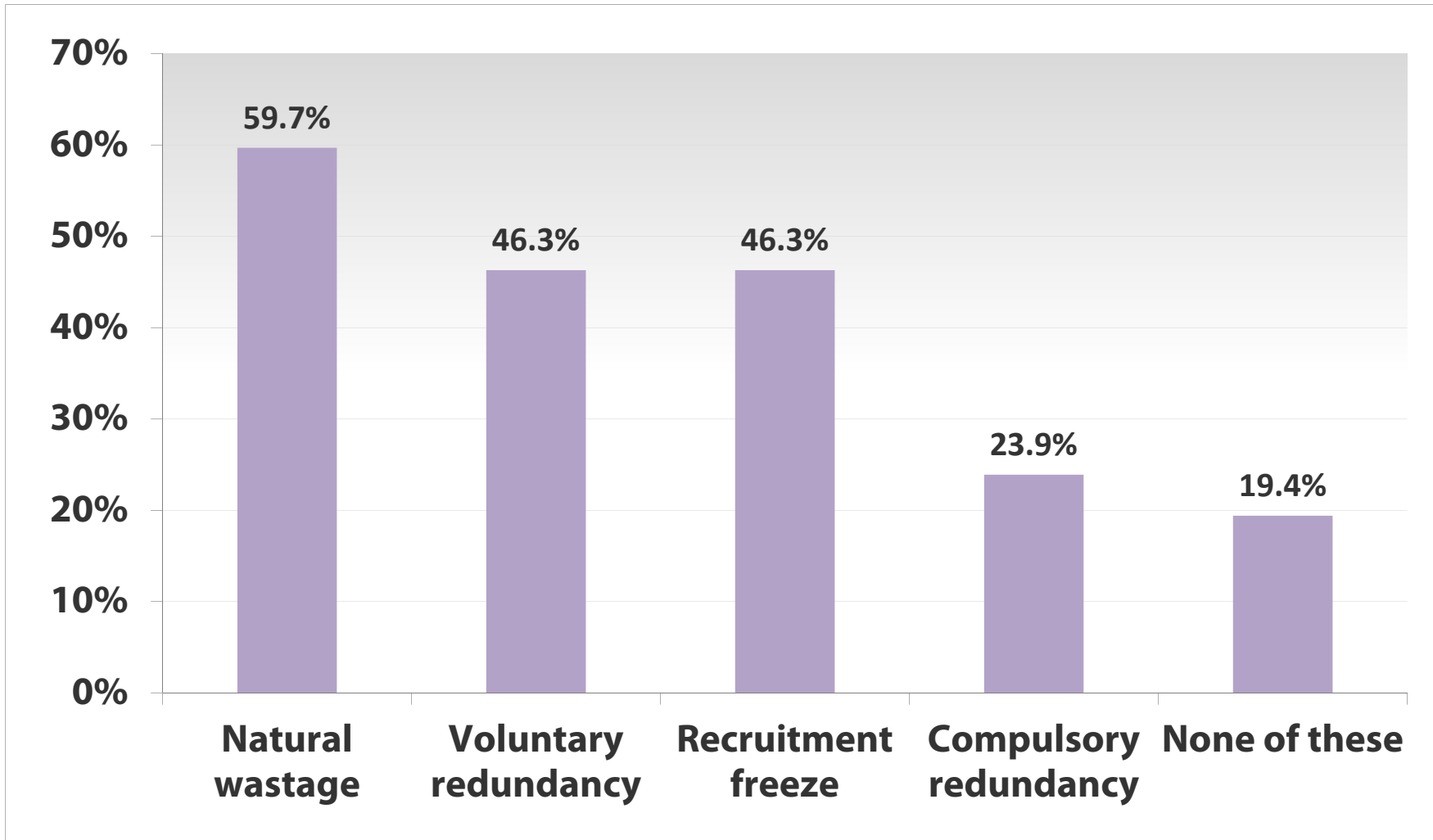


No

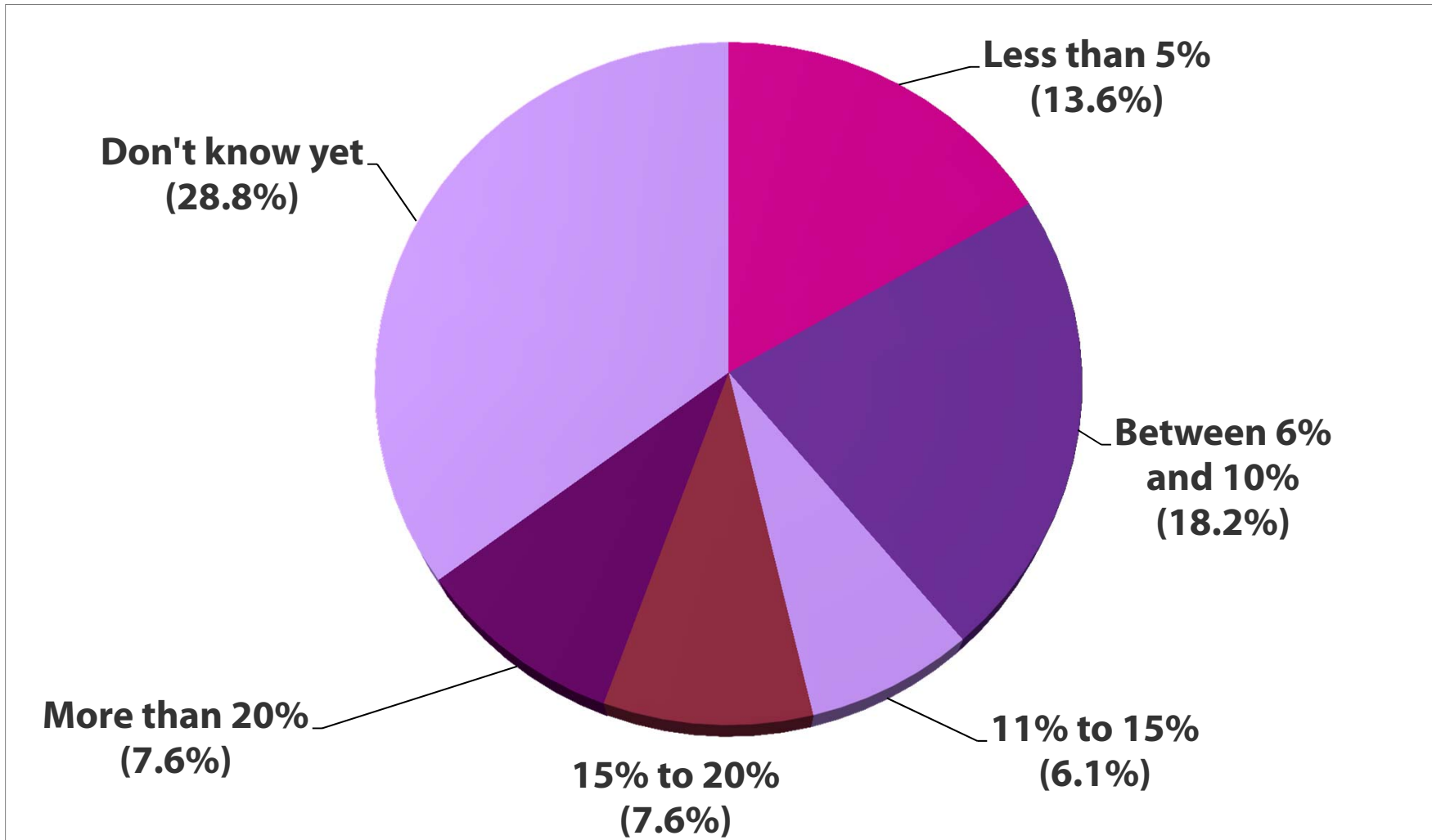
Recommended reading for those who answered 'No'!



# Has/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?



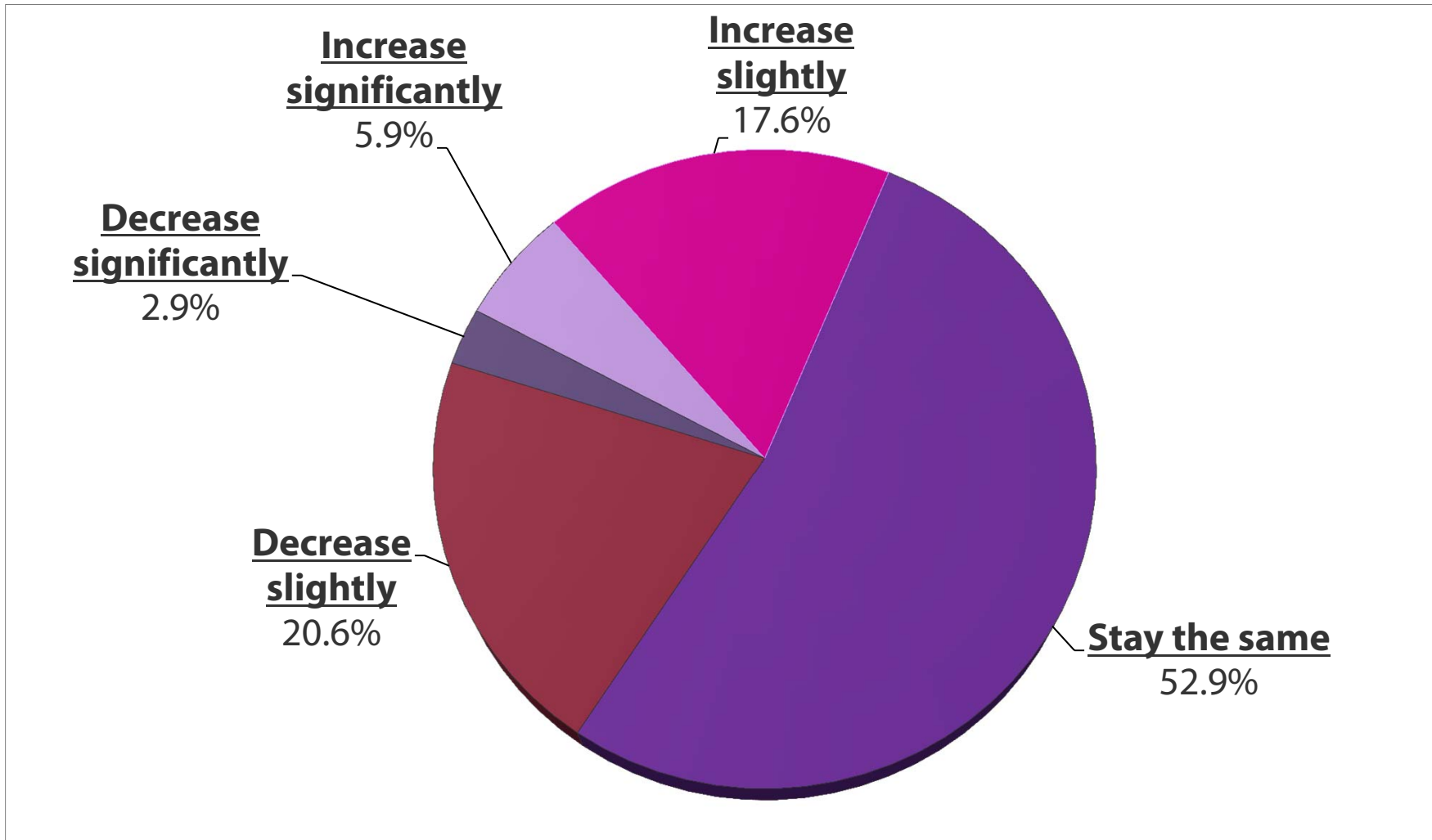
# Staff absence figures



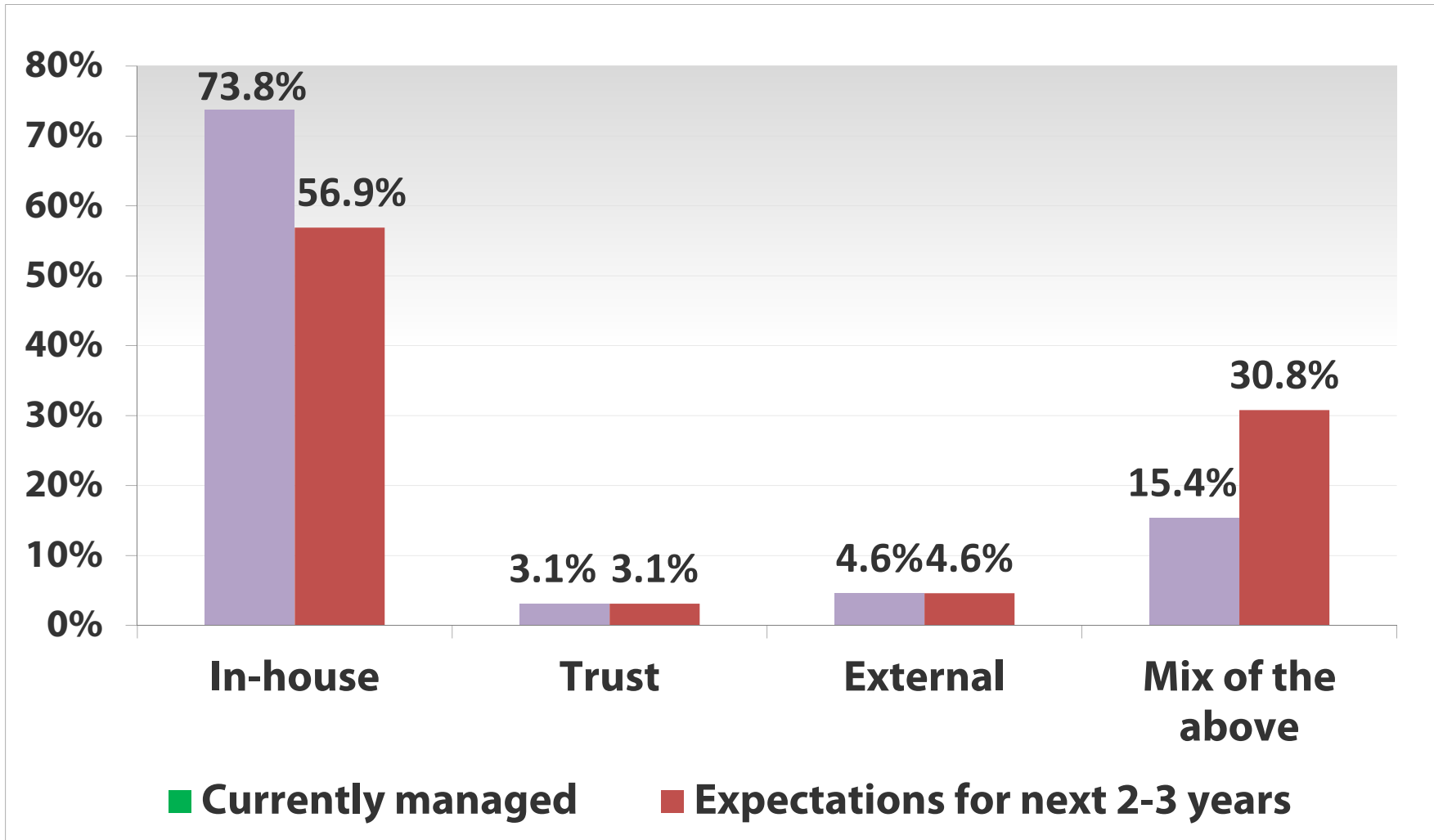
What are your estimated staff absence levels?	
0%	4.8%
<b>Under 5%</b>	<b>49.2%</b>
Under 10%	41.3%
Under 20%	4.8%

Are staff absence levels at an acceptable level?	
Too high	13.8%
Slightly above average	18.5%
<b>About average</b>	<b>29.2%</b>
Slightly below average	18.5%
Very low	20.0%

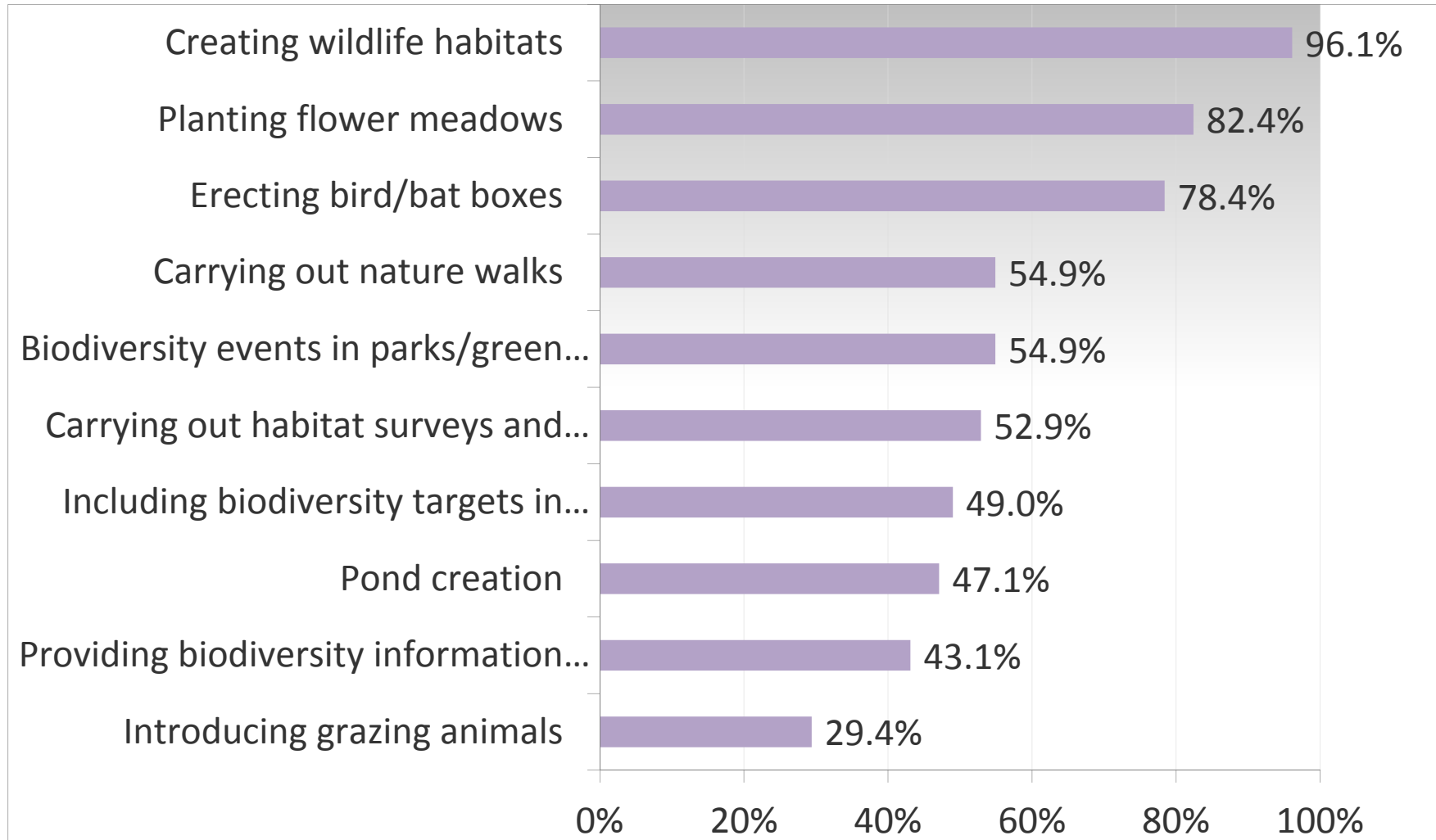
# Overall how do you expect the total number of formal parks (including playgrounds) to change over the next year



# Service delivery model – now and in 2-3 years time

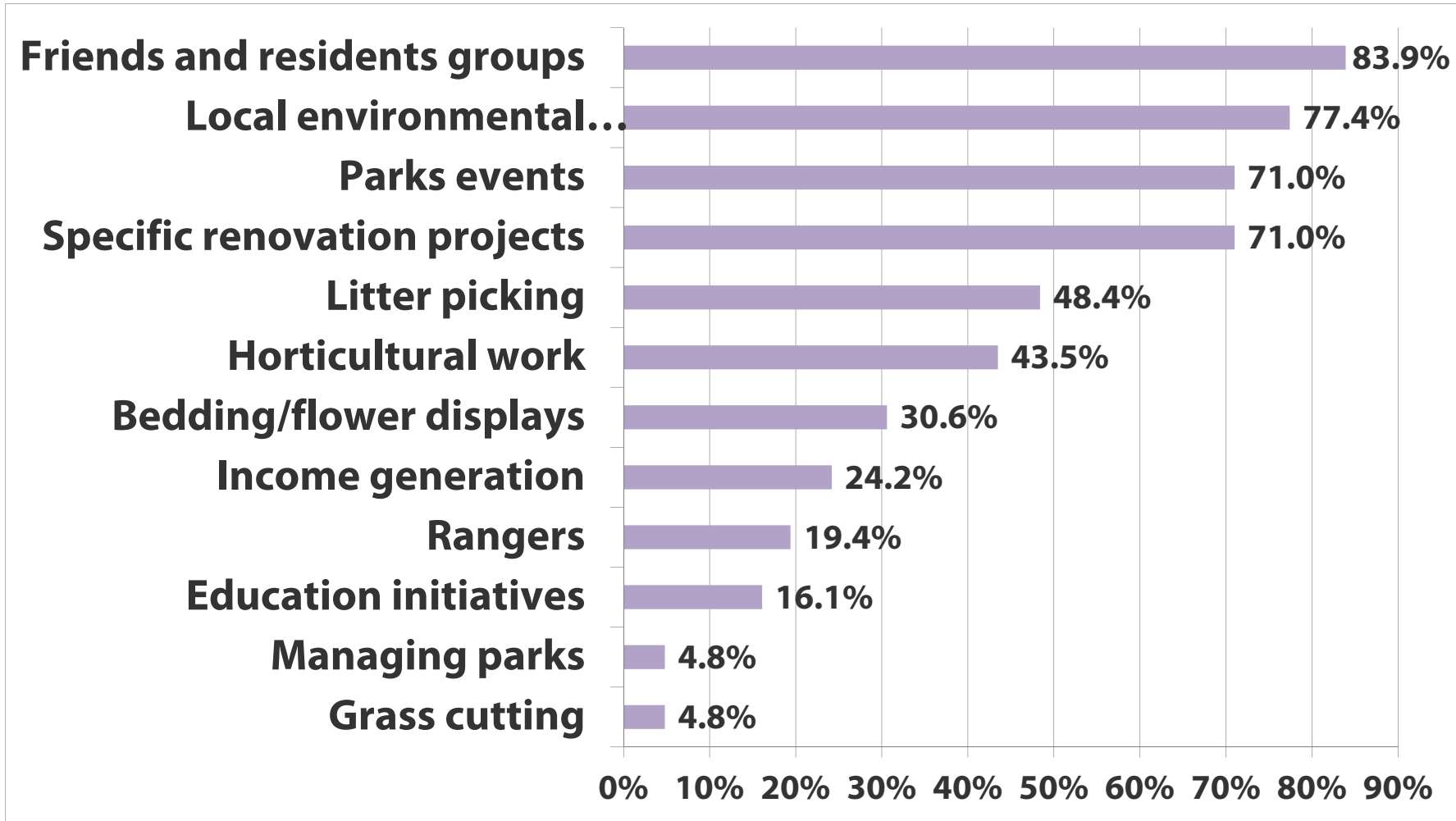


# If you make a specific provision for the promotion of biodiversity, which of the following have you carried out?

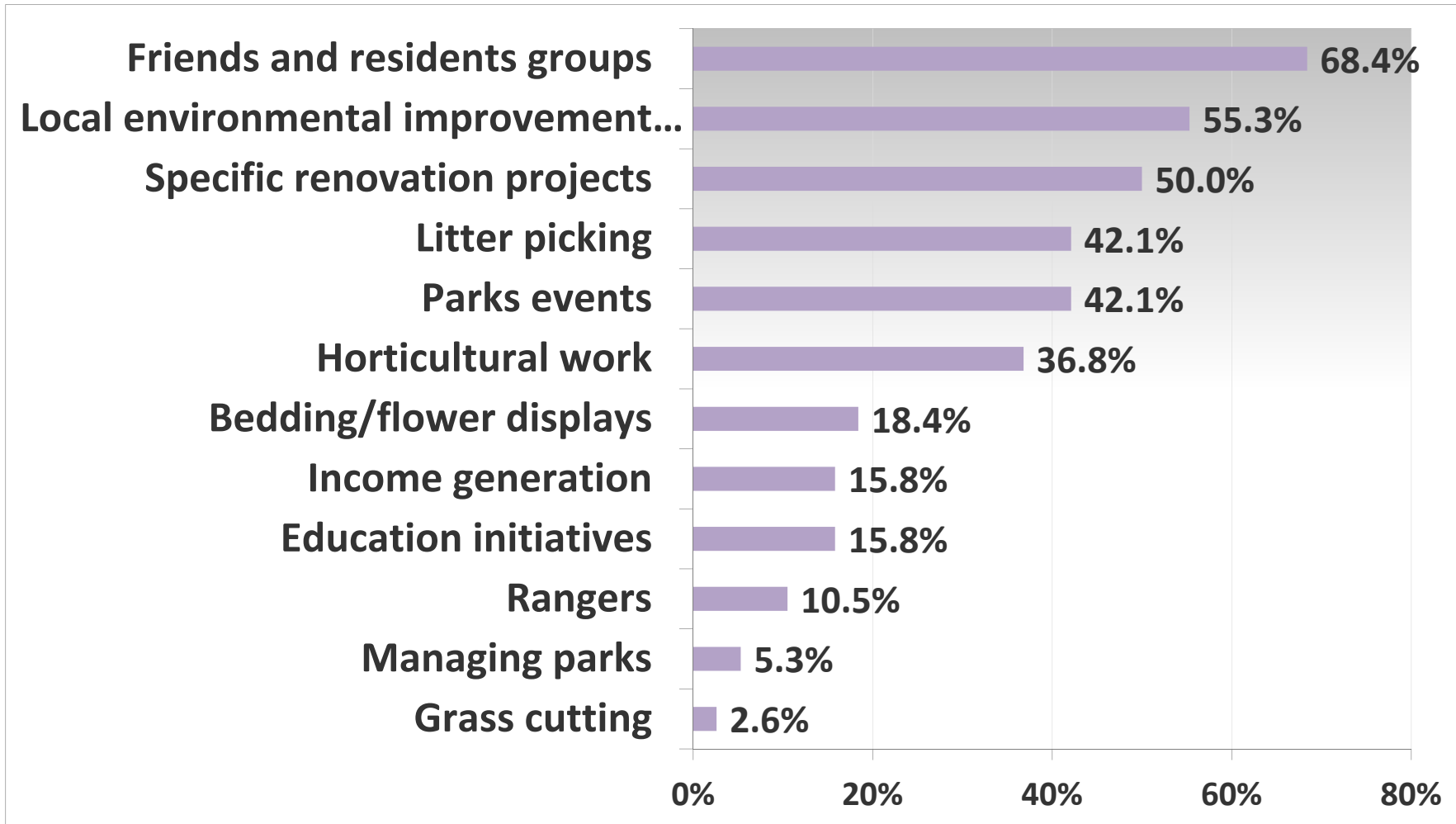




# How are volunteers involved in the parks service?



# In what areas is community sector involvement increasing?



**apse** performance networks

**Benchmark your grounds maintenance and wider street scene services through the use of APSE's Land Audit Management System (LAMS)**



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



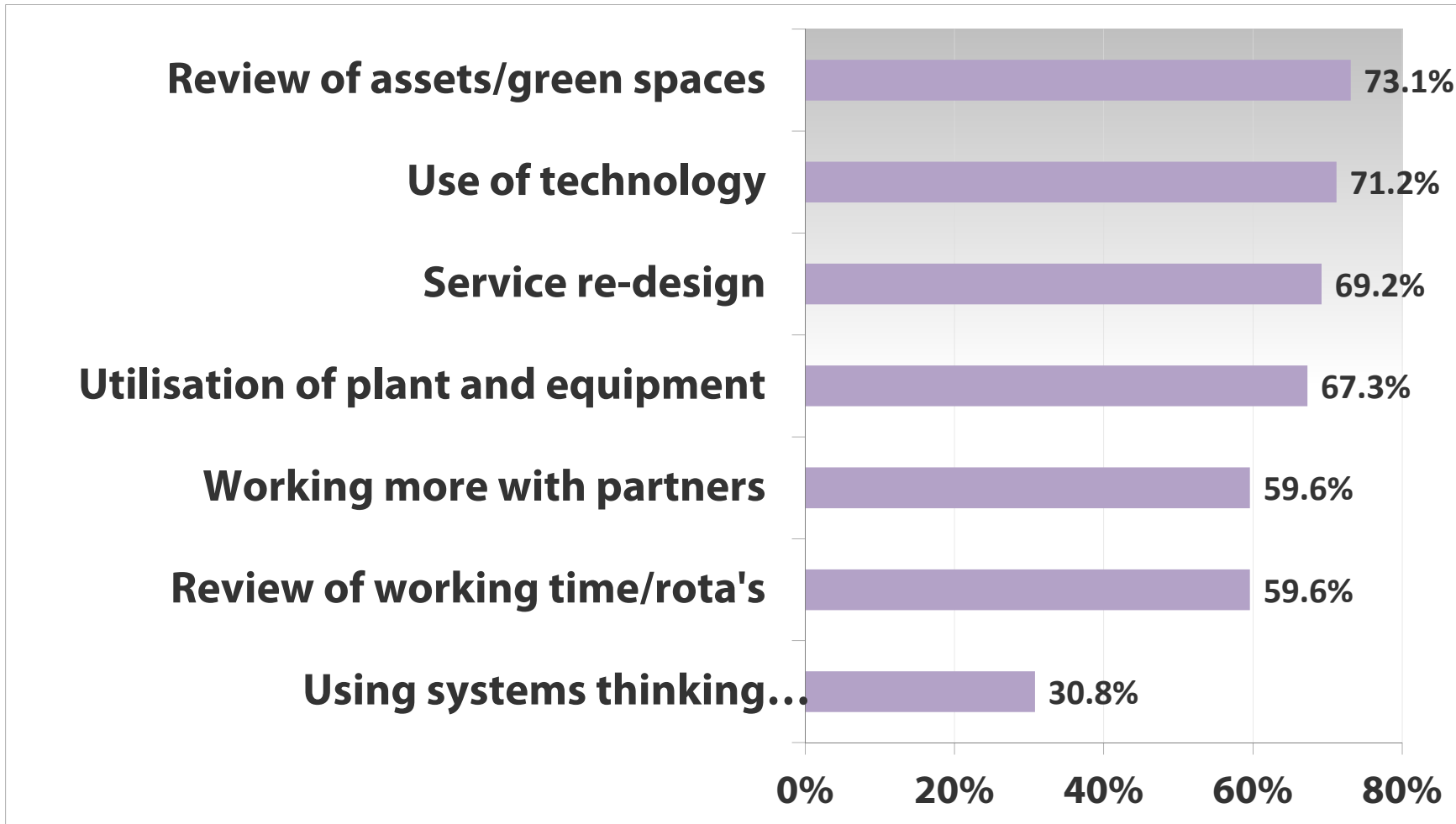
<b>Community involvement/engagement</b>	<b>70.5%</b>
Partnership working with other public bodies	44.3%
Sharing services with other local authorities	42.6%
Capital projects (e.g. section 106)	41.0%
Events in parks	36.1%
Additional open space from housing developments	36.1%
Offering a maintenance service to external organisations/private work	31.1%
Offering a maintenance service to other local authorities	23.0%
Allotments/community gardens	18.0%
Conservation and management of climate change	16.4%
Training	14.8%
Children's play	13.1%
Nursery production	4.9%

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



<b>Reduced maintenance or frequency of maintenance of grounds</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
Bedding, floral displays, regional shows, ornamental grass cutting, bowling greens, high amenity areas	74.6%
Reduction in service or standards	71.2%
Parks development activity	42.4%
Litter picking	40.7%
Achievement in awards	37.3%
Transfer of assets	35.6%
Sports provision	33.9%
New development projects/capital investment schemes e.g. play area refurbishment	30.5%
Fewer parks and facilities	27.1%
Landscaping and country parks	23.7%
Other council department service level agreements e.g. education, housing and leisure	23.7%
Ranger service	23.7%

# What did/will your service review involve?



# Key messages



- Tough times set to continue
- Need for innovation and new sources of funding
- The sector needs to assert its value beyond frontline service delivery – integral to a good local place on all measures
- But .....

# Lets not forget the day job!





**LOCAL SERVICES**

**LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

# Contact details

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