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**Priorities for Councils spending**

**What the public think**

Paul Smith Director Government and Public Sector Survation

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## What is the same as last year

1. Public trust you more
2. They may trust you to spend their taxes on them
3. National benchmarks based on their needs

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## What has changed

1. Government for the first time held most responsible for decline in Council services.
2. *Climate change has emerged as a high local government priority*
3. The public support Councils being given more funds to deal with climate change.

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## Introduction and Background

Survation were asked by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) to provide a public opinion survey of attitudes to local neighbourhood services in 2019, covering the range of council services that would appear in their local area. Most questions mirrored questions asked in 2016, 2017 and 2019 with additional questions around Climate Change.

Polling was conducted via online panel between 9th – 15th October 2019.

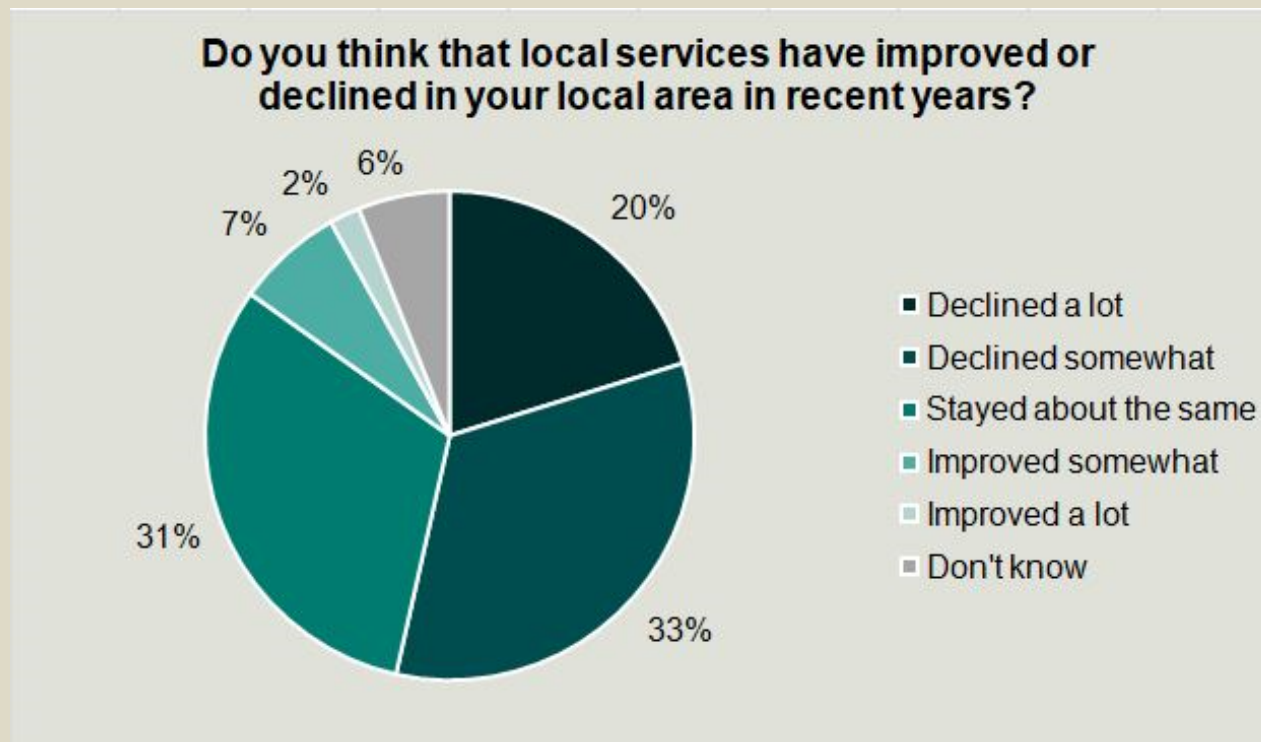
Data were weighted by age, sex, region, household income, education, 2017 GE vote and 2016 EU Referendum vote to be representative of all UK adults aged 18+.

The overall sample size was 1,535, including booster samples in Northern Ireland & Wales to ensure sub-samples of at least 100 persons in those regions.

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## Key fact 1 : Perception of decline is increasing

53 % per cent of voters now perceive a decline in services, an increase of 7% over 46% last year. In 2017 46% perceived a decline and 42% in 2016.



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## Key fact 2 : Government *for the first time blamed*

The most common response amongst those who perceive a decline was to for the first time to blame the Government by a narrow amount margin of 1.37%

While the margin is small, the swing in opinion is significant The -10.7% deficit of last year compared to 1.37% lead this year is a swing of 6.25% towards blaming the government.

There is variation in opinion with those in the North and Central ASPE region most likely to blame the government with APSE Scotland and South regions to say both.

Blame	2016	2017	2018	2019
Both	40.9%	39.7%	41.7	<b>35.05%</b>
Government	27.3%	35.3%	31.0%	<b>36.42%</b>
Council	30.2%	23.6%	25.7%	26.01%
Neither	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	1.62%
Don't Know	1.7%	0.8	1.2%	0.90%

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## **Key fact 3: Relative Trust in Councils high**

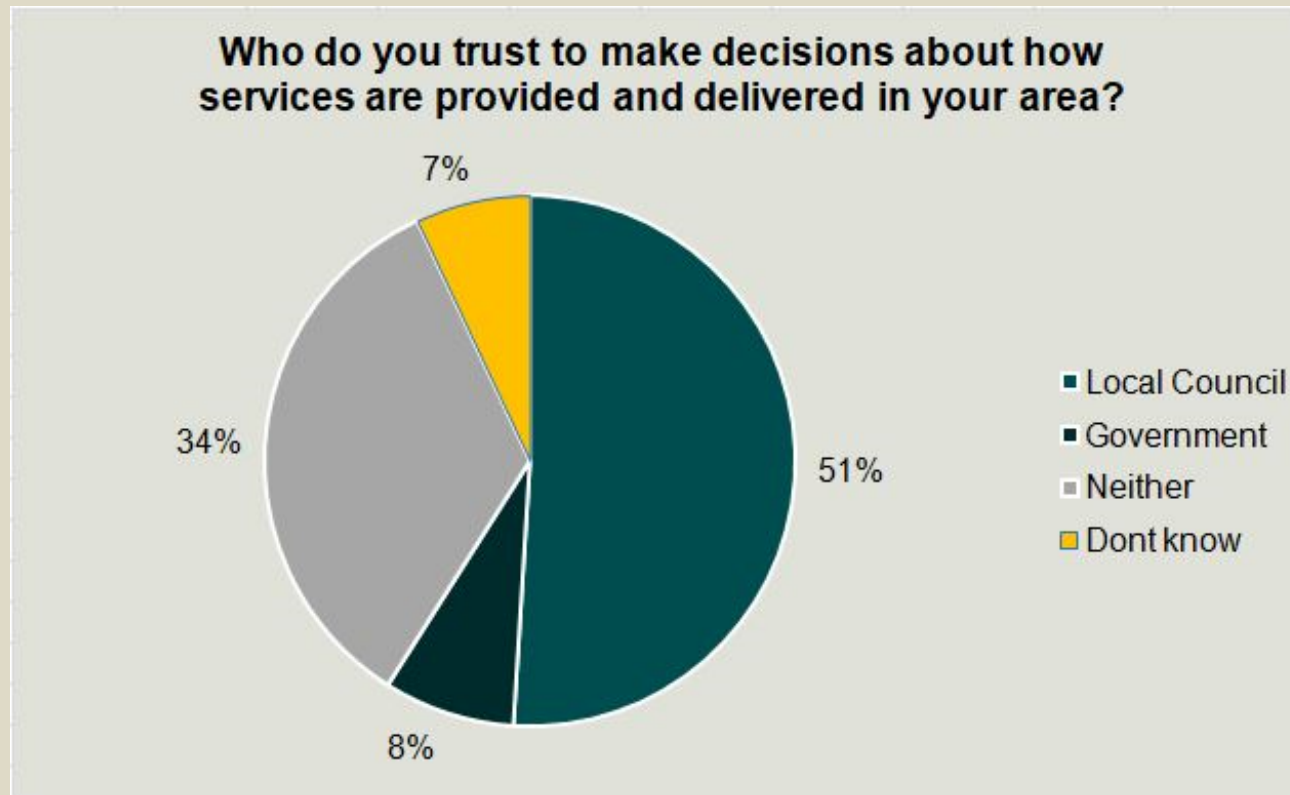
**Trust in Councils and Councillors is at its highest relative to Government and Ministers since 2016. Trust in Councils has moderately increased, trust in government and MPs has crashed while many distrust anyone.**

- Seven and half times as many people trust the local Council over the Government to make decisions about how services are delivered in your local area (Four times 2018).
- Eleven times as many trust local Councillors over Government ministers to make decisions about their local area (Seven times 2018).
- Nine times trusted Council to provide services in their local area over the government (Five times as many 2018).
- Five times as many trusted Council to provide services in their local area over a private company (Four and a half 2018).

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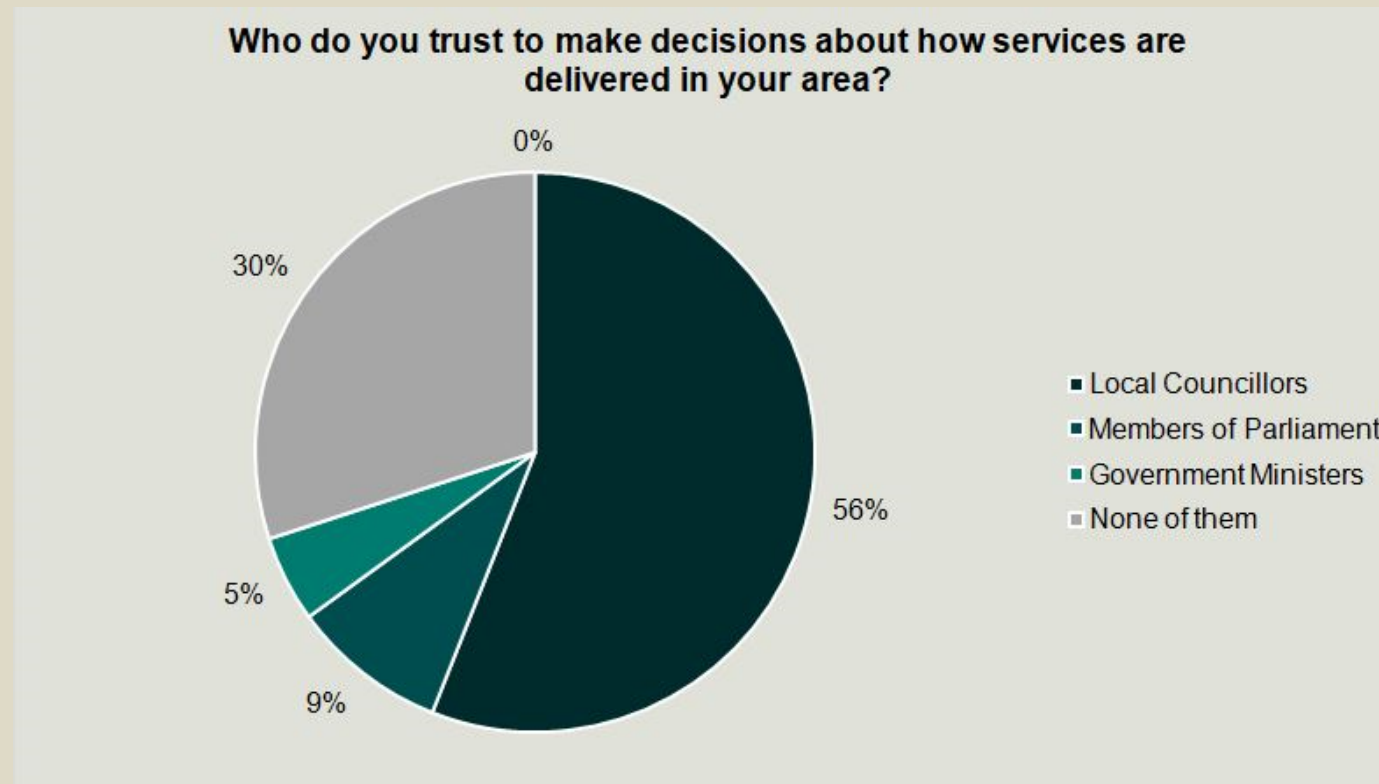
## Councils Trust up 2% Government down 5%



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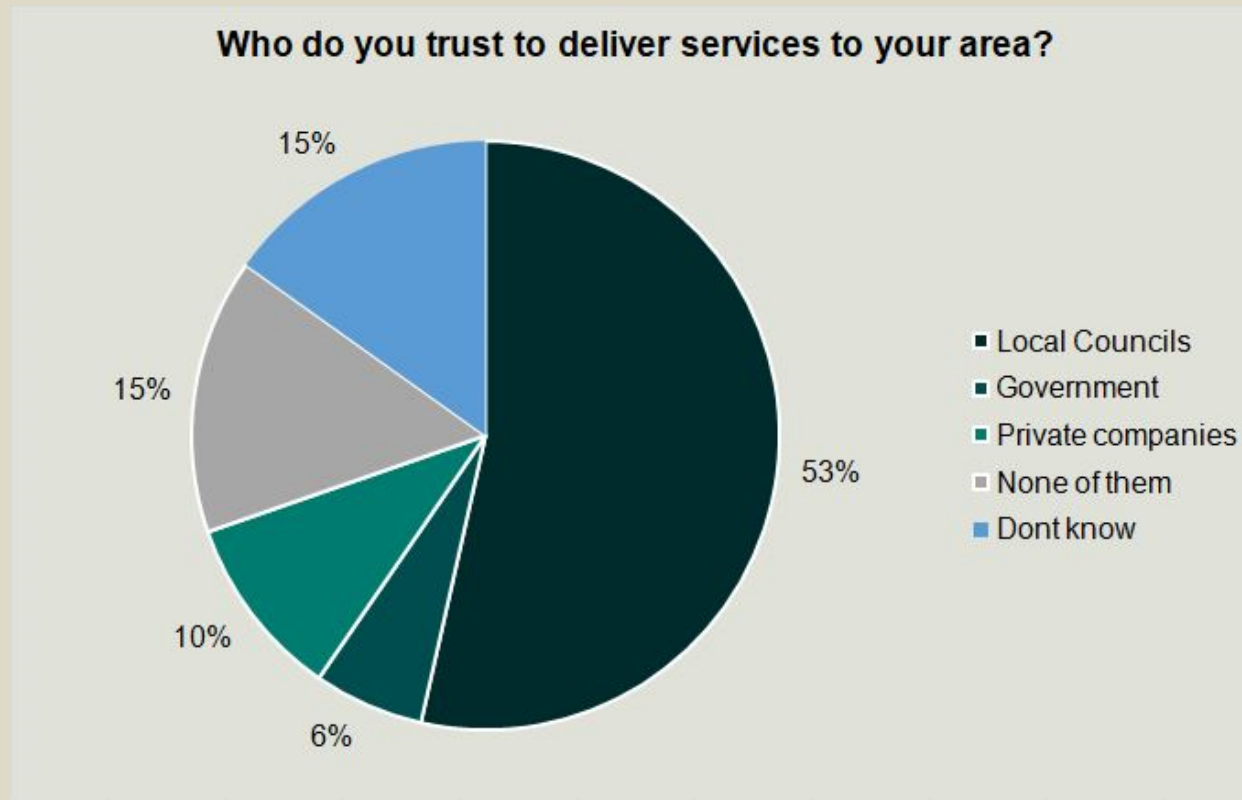


## Trust in Councillors 56% up 8% v Others



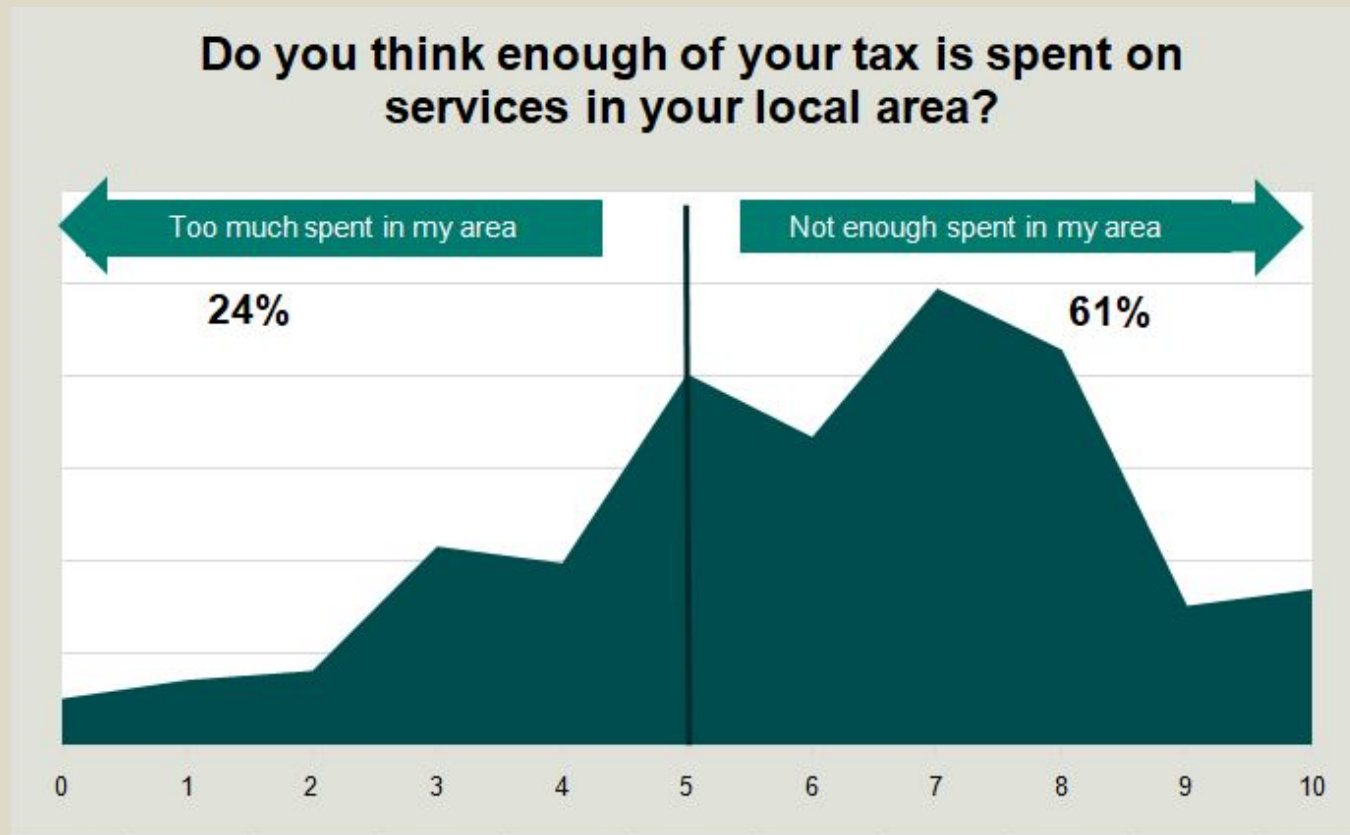
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## Trust up 5% in Councils to deliver services



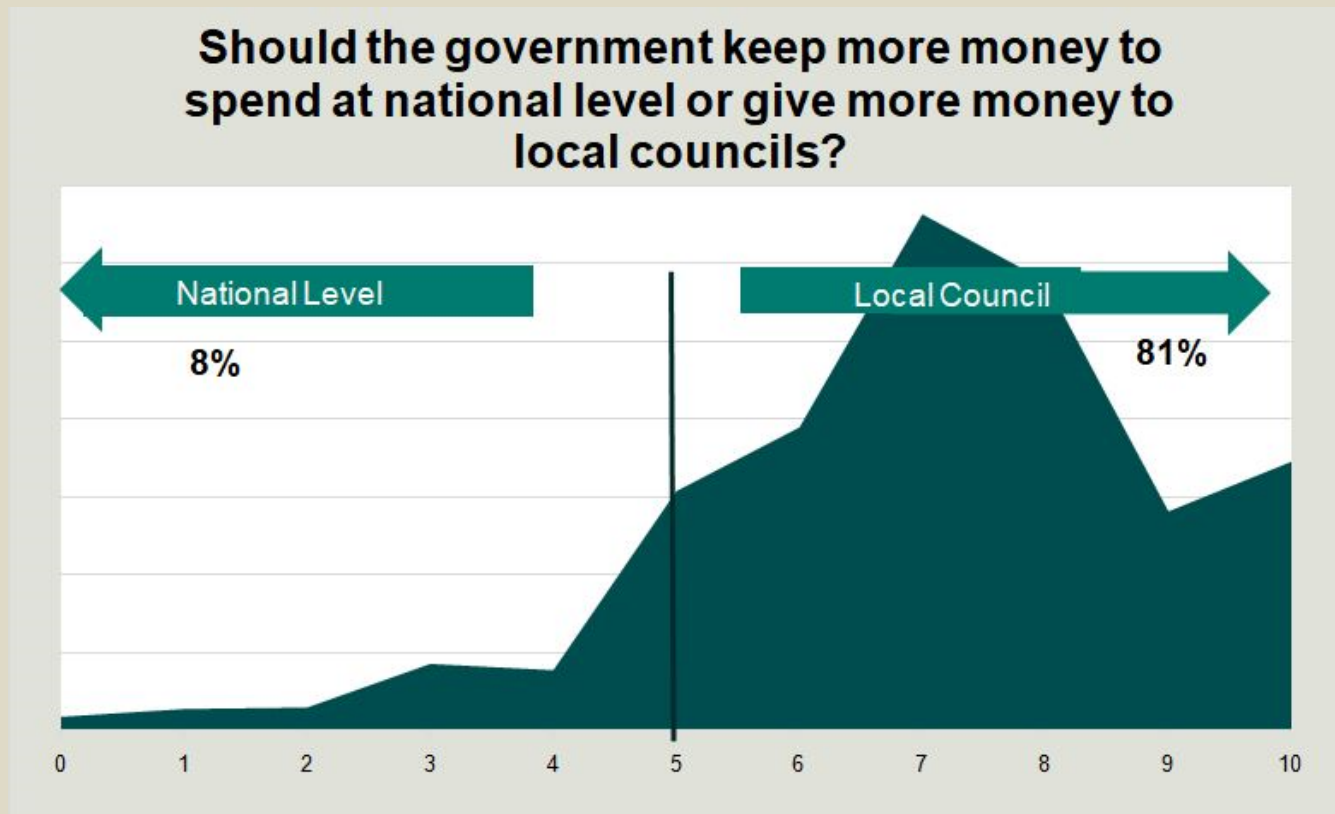
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## Enough of your taxes spent in the your area?



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# Should Government give Councils more funds?



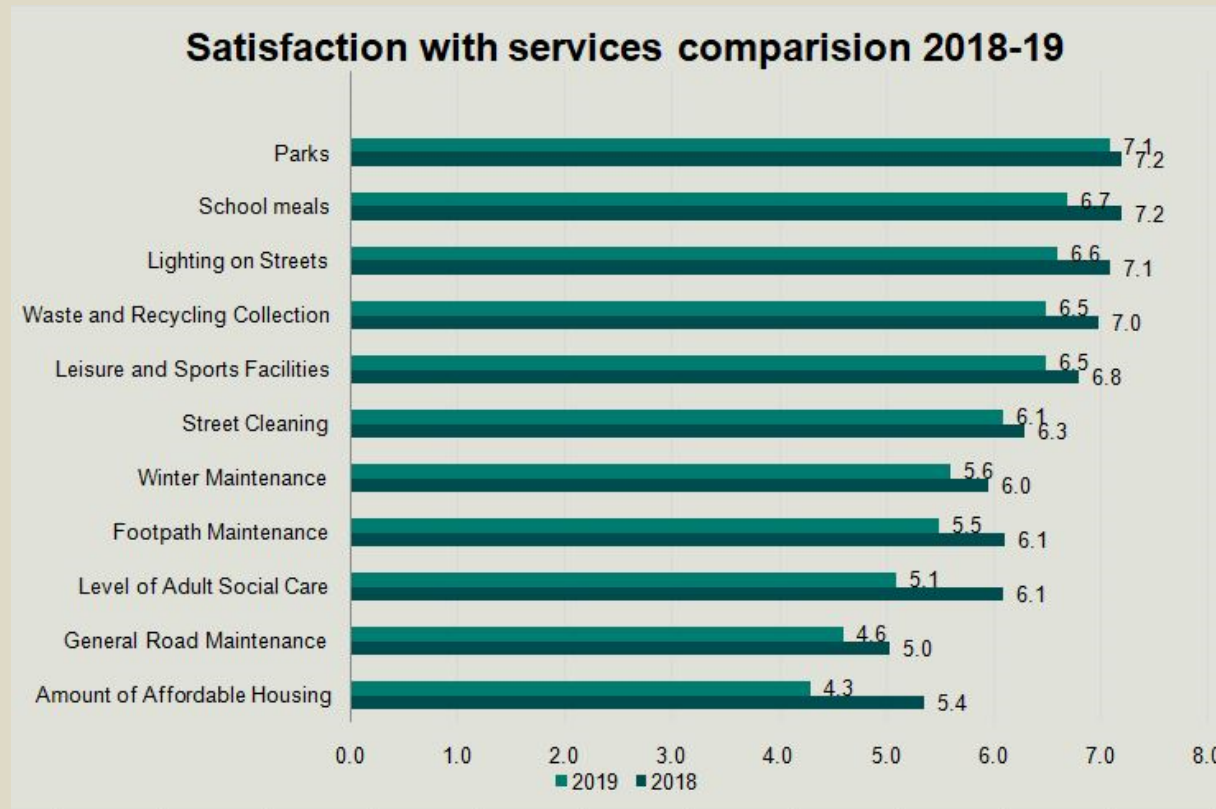
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## Satisfaction levels vary between services



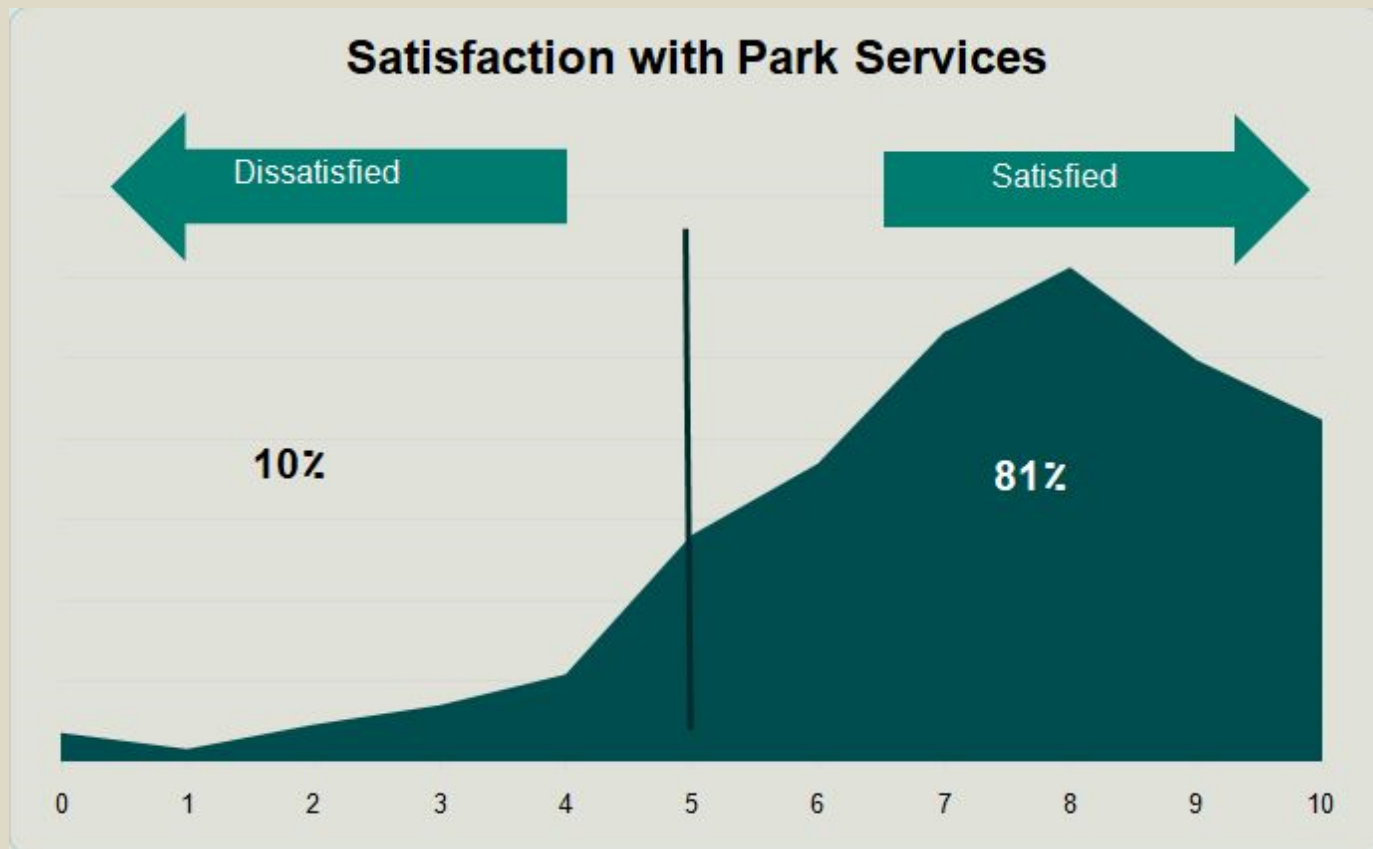
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## Satisfaction declining compared to last year



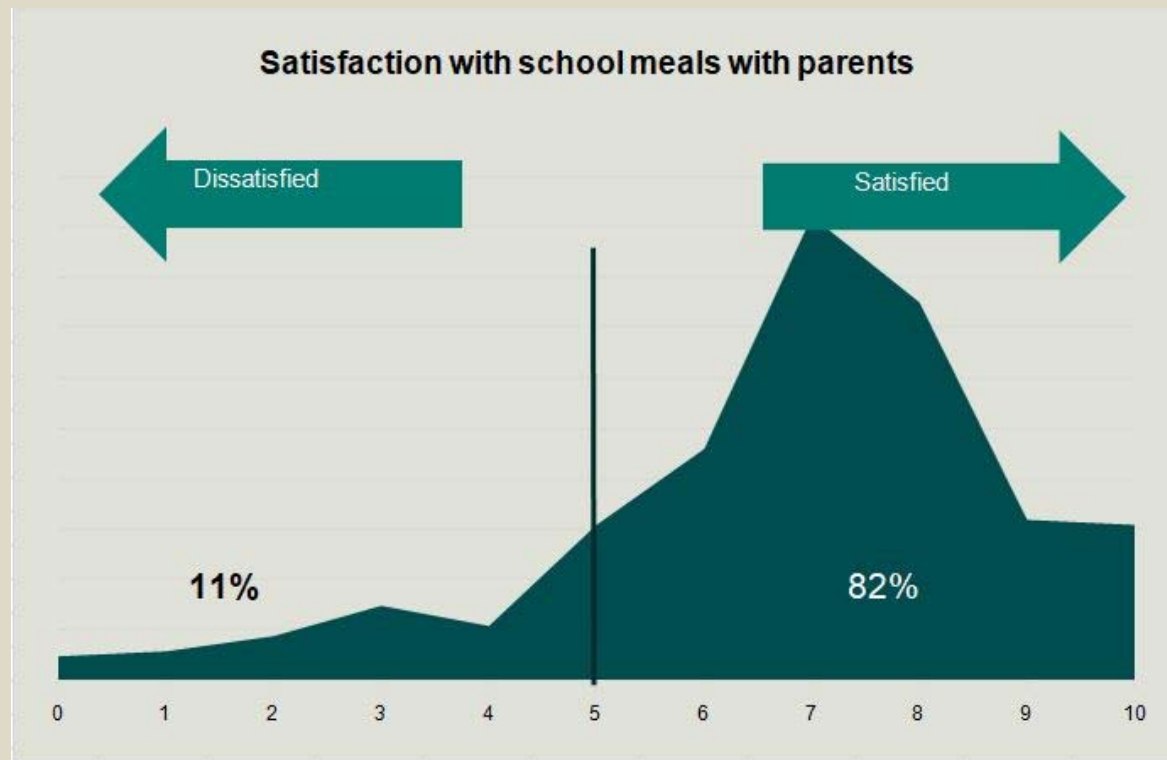
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## 7.1 Parks



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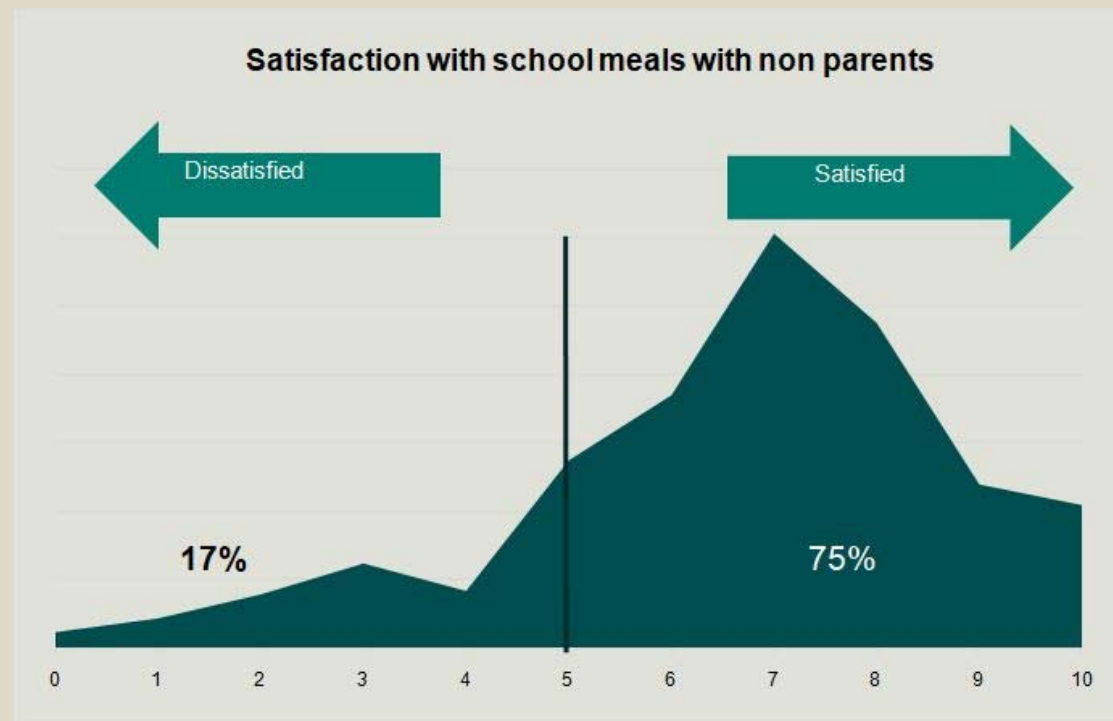
## 6.8 School Meals with children at school



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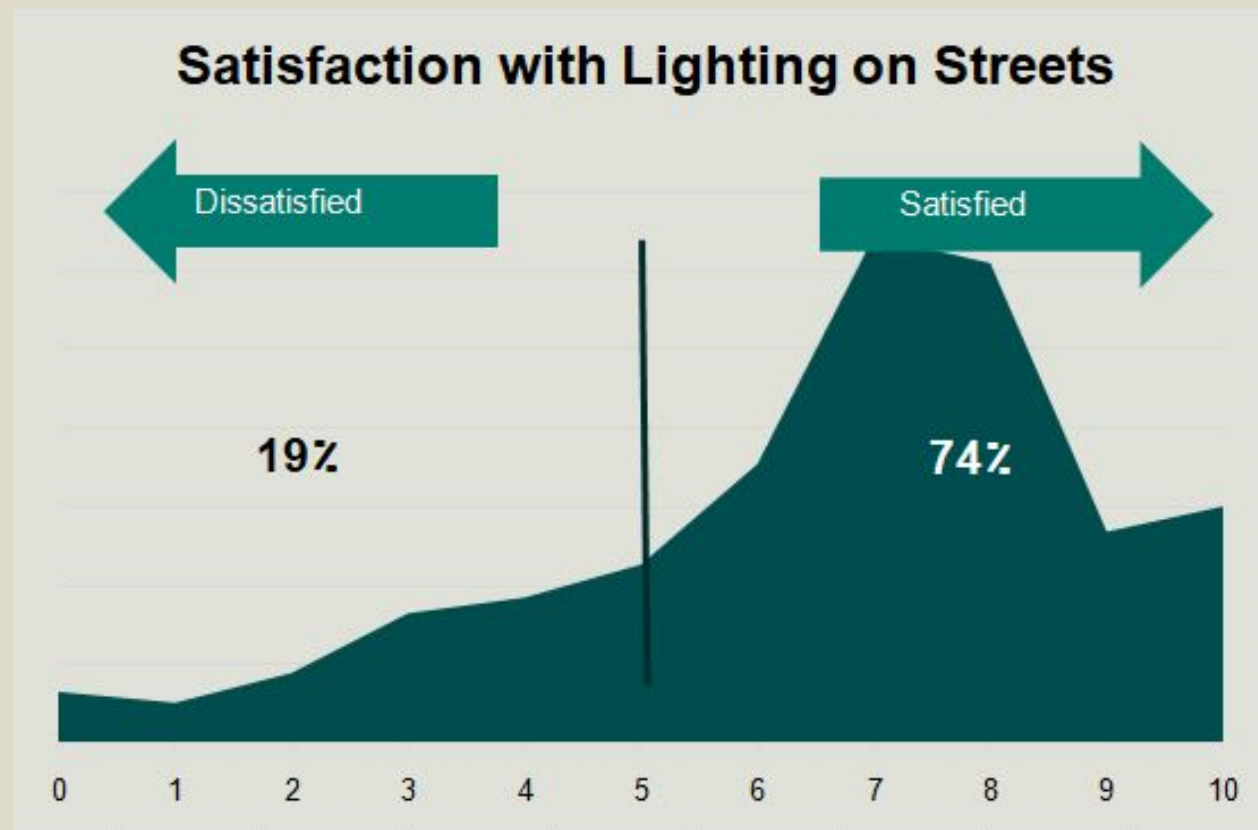


## 6.6 School Meals without children as school



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## 6.6 Street Lighting



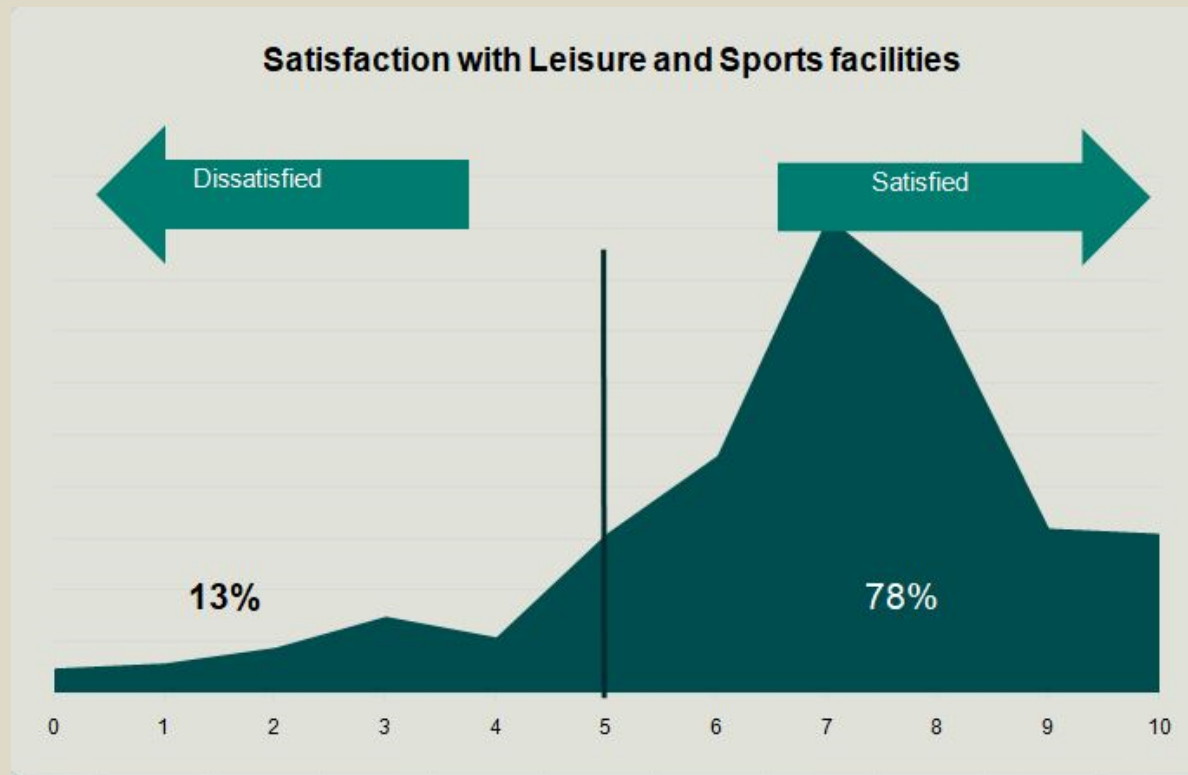
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## 6.5 Waste and Recycling



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## 6.5 Leisure and Sports



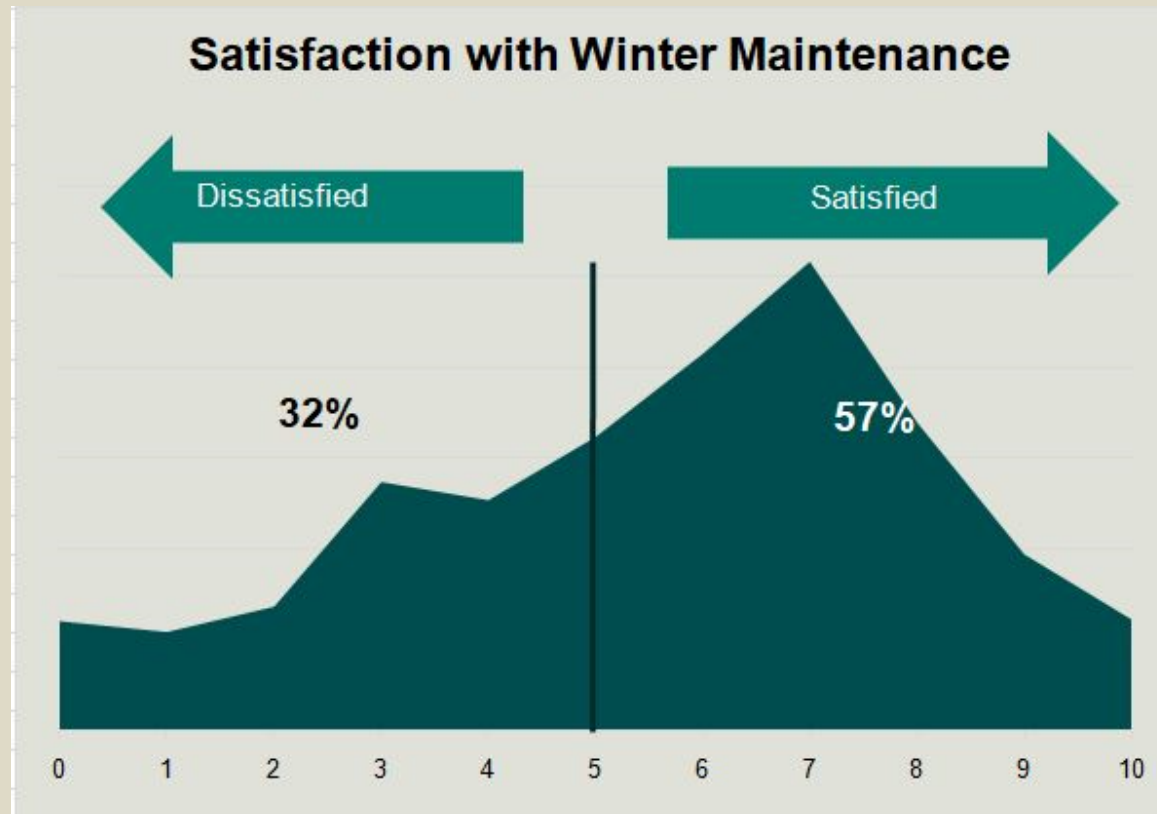
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## 6.1 Street Cleaning



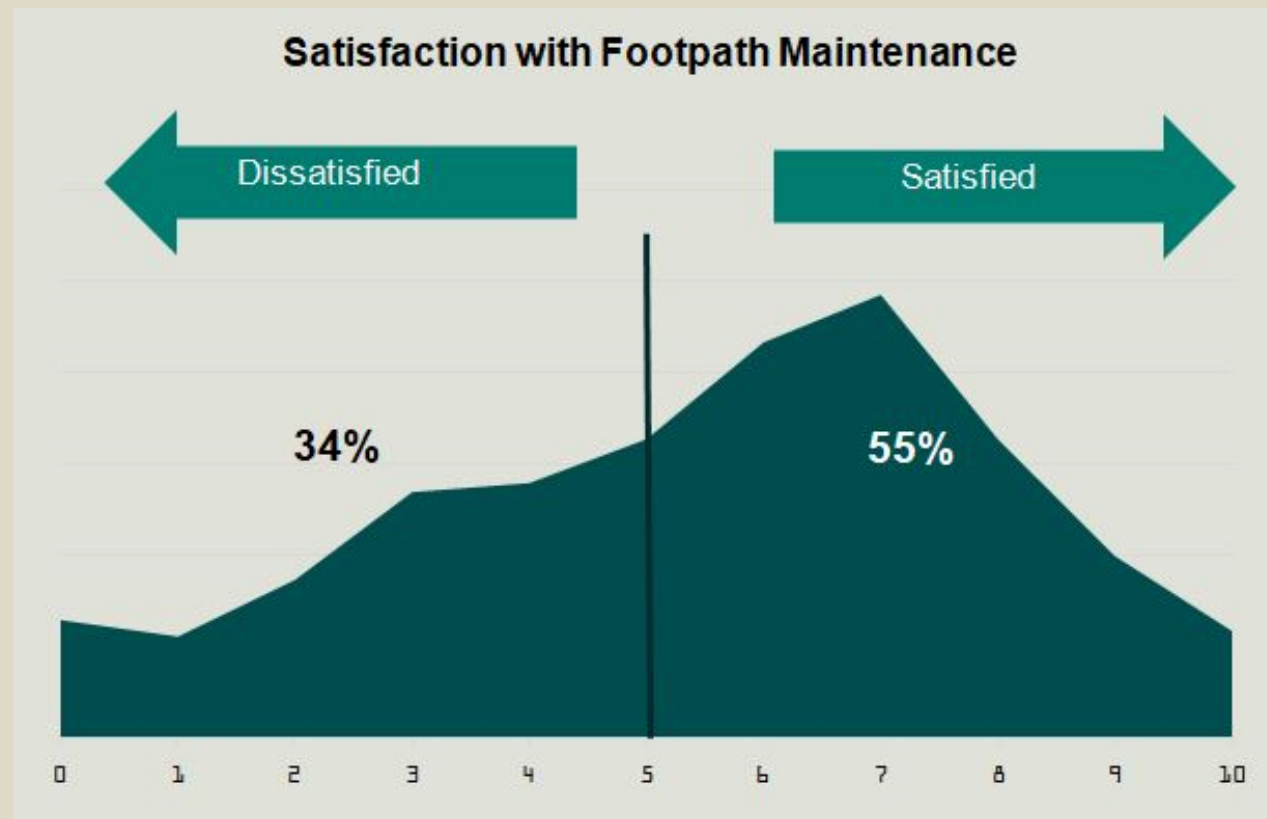
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## 5.6 Winter Maintenance



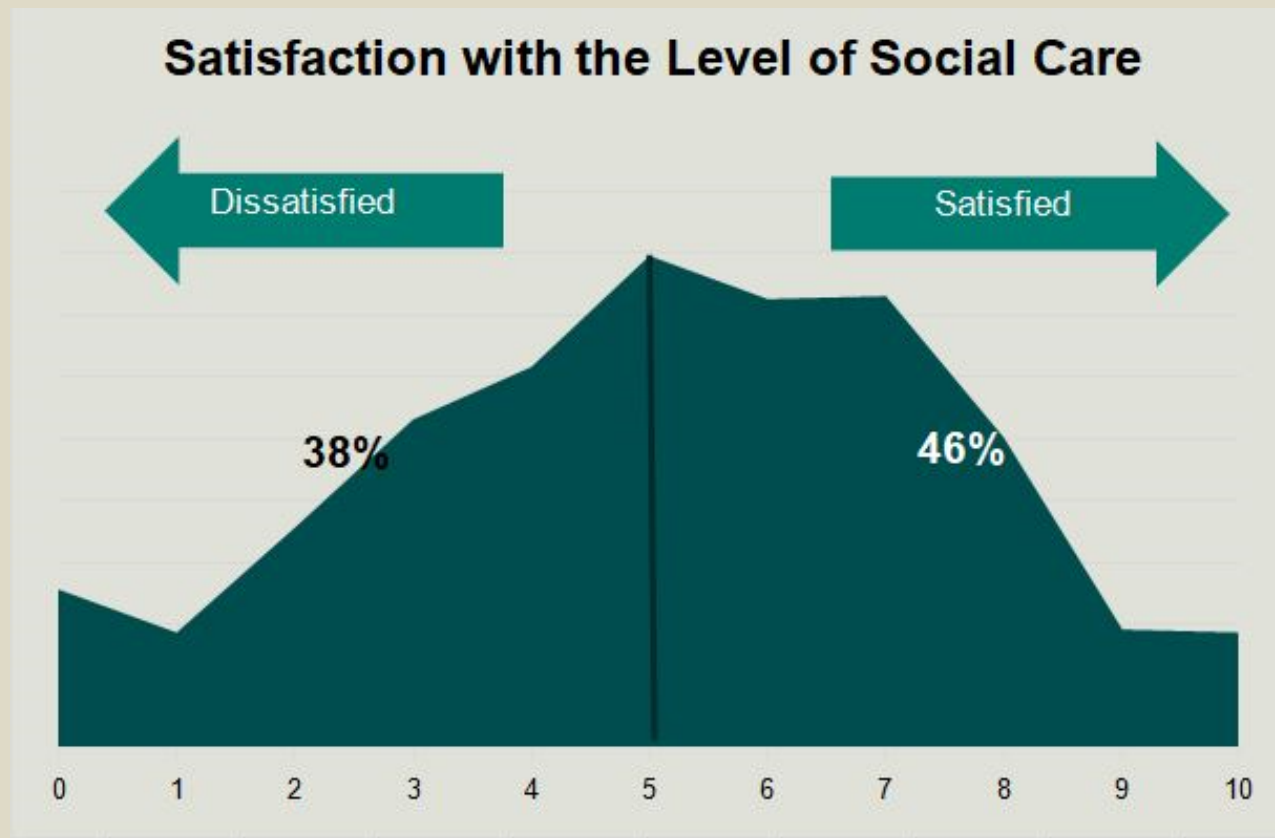
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## 5.5 Footpath maintenance



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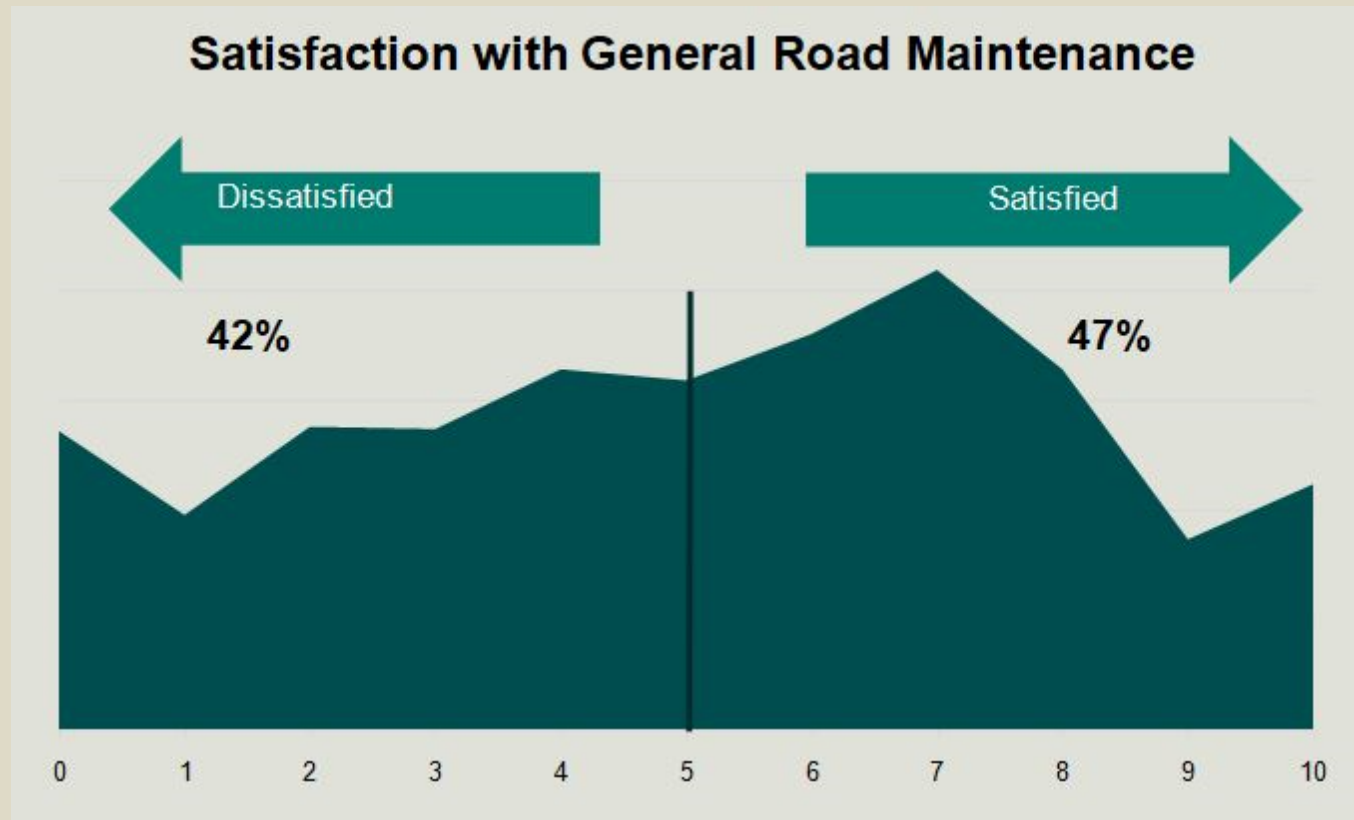
## 5.1 Level of Social Care



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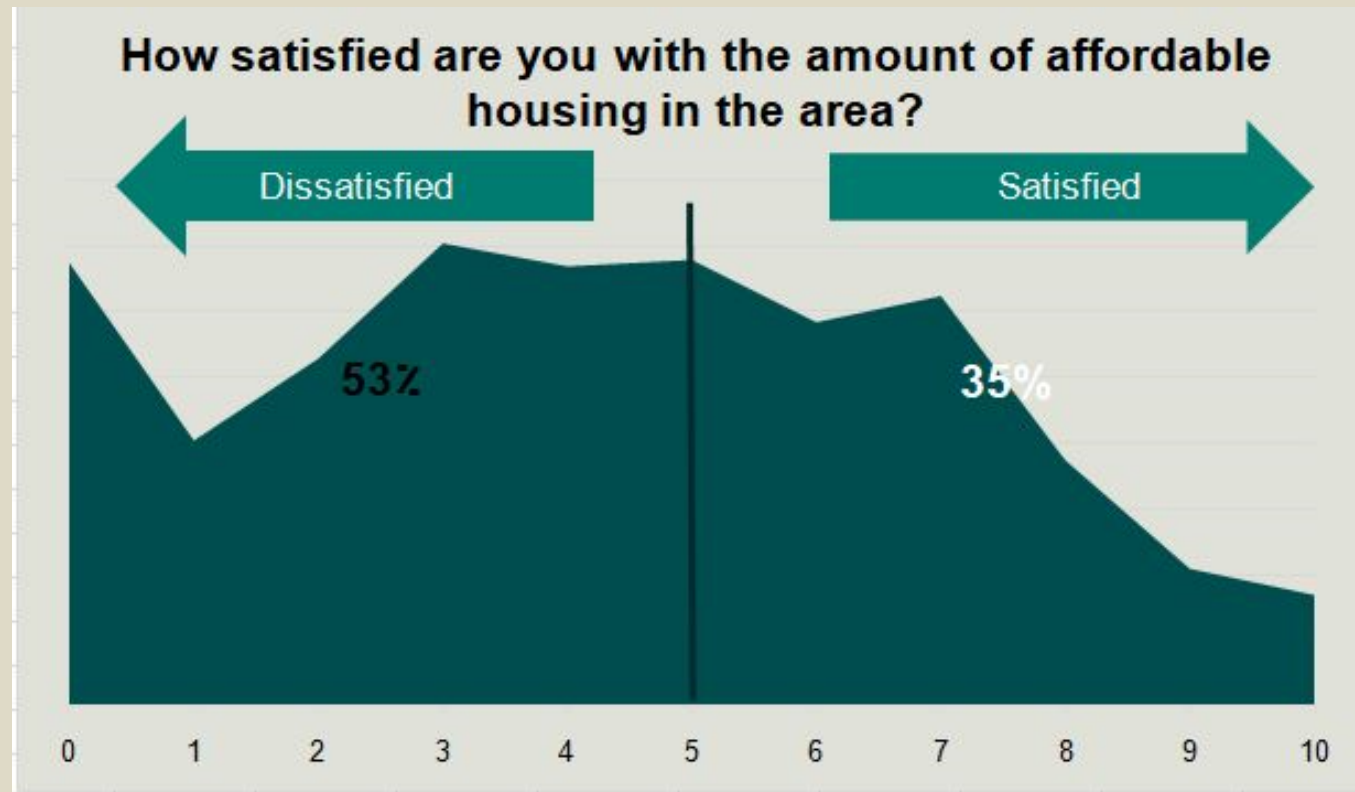


## 4.6 Road maintenance



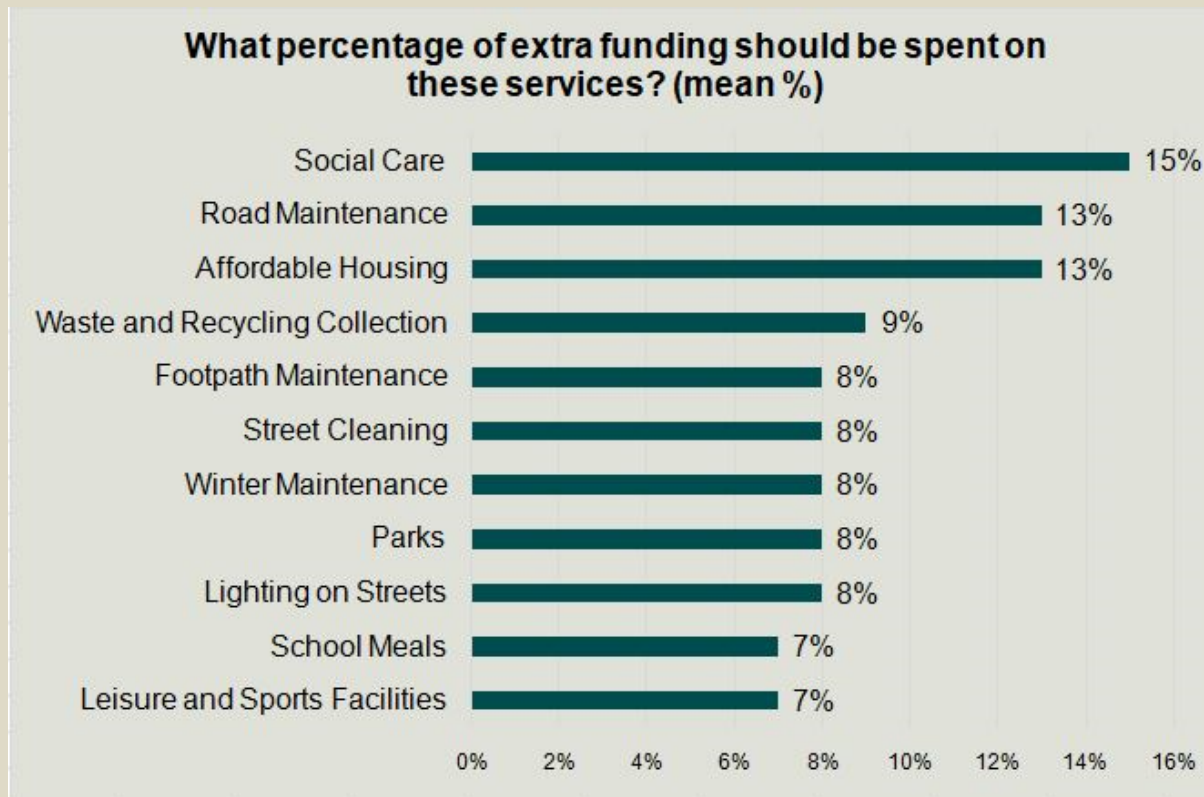
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## 4.3 Housing



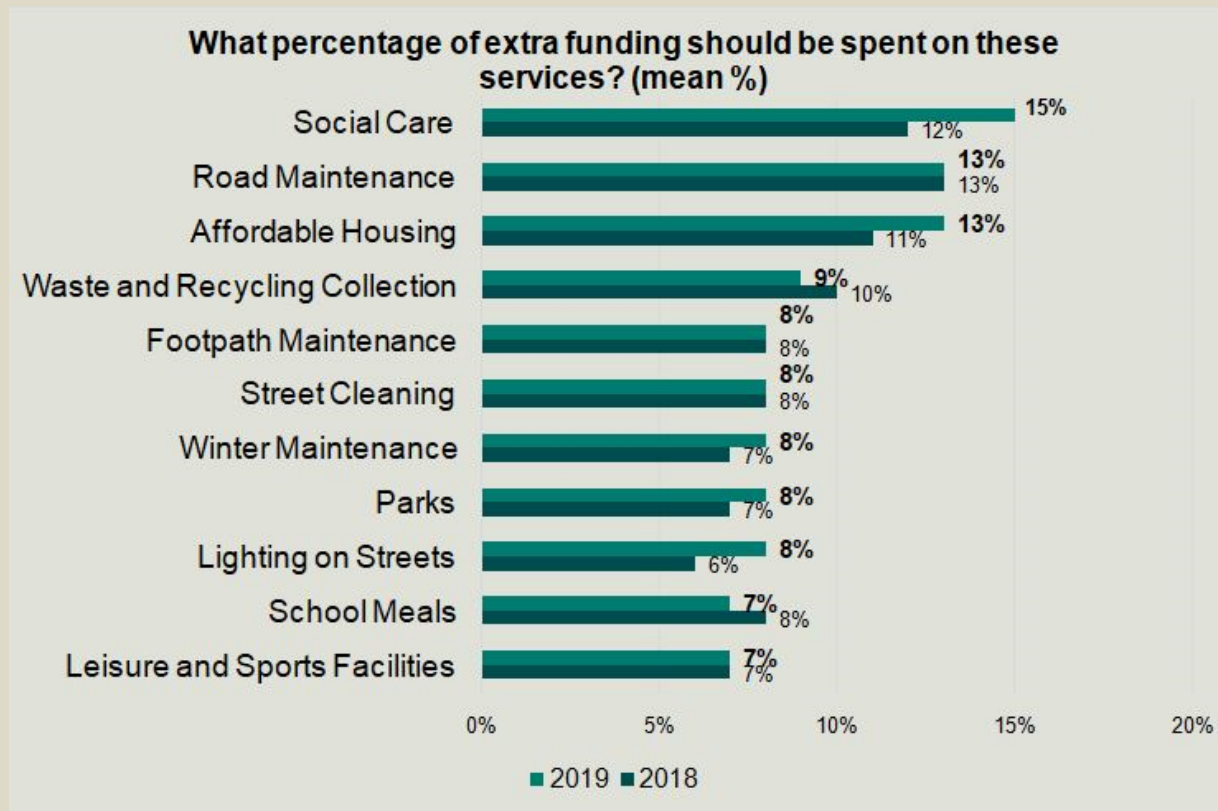
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# How the public would like extra funds spent



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## How the public priorities compare to last year



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## Climate Change now a priority for Councils

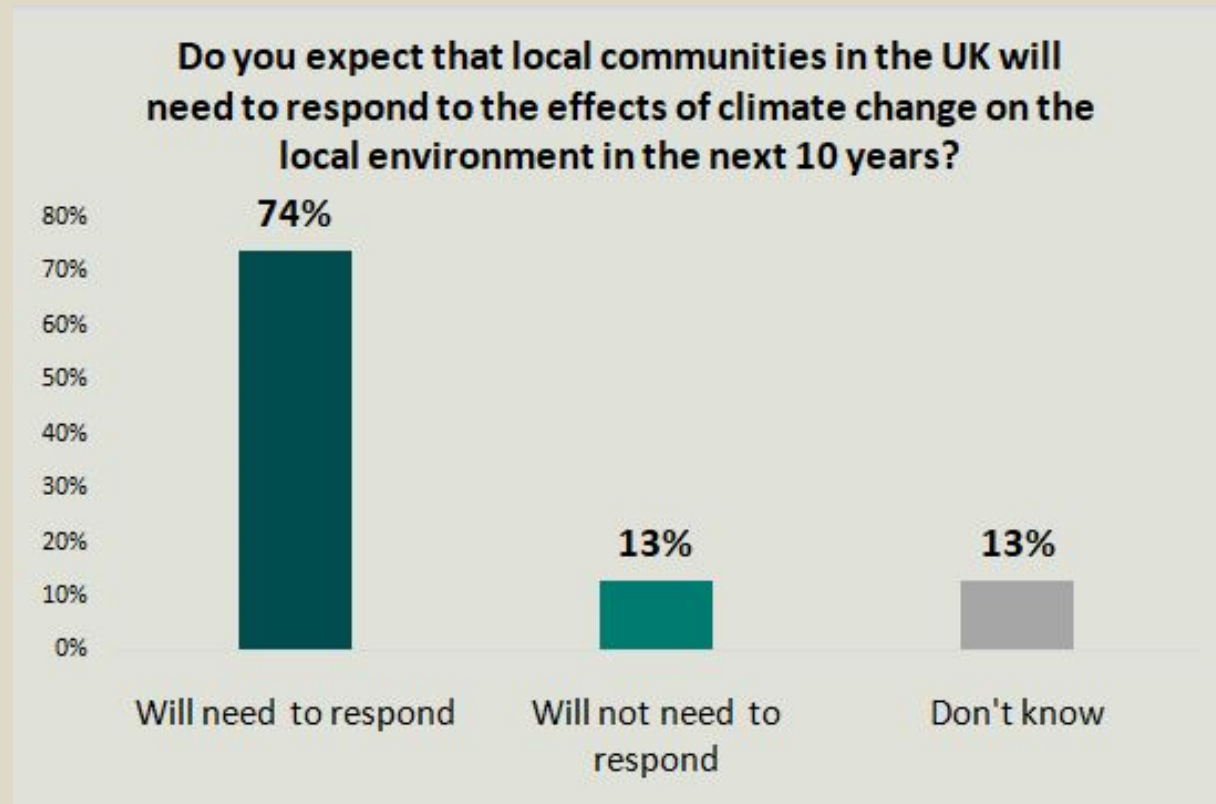
**This year we undertook additional questions about Councils and climate change which show that it a priority for the public and they expect Councils to take a leading role in responding to climate change.**

Five Key findings

1. 74% expect that local communities will have to respond to the effects of climate change in their area.
2. 66% support additional money for Councils to respond to climate change locally compared to 22% opposed.
3. Equal support for Councils being best placed to combat community effects of climate change with Government at 36% each.
4. Top priorities for local climate change action are making homes more energy efficient and improved waste and recycling.
5. Climate change is the second highest new spending priority after Social Care and ahead of Housing and Road Maintenance.

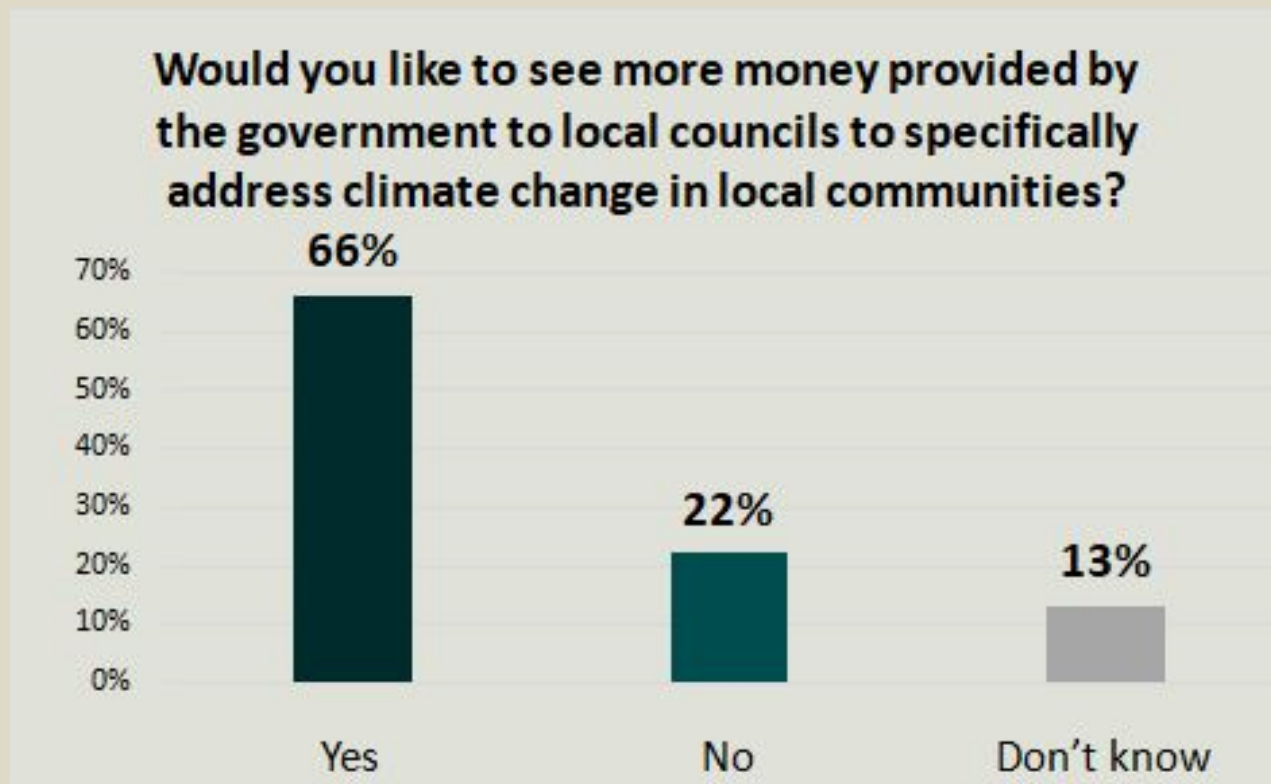
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## 74% of people think their local community will need to respond the climate change



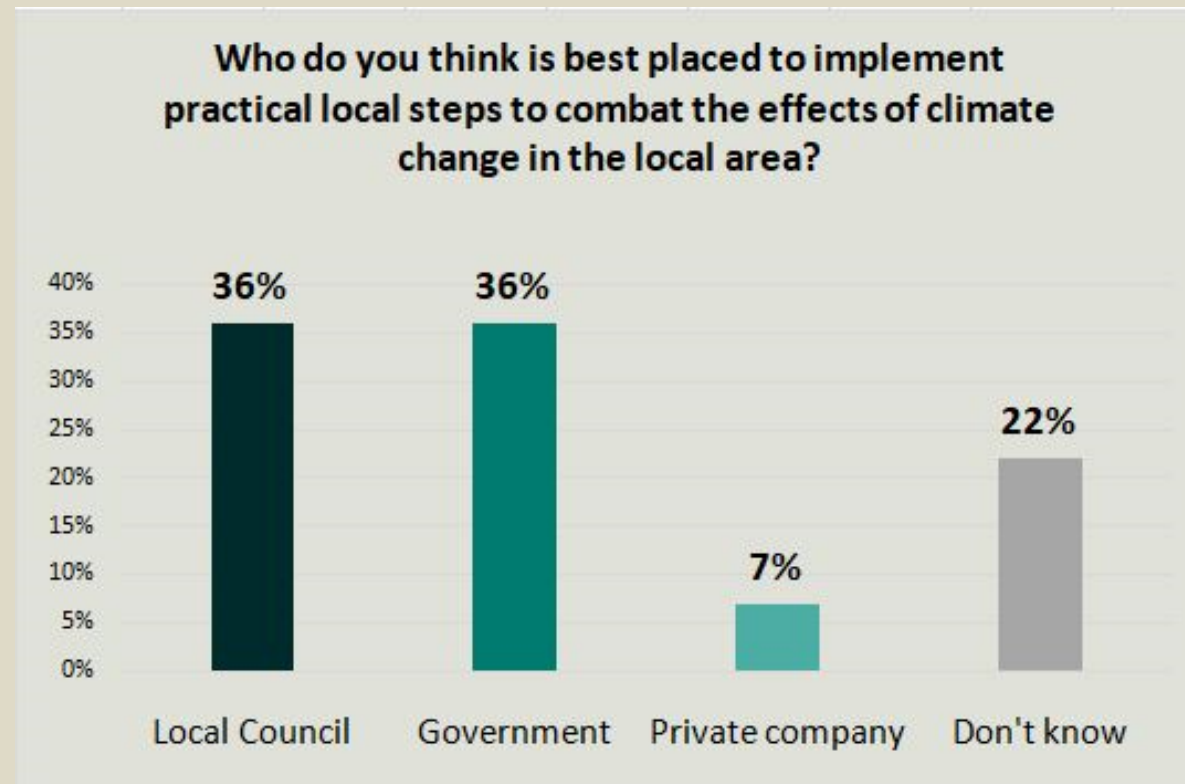
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## 66% support more funds for Councils to combat climate change locally



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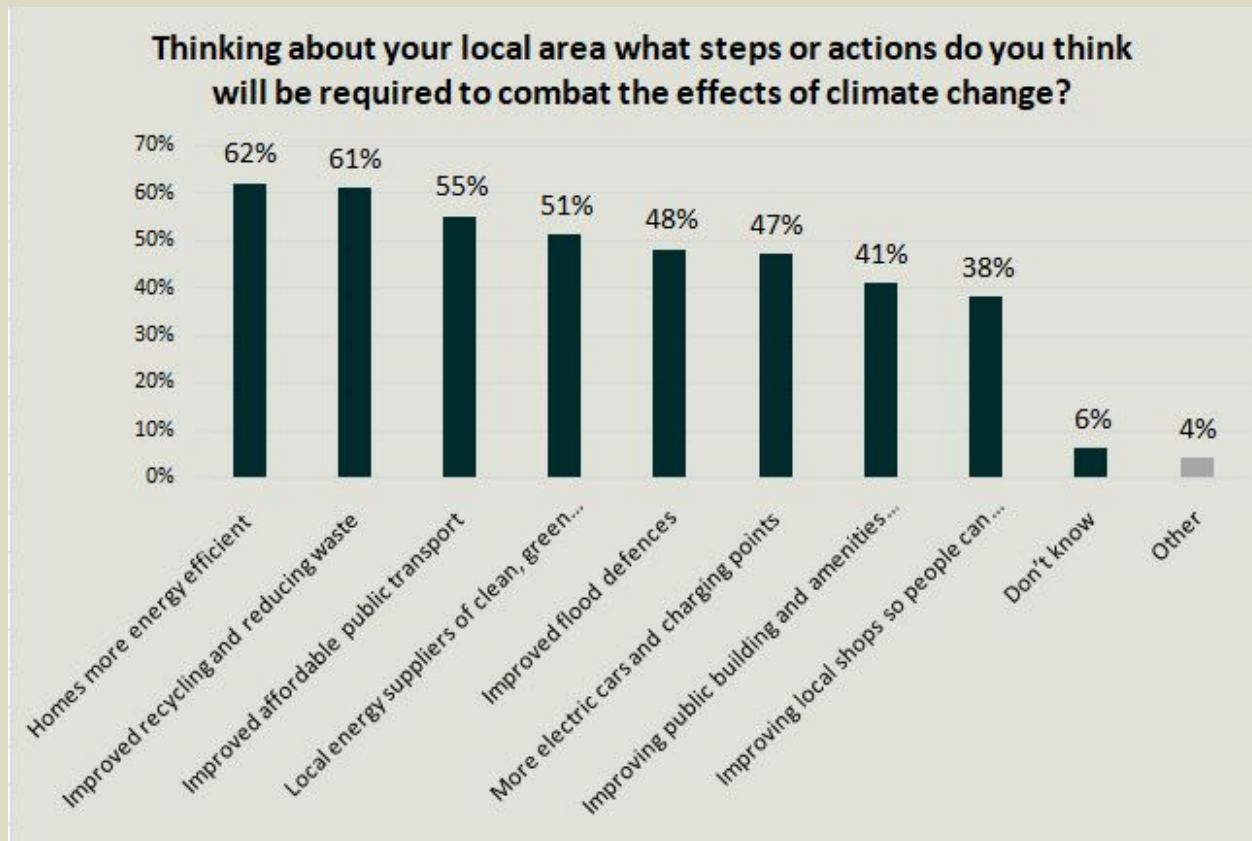
## Councils and government equally best placed to combat effects of Climate change



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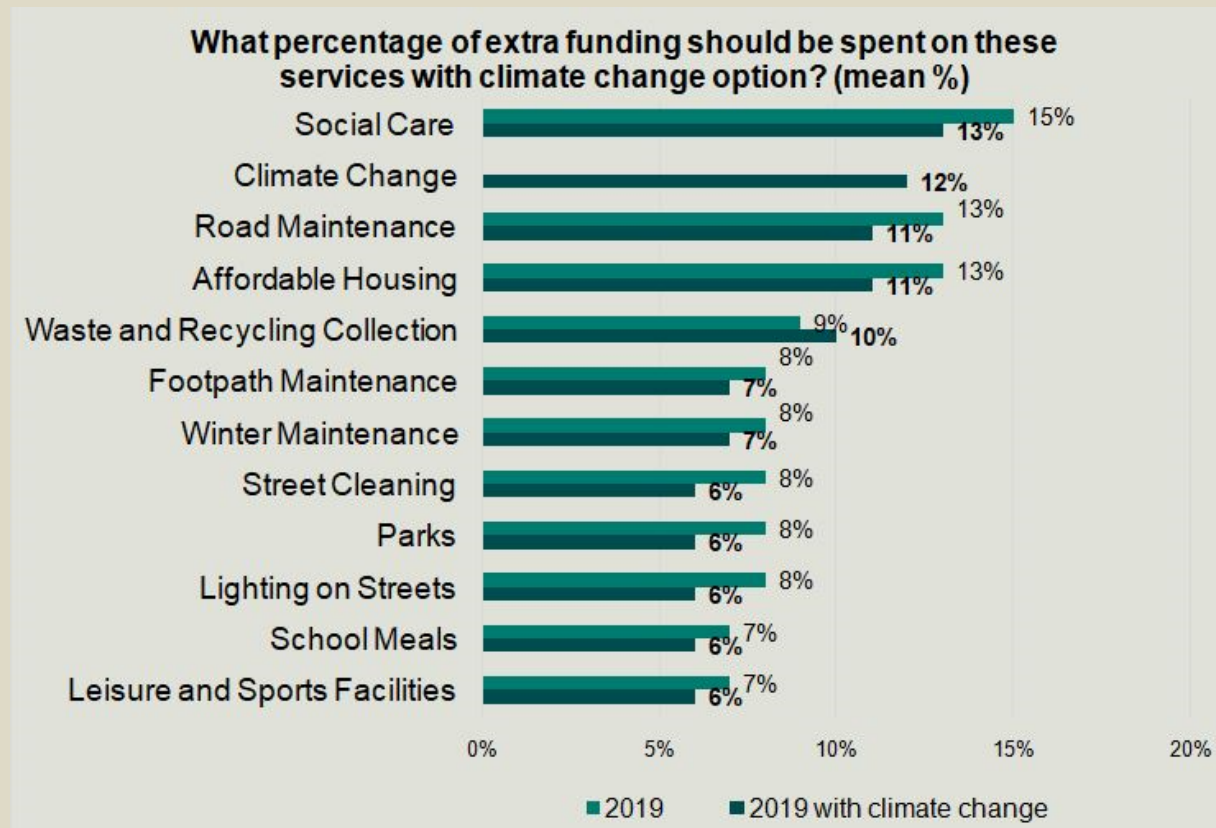


## Top priorities for local climate change action



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# Climate change Second highest new spend



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**For more information**

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