

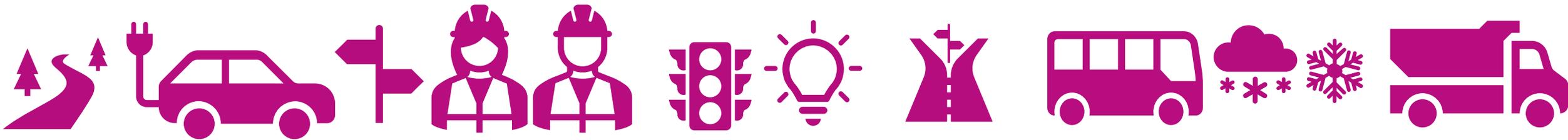


State of the Market

Highways Seminar Newcastle 2026

Bonni Jee

Principal Advisor



A bit about me...

- Started at APSE April 2025
- Principal Advisor for Waste and Recycling, Highways and Transport
- Background in waste, recycling, and environment
- Previous roles at Mott MacDonald and Kirklees Council
- Passionate about decarbonisation, EVs, circular materials, and always willing to learn!



ALARM Survey: No Quick Fix for Local Roads



£1.6 billion –
funding for
England 25-26
(Autumn Statement)

17% increase
in funding

5,200
potholes filled
every day of
the year

Average
carriageway budget
shortfall per
authority
£8.1m

51%
good condition (15
or more years life
remaining)

A One-time
Catch-up would
take 12 years to
Complete
**and Cost
£18.62bn**

Highway
maintenance
budgets UP to
average of
£30.5m

16% less than 5
years structural life
remaining

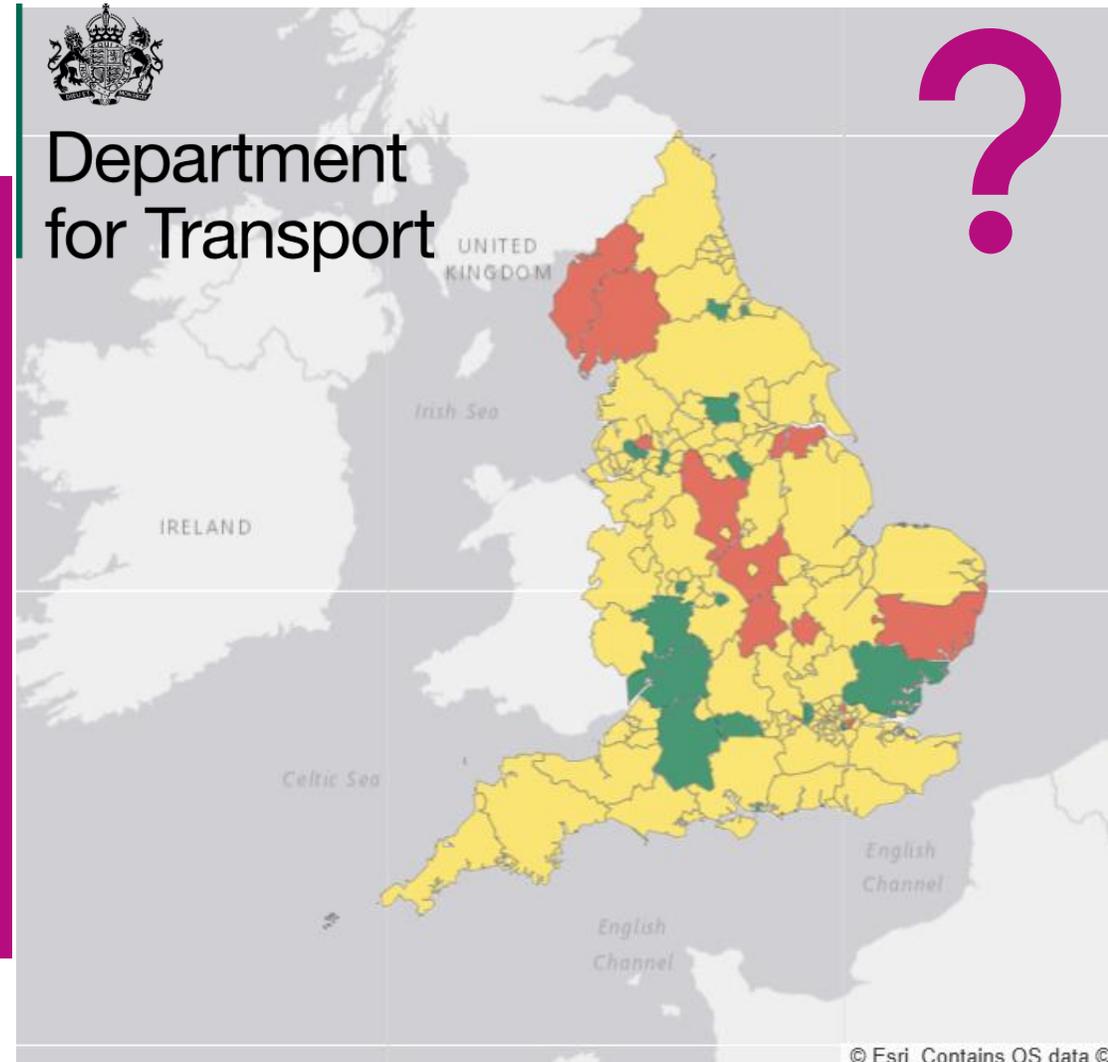
ALARM Survey: No Quick Fix for Local Roads

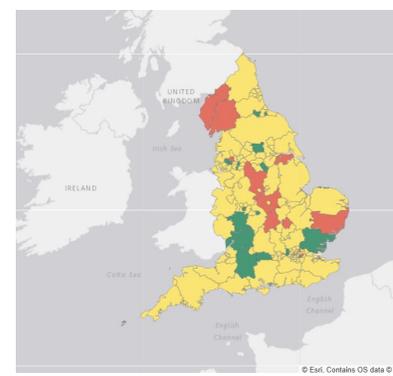


- Shortfall **up 10%** on last year to an average of £8.1 million per authority, and likely to be **compounded by the impacts of one of the wettest winters on record.**
- “And, local authority highway engineers have told ALARM they are cautiously optimistic that the increased funding announced by the Government, supplemented by their own coffers, should help them stem further decline. However, it is not the silver bullet that will enable them to clear the backlog of repairs any time soon.”

DfT's traffic light rating

- What do you think?
- Methodology
- Further reading:
- Check out Andy Martin's presentation to APSE Highways Network 21 January 2026
- LGR – this map could be transformed in more ways than one...





DfT's traffic light rating... in your own words

“We feel that there have been some calculation errors and we know how to correct these and improve our rating.”

I wish they would attend more APSE Seminars to learn what is out there to try

It was not clear how the scoring would be done and how better a better rating could be achieved.

Release the tables in Mid summer, not when 'pothole' production is at its peak in January!

Broadly supportive, the report correctly identified one area for improvement and it seems like a good move towards consistent asset management.

APSE suggested in response to consultation – to reflect wider nature of metrics, that involve wider partners beyond local gov't

MHCLG Local Government Outcomes Framework

Transport & local infrastructure category:

- **7.29.5 Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (motorways and A roads; B and C roads; unclassified roads) – outcome metrics:**
- Well maintained roads are essential for safety, accessibility and reducing congestion. This metric measures the percentage of local authority managed roads where maintenance should be considered. This metric is broken down by A roads and motorways, B and C roads, and unclassified roads.



Survation Public Survey annual polling of Cllrs and the Public

...on highways...

- Low satisfaction
- High priority

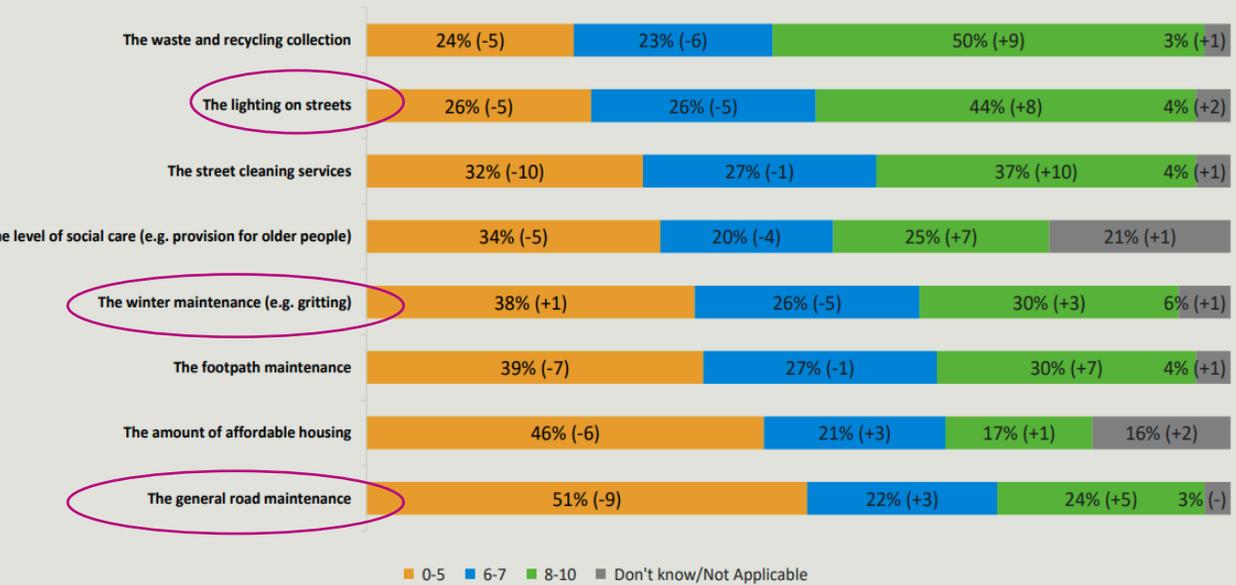
...on lighting

- High satisfaction
- Medium priority

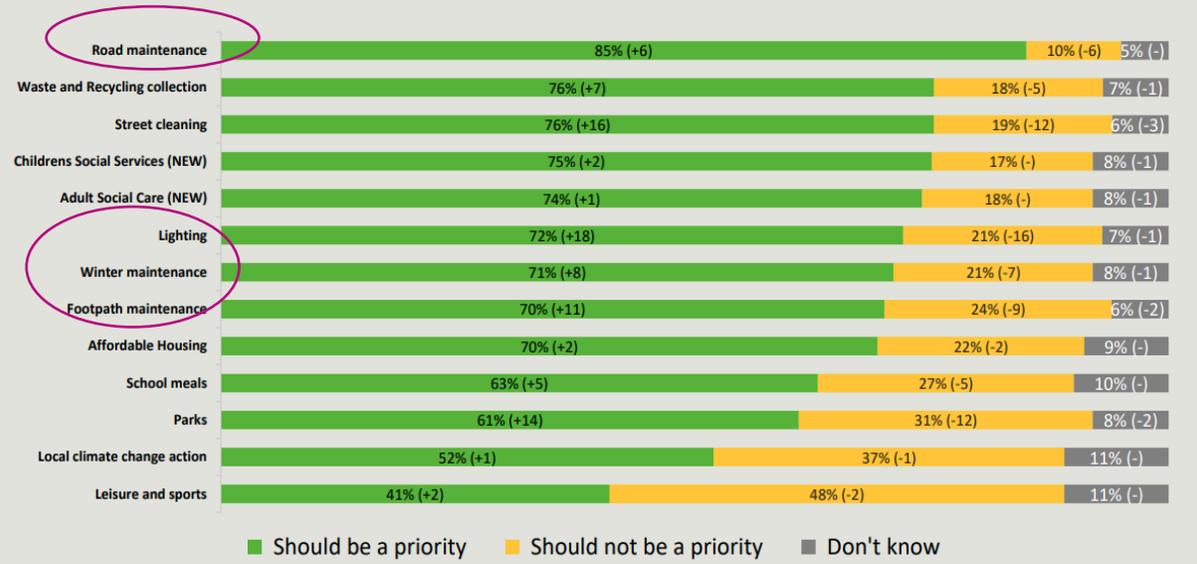
...on winter

- Medium satisfaction
- Medium priority

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?



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



BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 2361

Council communications

- Bang the drum of your work day in, day out!

ML MyLondon
[Key Merton roads confirmed for resurfacing as council commits £5.3m - full list](#)
Potholes and deteriorating roads are set to be tackled after Merton Council approved a £5.3 million investment in highways, footways and...



DC Durham County Council
[News-£17 million invested into road resurfacing](#)
We are continuing our commitment to maintaining and improving the county's highway network, with a significant investment of £17 million in...



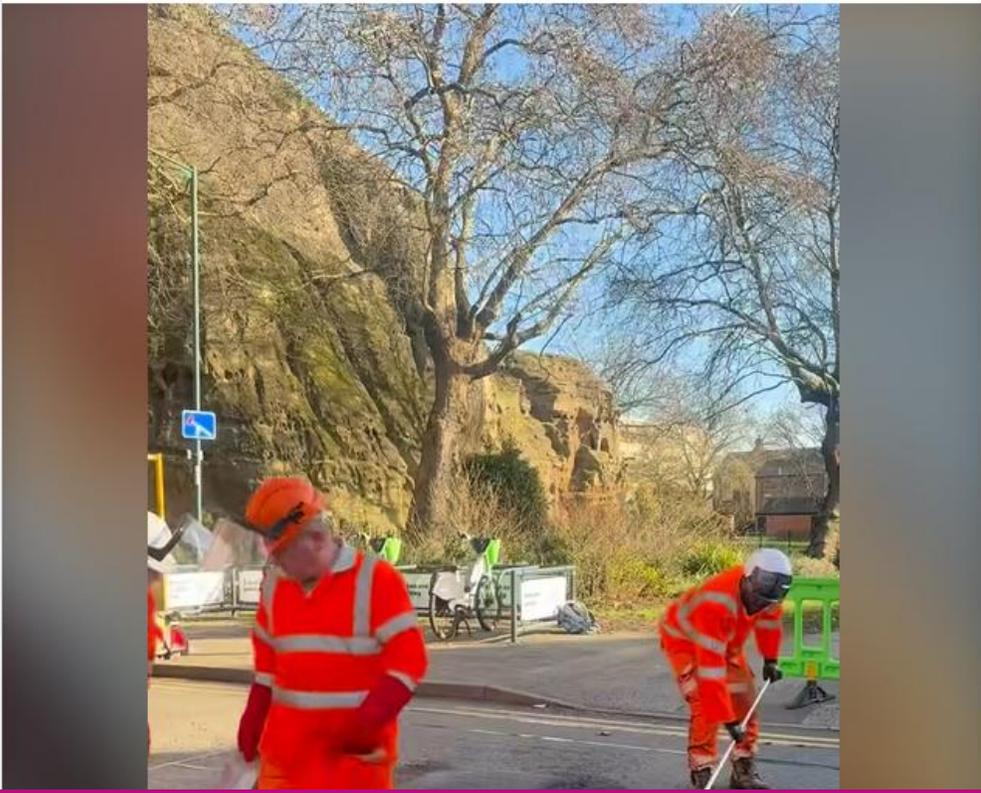
WC Wiltshire Council
[Wiltshire Council resurfacing more roads and saving money thanks to innovative road recycling scheme](#)
Wiltshire Council is making significant savings and resurfacing more rural roads thanks to an innovative road recycling scheme that breaks...



 **Sam Lux** • 1st
Nottingham councillor for climate & nature
2w • Edited • 

Effective [#sustainable](#) zero waste pothole filling using recycled tyres!

-  lasts for four years rather than weeks or months
-  less heavy machinery and labour intensive for our frontline workers
-  no waste and made from recycled tyres



Cllr Sam Lux, Nottingham City and Galvmac

Performance networks:

- The largest voluntary public sector benchmarking service
- Data training sessions available
- Working with MHA+ and Live Labs on benchmarking, street lighting data, aging lighting columns, PFI contracts, insourcing
- Don't forget...
- **Customer Satisfaction Surveys – FREE service for PN members!**

Open

Scotland Roads Survey - Dumfries & Galloway Council

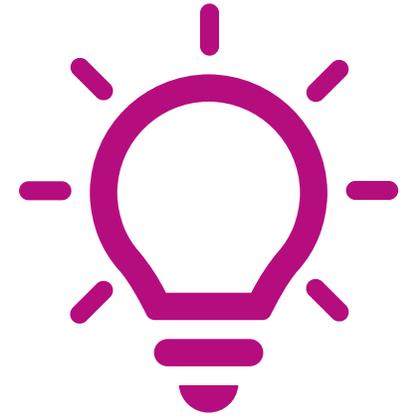
 2059 responses

Analyze results

 Updated: 01/20/2026

 Shared with you





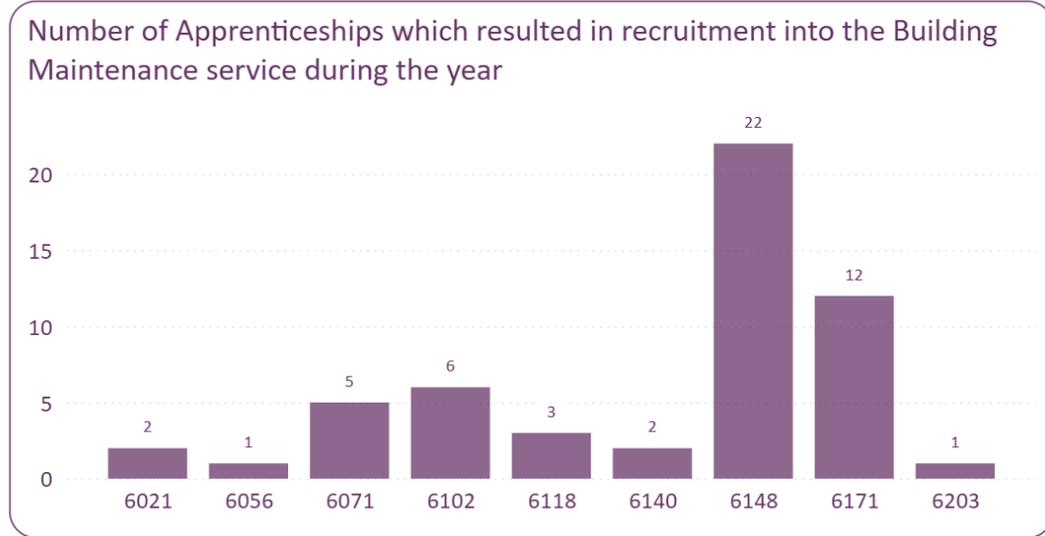
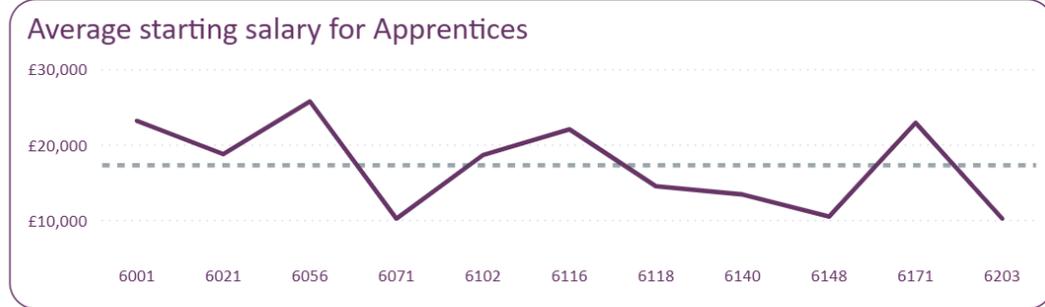
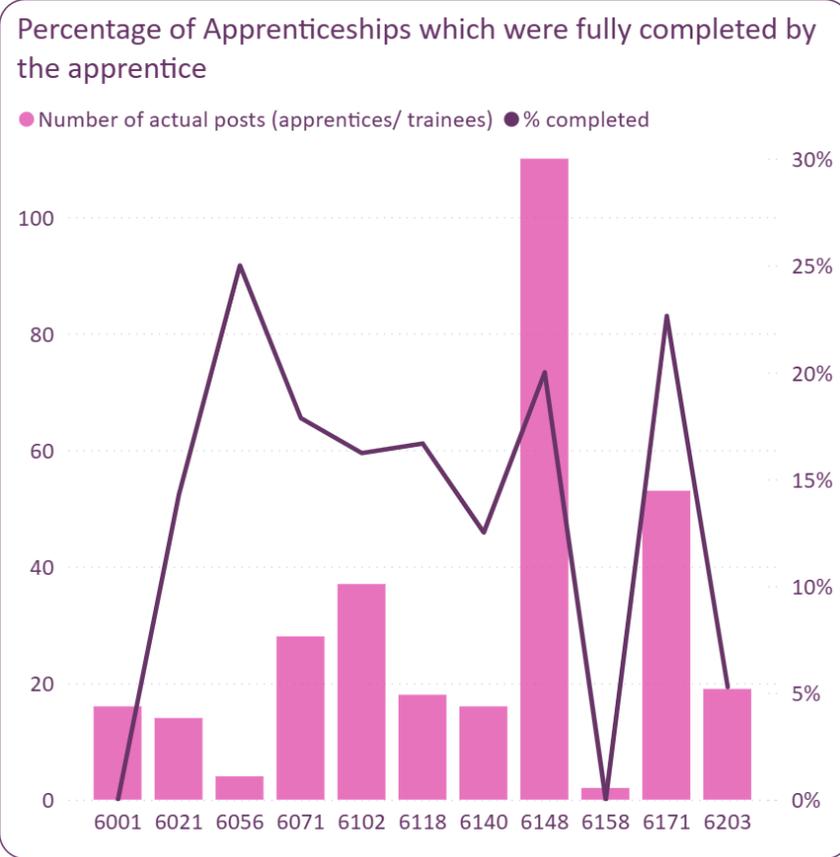


New Interactive report - content

Recruitment and Retention - Apprenticeships



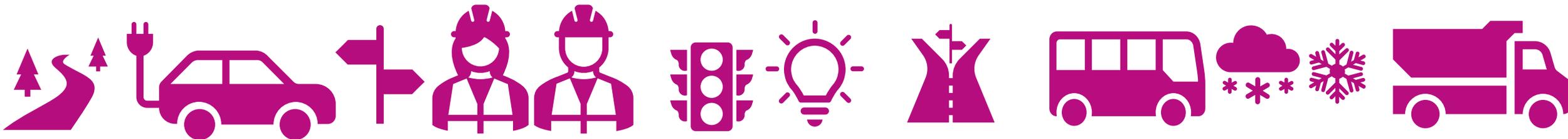
- Report Navigation
- Number of posts
- Vacancies
- Workforce Profile
- Apprenticeships**
- Retirement
- Pay Rates



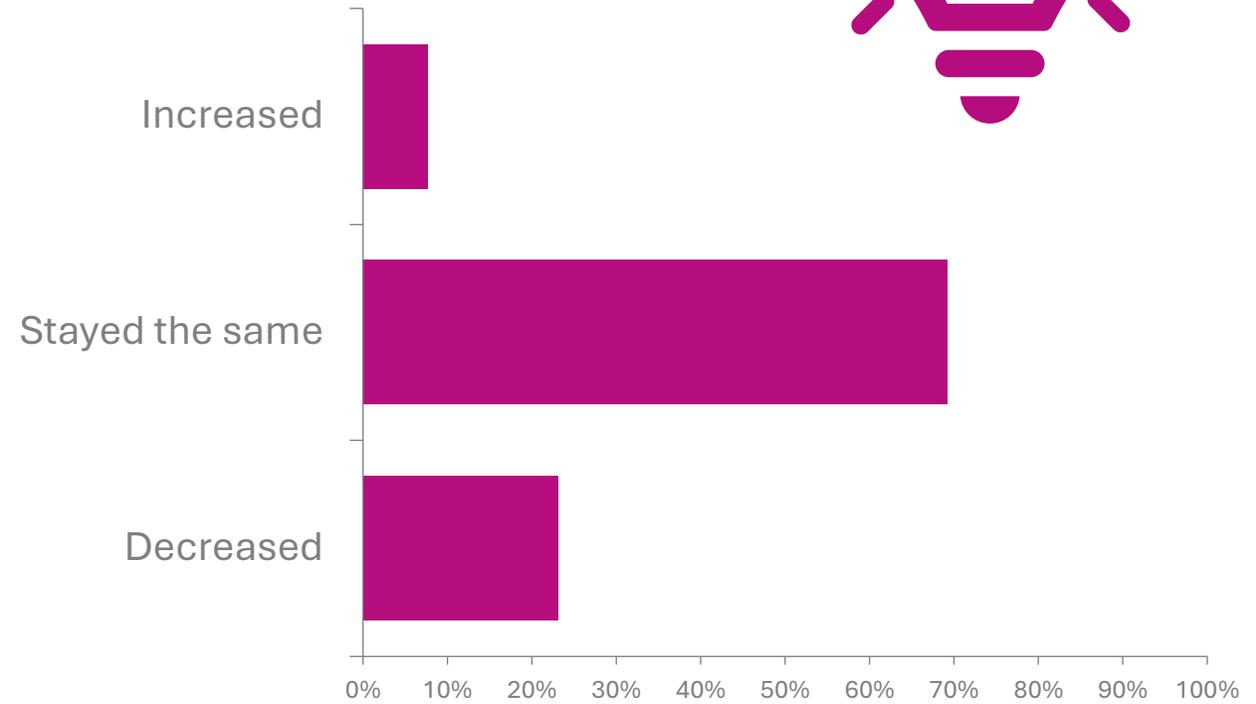
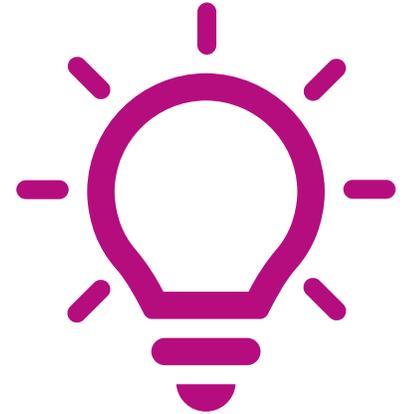
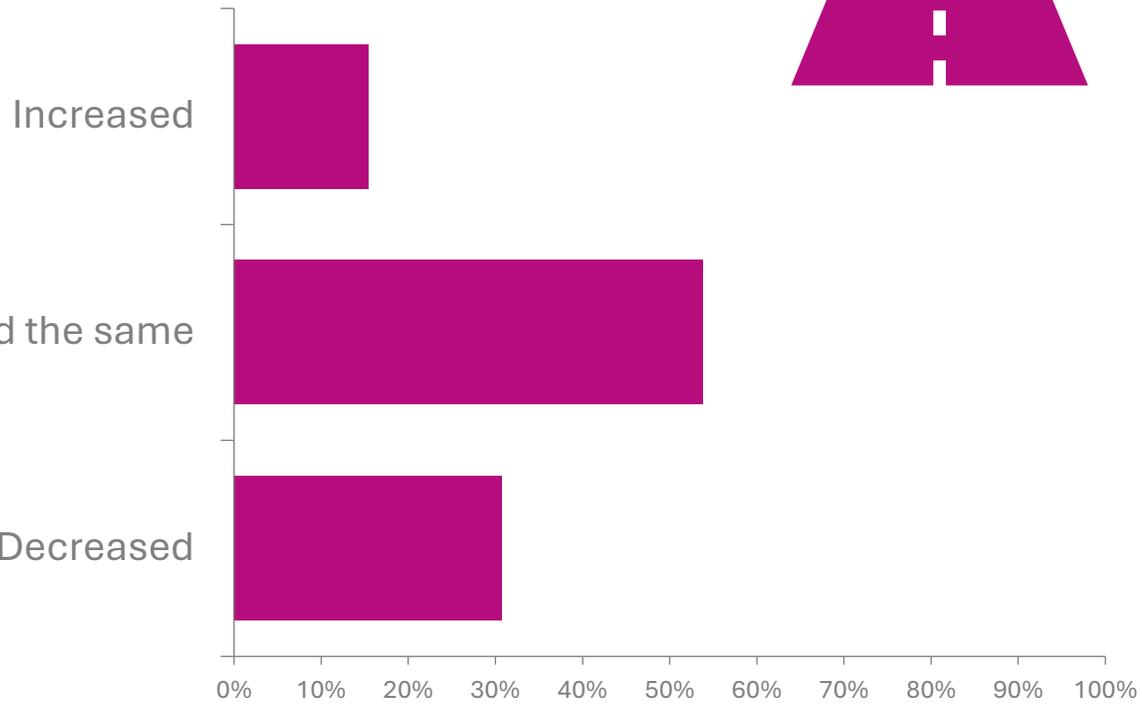


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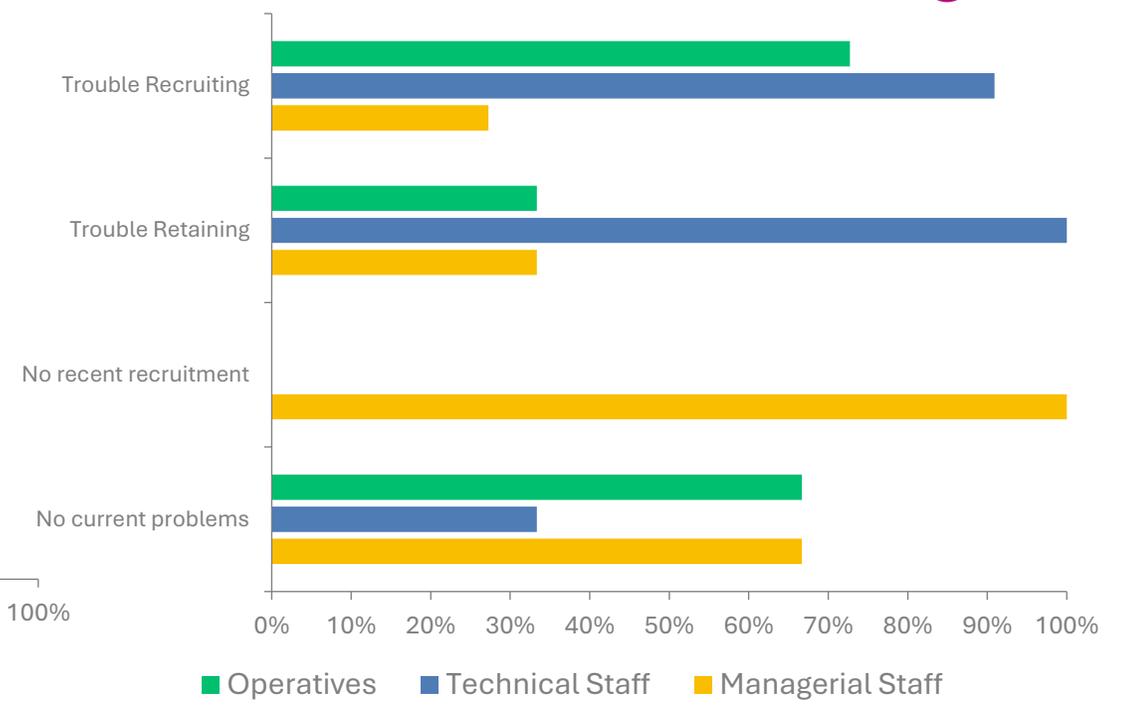
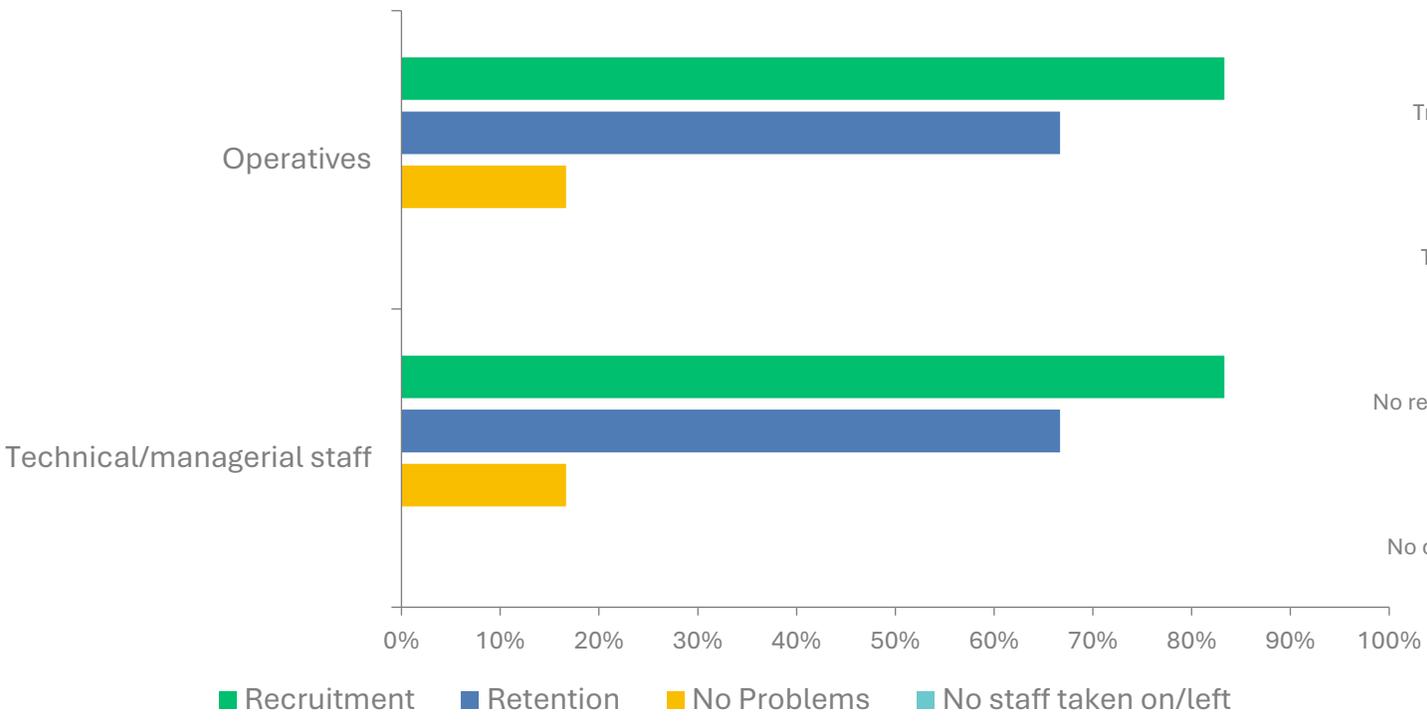
You said...



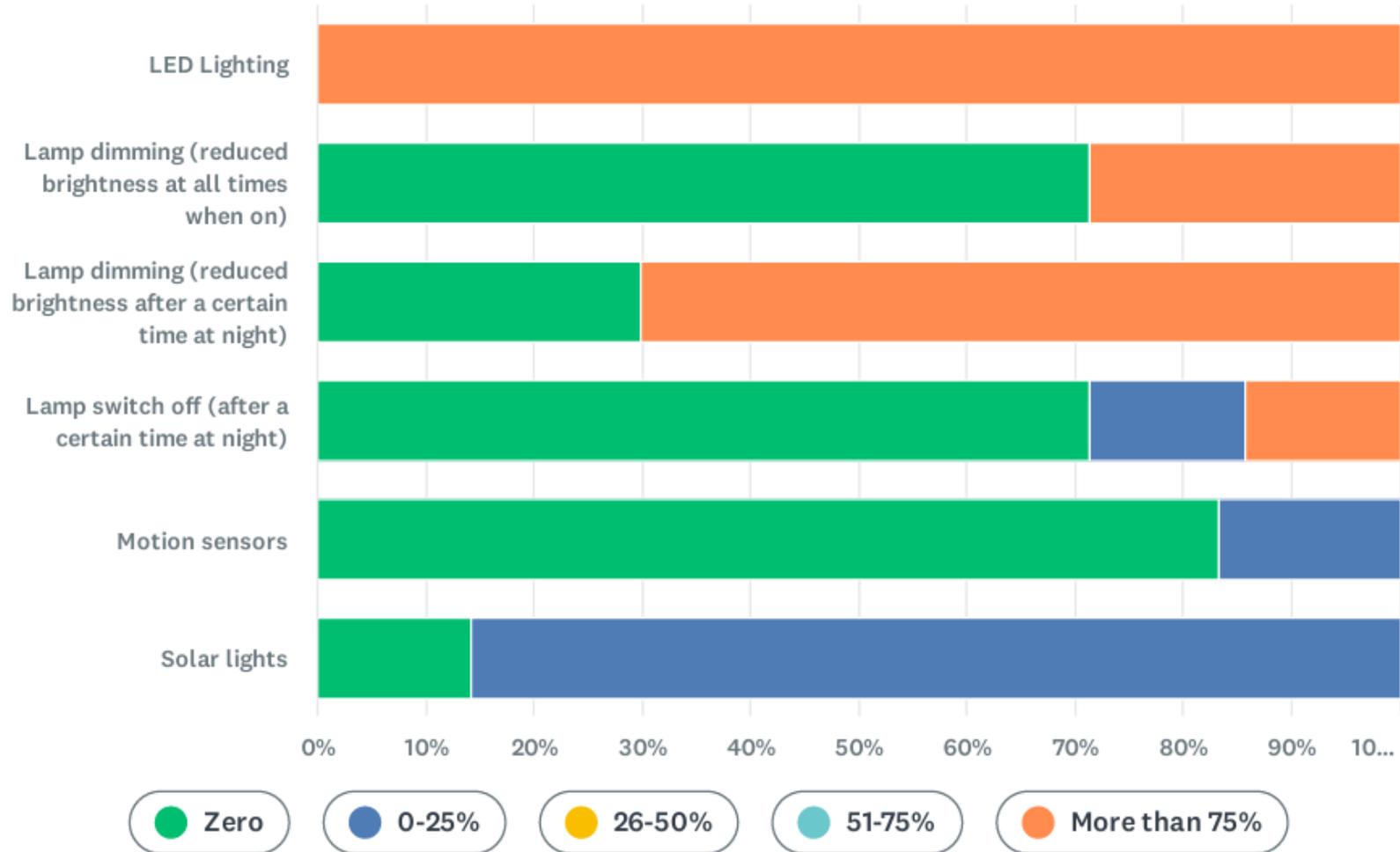
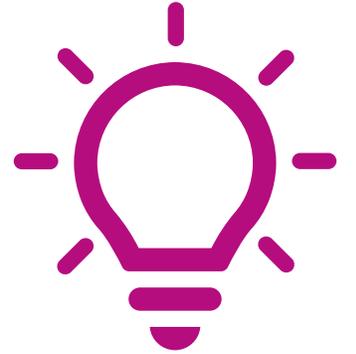
Budget



Recruitment /retention



Energy saving



Sustainable techniques in highways

- AI for Highway inspections and scheme evaluations.
- Low carbon/eco friendly materials in construction.
- Materials are sustainably sourced / local suppliers
- Integrated Highways Asset Management systems.
- Low carbon/carbon negative materials (ACLA, Rubber pellets etc) software packages, sustainable materials,
- Warm mix and cold lay surfacing materials
- Rejuvenators, preventative materials, recycling.
- Early intervention –
- batching scheme delivery
- Various trials of different materials and ways of working



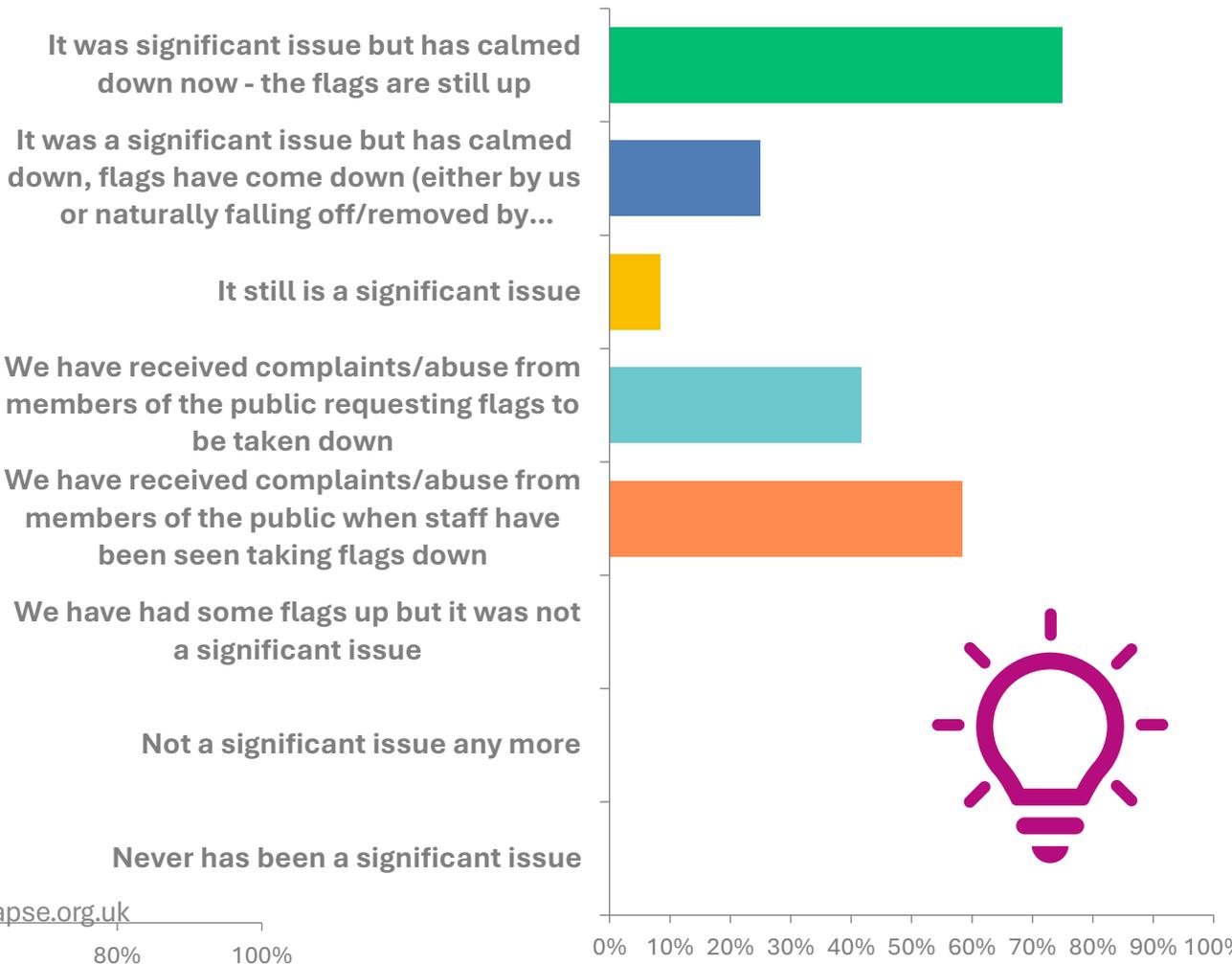
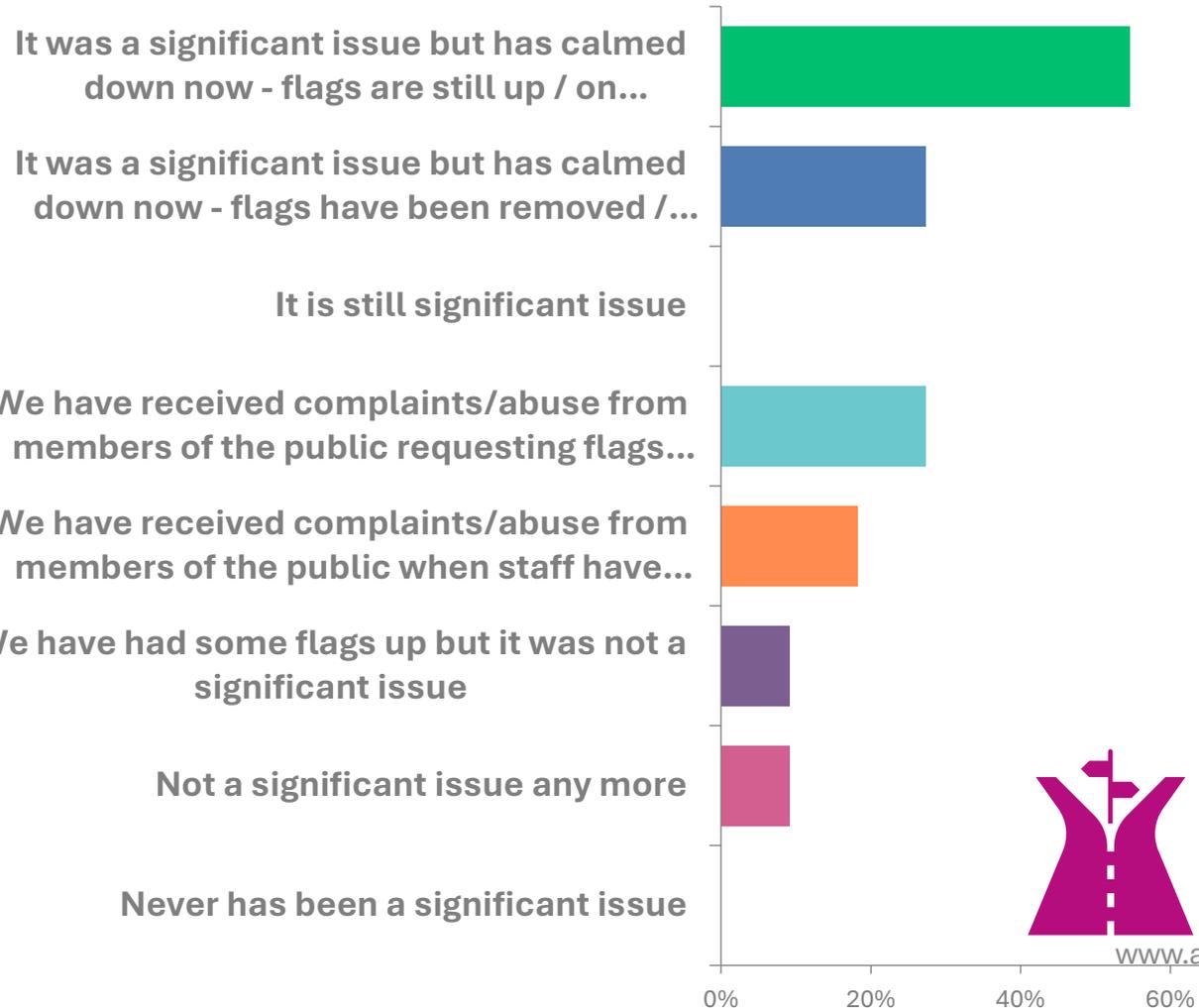
Flags

- APSE did a survey / round table in October 2025 (briefing on our website)...
- we asked in our **recent** survey if this is still an issue





Flags: the current view from Highways / street lighting





Highways responses

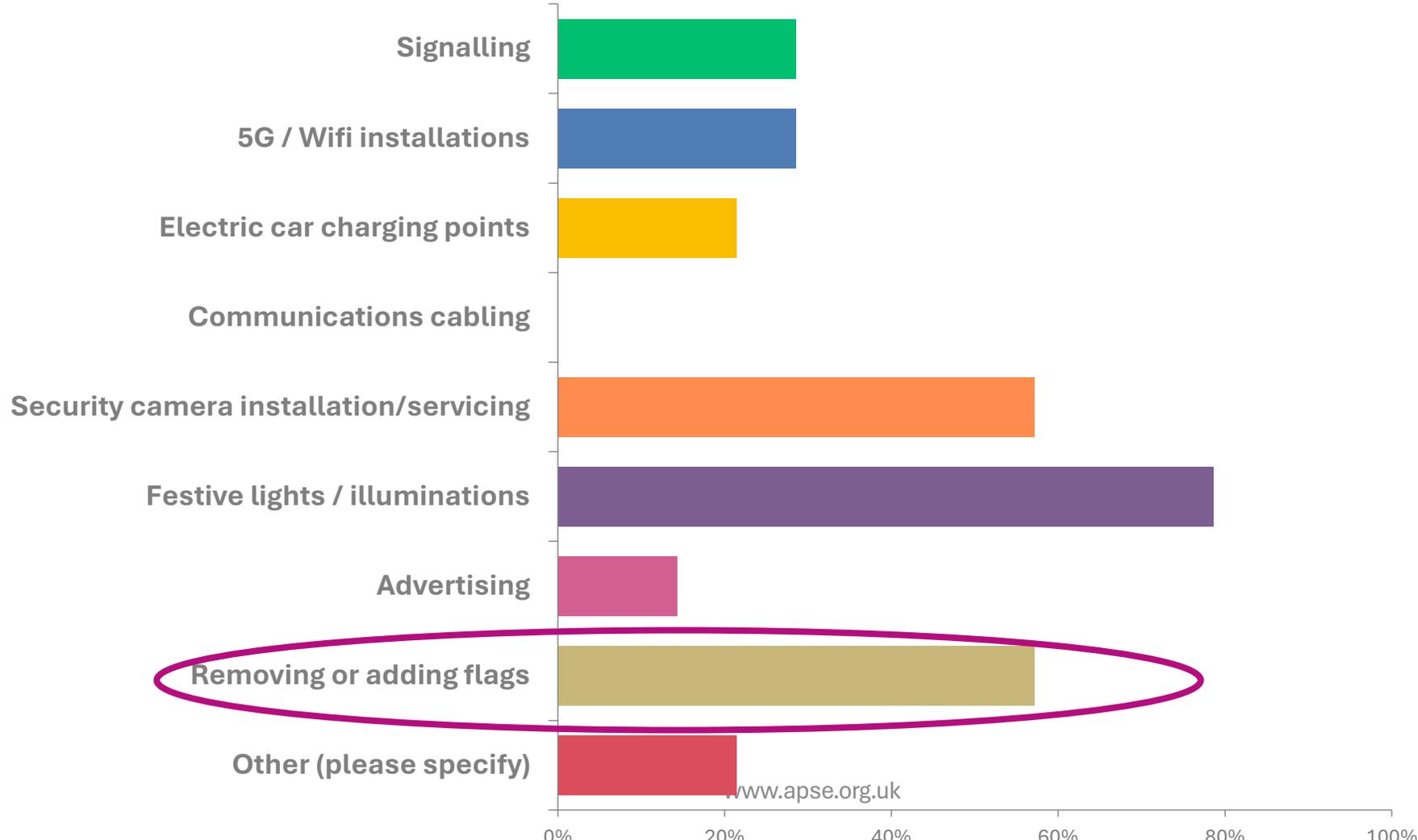
- We only remove that flags that are causing a safety issue (**most common**)
- Removed asap when attached to Highway apparatus
- Council leader has said the majority of flags attached to lampposts in the town will stay, but warned some would be taken down following complaints
- We tried to remove but Operatives were subject to abuse. We are still keen to remove all flags/banners
- Flags are removed during BAU maintenance. Any posing a risk to the public are prioritised for removal
- Some residents have expressed support for the flags, while others have raised concerns about their impact on community wellbeing and safety.
- Approach still under review



Street lighting responses

- We only remove that flags that are causing a safety issue (**most common**)
- Our staff have refused to remove flags after receiving abuse when trying to do so. Cannot find a contractor willing to remove so flags are still up
- Still awaiting government instruction
- A lot have naturally fallen off, but a significant number
- Unauthorised items attached to lampposts on the highway will be removed. This will be done when a team is available, though we are unable to provide a specific timescale.
- Only removed by council ops when they posed a safety issue. Abuse received when removing a flag on a column that had been hit in an RTC and needed removal.

What non-street lighting tasks to you undertake?



Councils adding flags (banners)

- Nottinghamshire



- St Helen's



Highways, Street Lighting, Winter Maintenance Transport & Vehicle Maintenance

How can we help you?

Join our network:
Briefings, sharing best-practice, network meetings, the latest policy updates, advocacy, and network queries across our 3,000+ contacts in local government.

Training:
High-quality training courses, including:

- Introduction to Waste Collection & Street Cleansing
- Health and Safety in Waste & Environmental Services
- Carbon Literacy

...and many more!

Consultancy and Interim Management:
Providing service specific specialists that can assist with service reviews, transformation, commercialisation and any strategic overview you and your authority might need!

Performance Networks
Analyse key metrics across cost, performance, and productivity. Benchmark your refuse collection with the UK's leading local authority network. Use the LAMS app to carry out real-time street scene and cleanliness inspections

Energy
Climate Change and Energy advice to support your journey to decarbonisation – from depot to fleet decarbonisation, we have it covered.

apse membership resources



apse training



apse solutions



apse performance networks



apse energy





Thank you!

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apse

Highways, Street Lighting & Winter Maintenance Seminar

Thursday 19 March
St James Park, Newcastle

Sponsored by:

