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Cemeteries and Crematoria State of the Market 2023

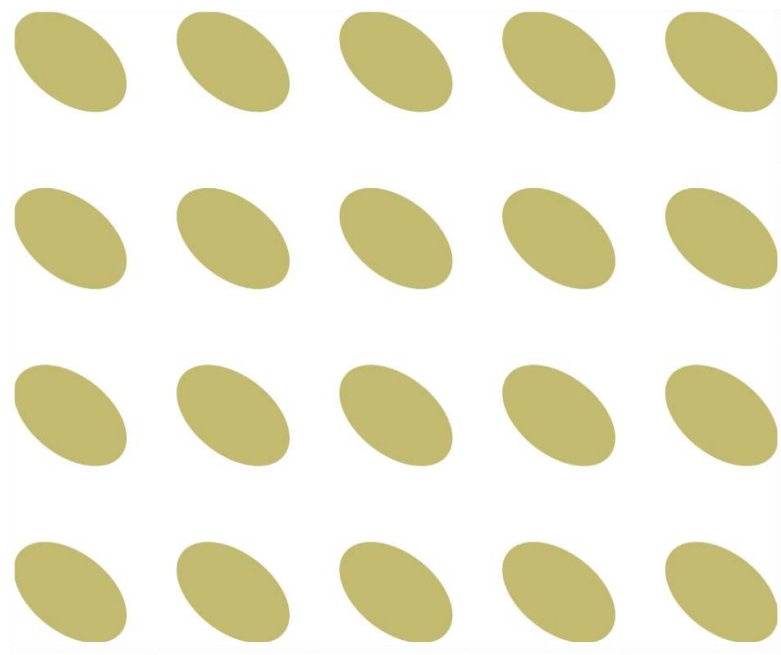


- Budget Cuts
- Burial Space
- Climate Change
- Grounds Maintenance
- Service Management
- Social issues
- Biodiversity
- Income generation
- Quality standards
- Staffing
- Apprenticeships
- Service Efficiencies
- Heritage

State of the Market Surveys

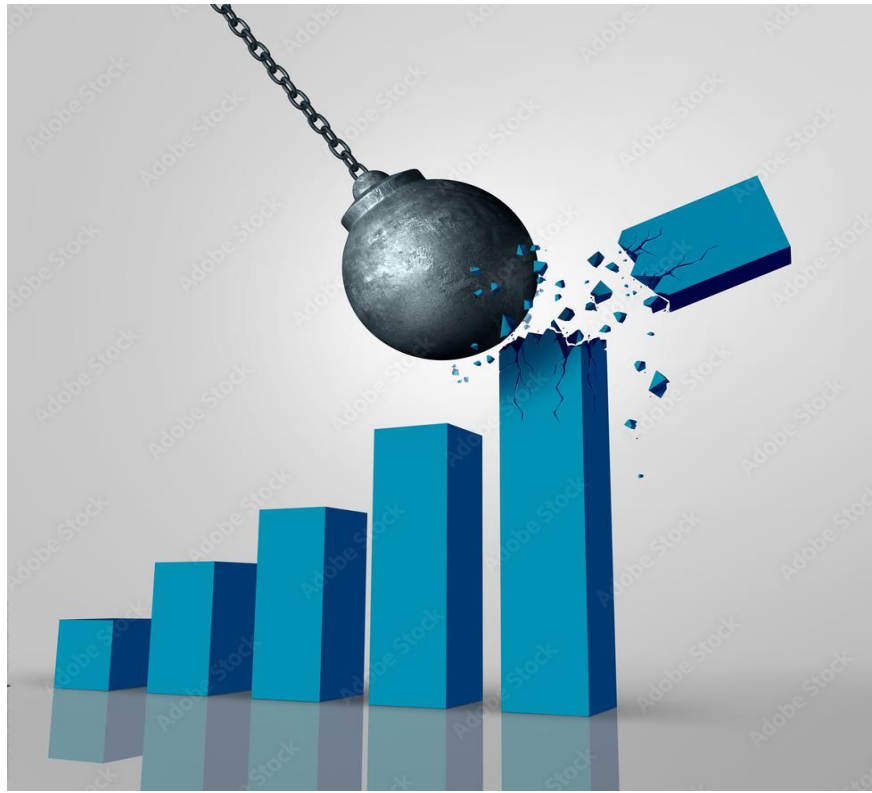
- State of the Market Survey now in its 7th Year
- Local authority service areas
- Similar questions are asked to allow for trend comparisons
- Identifies common problems, innovations and best practice
- Insight into the future direction of the service
- Open to all APSE member authorities across the UK
- Key findings of the survey are expressed as a briefing note
- Useful for benchmarking and performance management
- Used by National Government and in APSE research documents
- Used in National Litter Strategy, HLF, State of UK Parks Report 2021, School Food Plan, Press and trade and national media to enhance knowledge of local government services.

State of the Market Survey 2023 Cemeteries and Crematoria

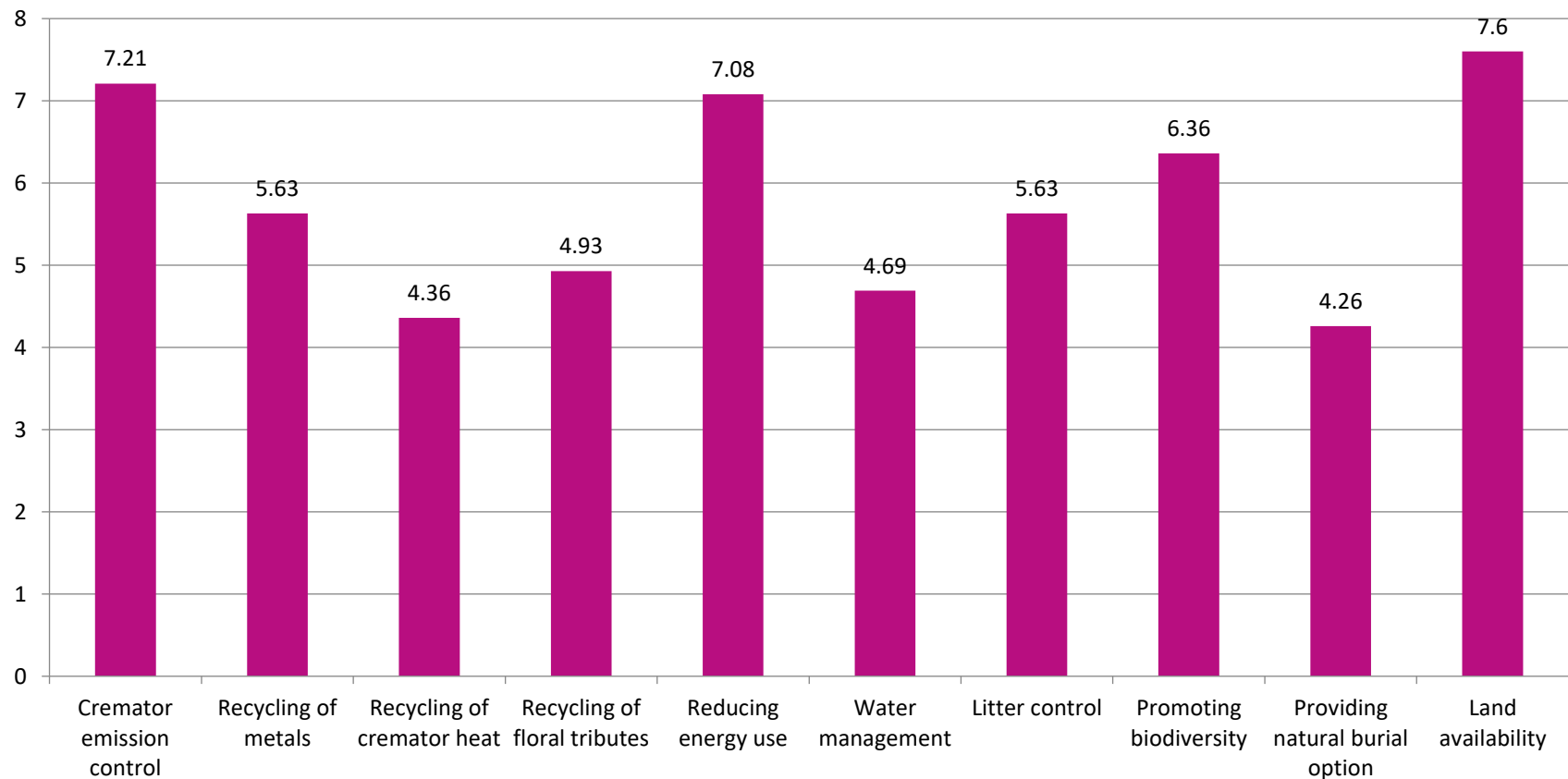


State of the Markets Findings

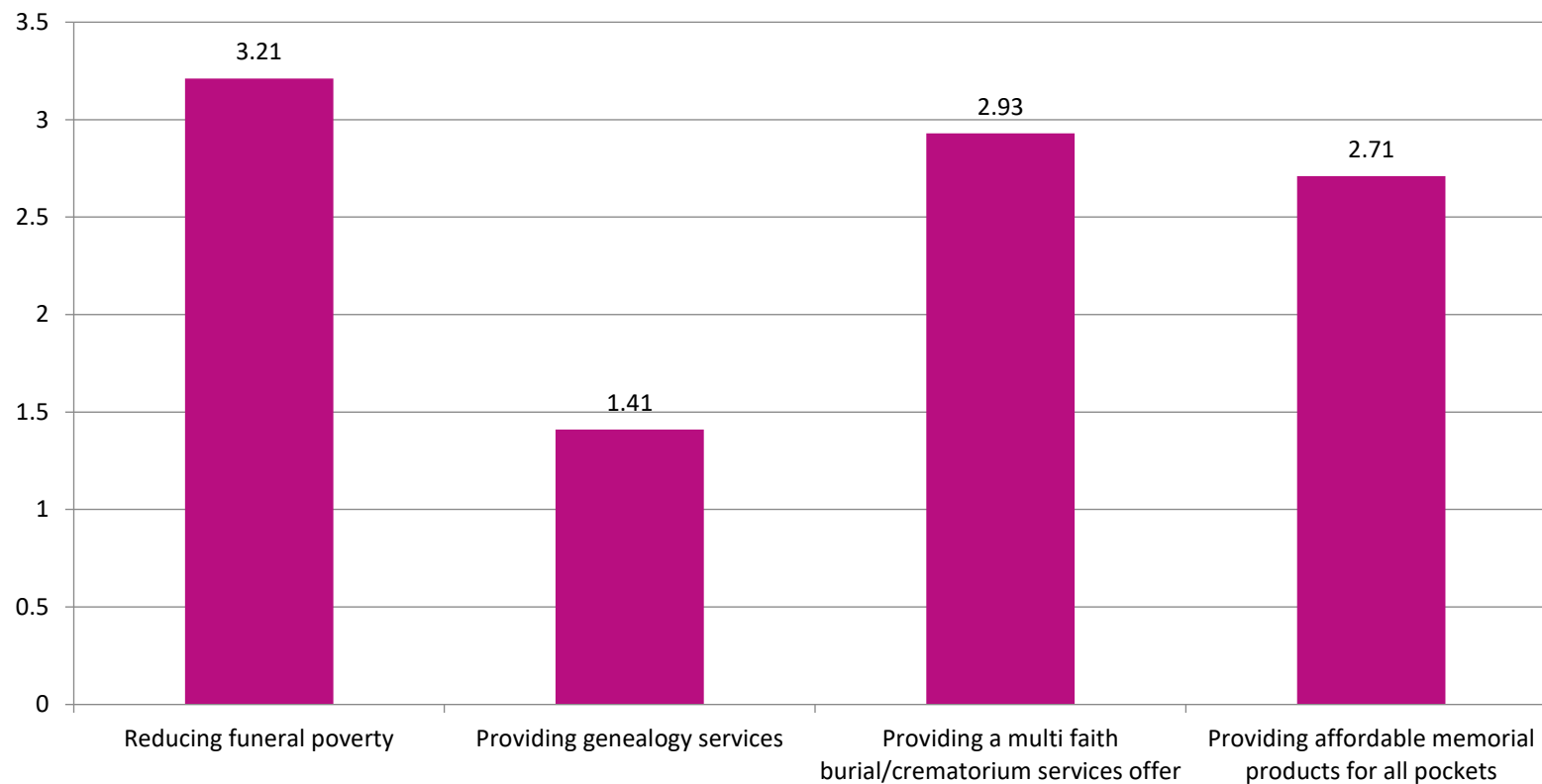
- Only 24% of respondents felt Bereavement Services have had disproportionate funding cuts compared to other services (40% in 2022).
- **But** 90%, feel that the lack of investment in cemeteries and crematoria will impact on the quality of future service delivery.
- 63% of respondents have experienced reductions in the manicured quality of their grounds.
- **Yet 99%** felt that there was a limit to involving volunteers in maintaining cemetery land.



What environmental issues are a priority for your cemeteries and crematoria?



What social issues are a priority for your cemeteries and crematoria service?

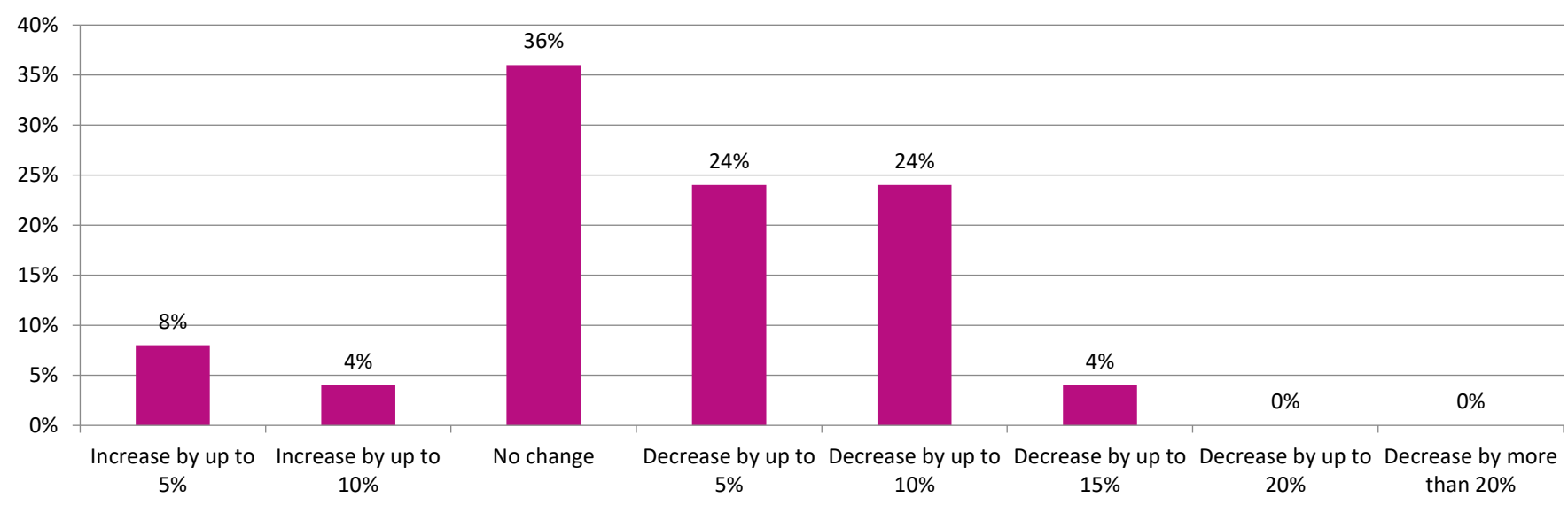


Budgets

NEXT 12 MONTHS

- 54% expect changes to current budgets in next twelve months.
- 38 % expect increases in revenue / 4% expect increases in capital
- 21% expect no change
- 42% expect decreases in capital revenue/ 38% expect decreases in revenues

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



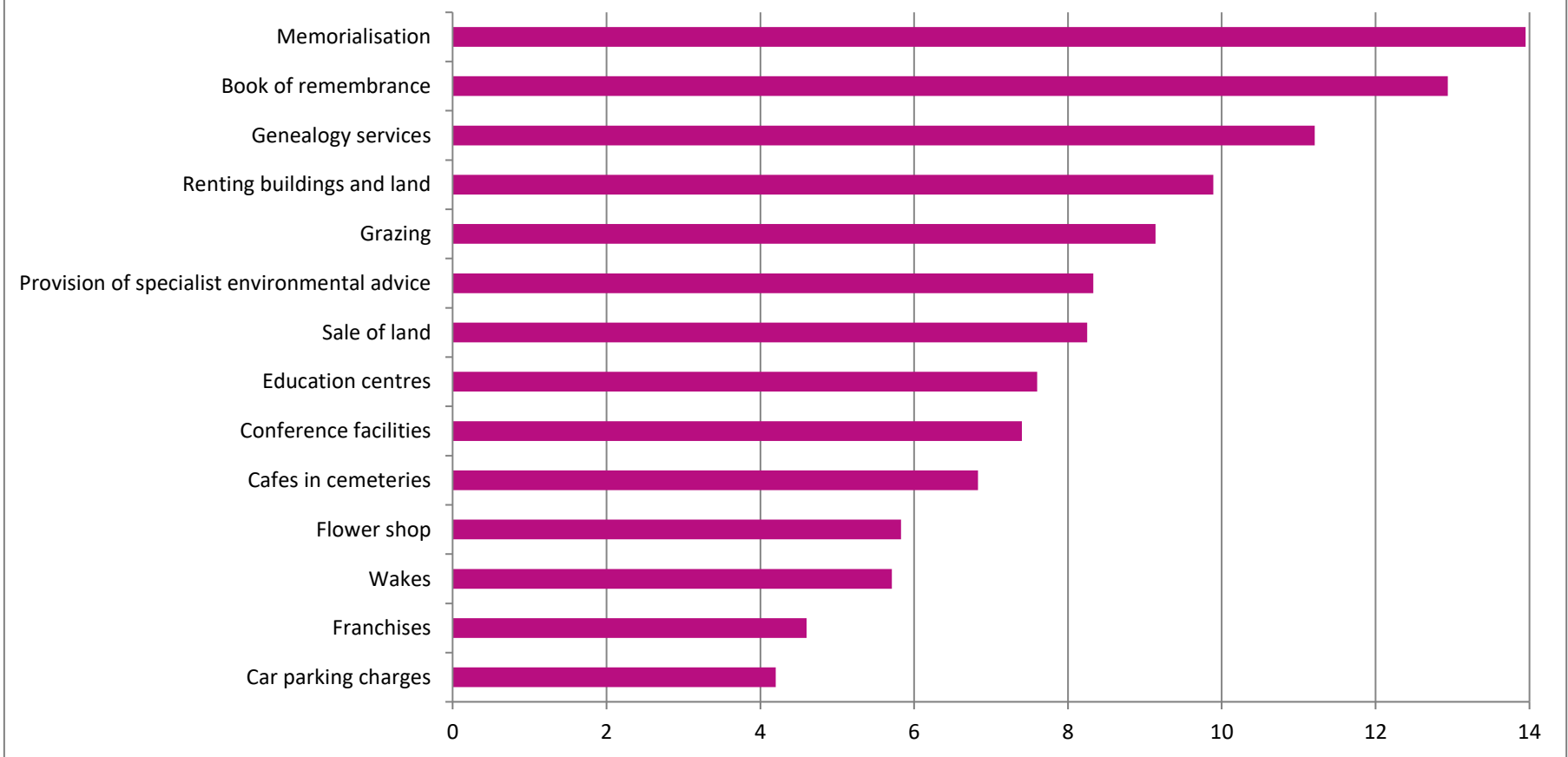
Service efficiencies.

- Increasing fees and charges
- Service reviews, rationalisation
- Increased market testing of suppliers
- Differential rates for non-residents
- New and increased memorial offer(e.g. memorial mason services).
- Restructure of service management/staffing levels
- Replacing existing cremators to improve efficiency and generate additional income
- New services e.g. woodland burials, pets cemetery
- Letting out unused cemetery buildings
- Reducing grounds maintenance frequencies
- Saturday service provision & early morning /late evening reduced rate offers
- Solar panels, water collection, heat re-use, LED lighting.
- Accessing grants to improve buildings of historical importance.



Income generation

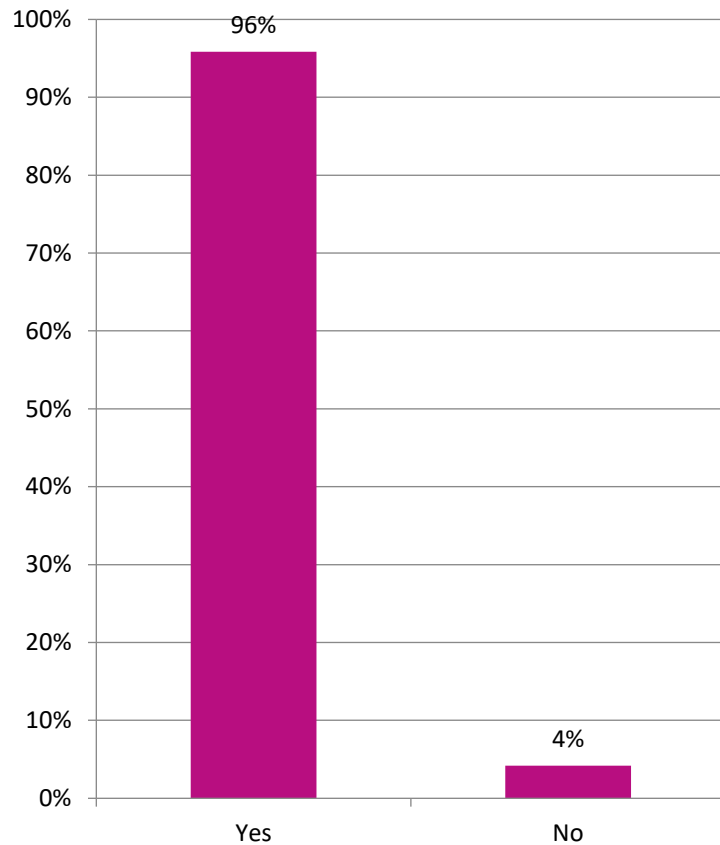
Apart from burial and crematorium charges, what other areas do you currently generate income in through fees and charges (either provided in-house or through a franchise)?



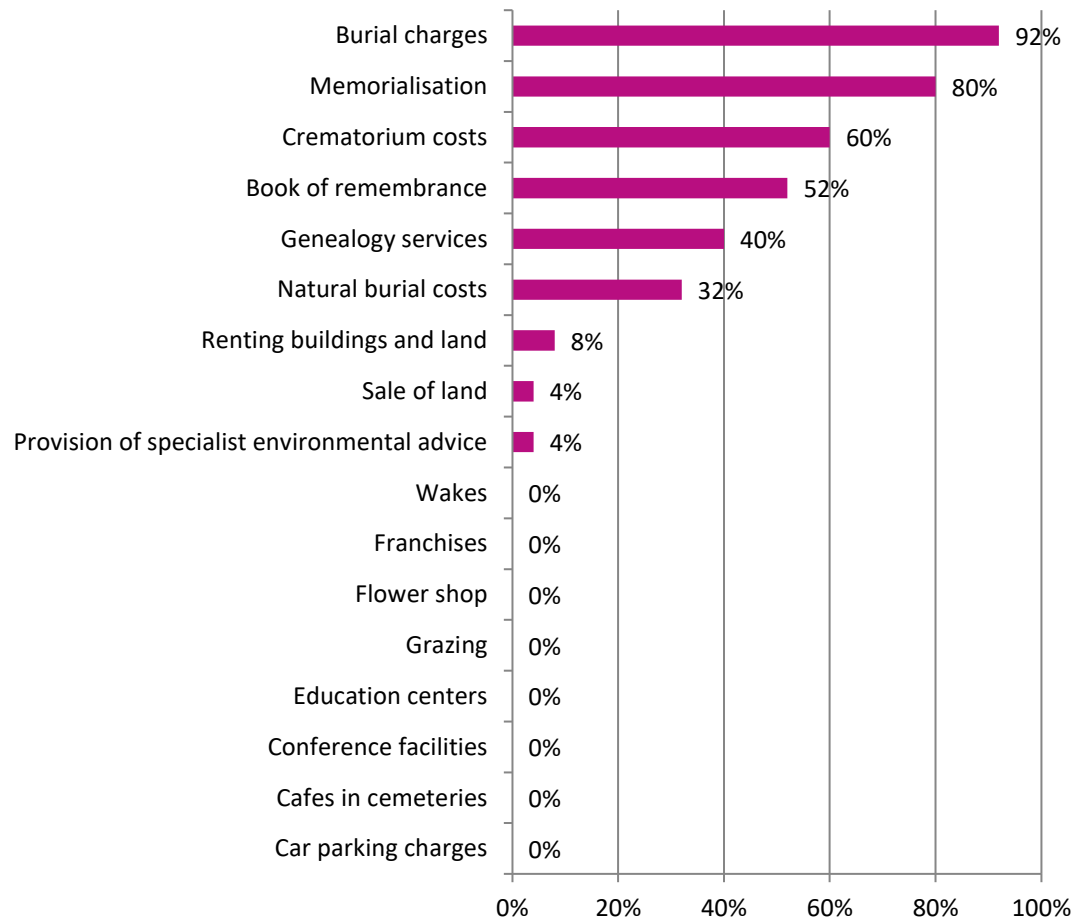
Other sources of income

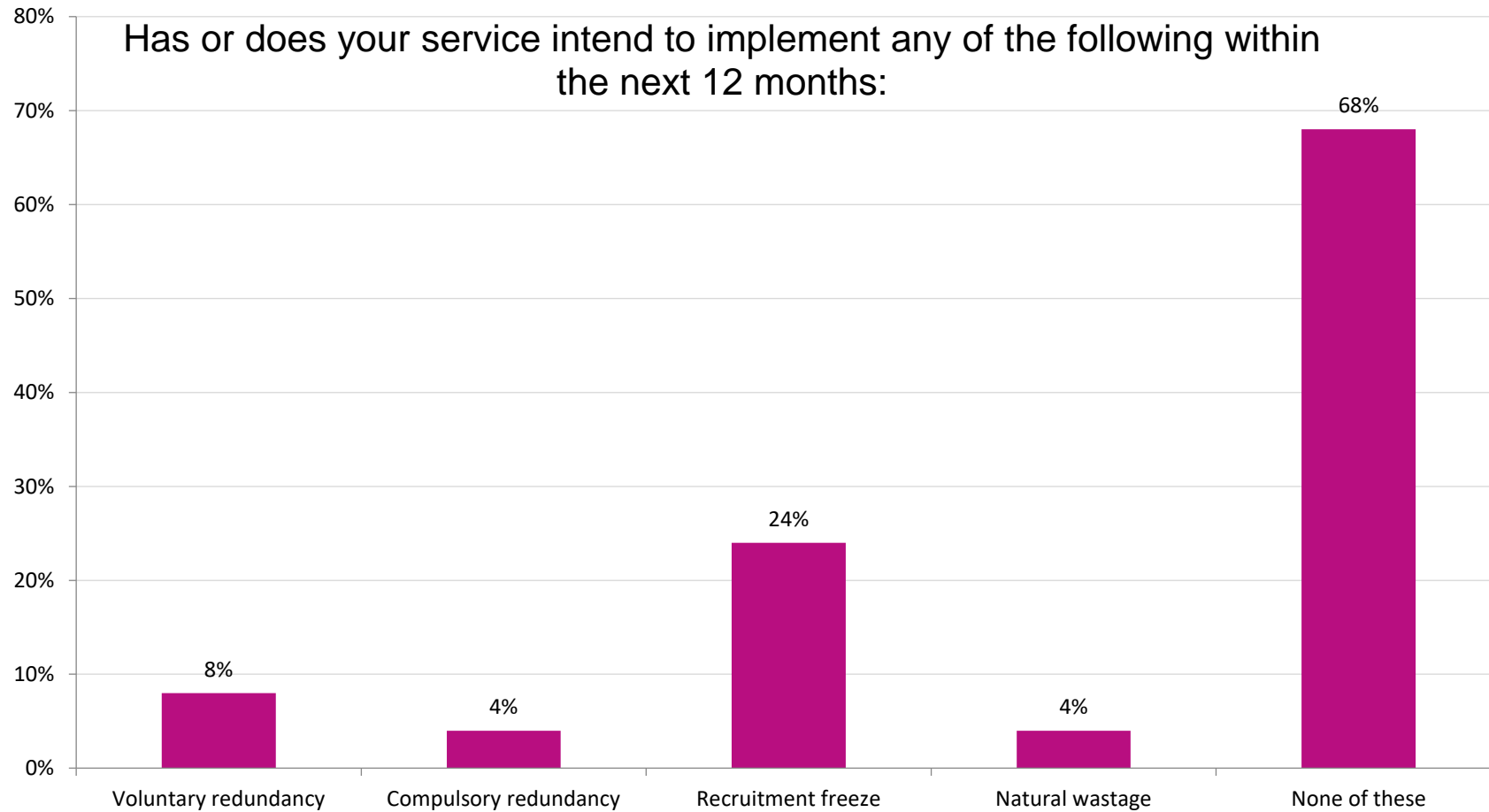
- CAMEO mercury trading payments
- Provision of officer time in assisting other authorities to process Public Health funerals.
- Profit share with music partner.
- Pre-paid cremation service for future use by families.
- Grave digging services for adjoining local authorities
- Leasing of memorials (benches, trees, rose bushes etc.)
- Creating a pets cremation offer.
- Provision of webcasts and recordings of services.
- Provision of jewellery containing ashes.
- Allowing weddings in funeral chapels
- Cave tours in a closed cemetery.
- Personalised grave maintenance

Are you intending to increase fees and charges over the next 2-3 years to meet efficiency pressures?



If yes, what areas do you intend to increase fees and charges in over the next 2-3 years?





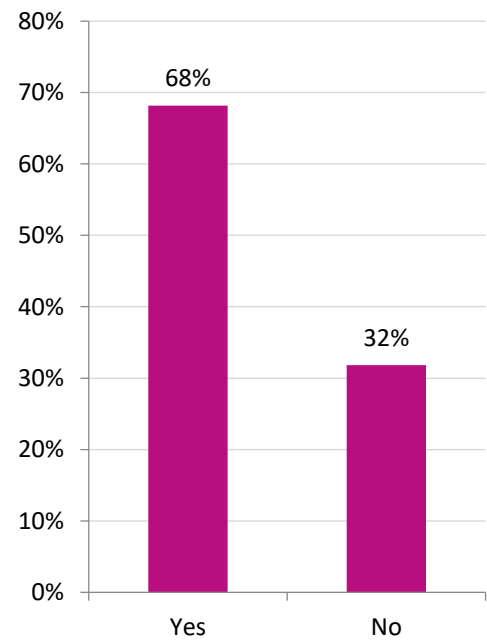
Burial Space

- Next 5-10 Years critical point
- Study found **one in four** local authorities around the UK have **ten years or less** before their existing council-owned cemeteries are full to capacity, while almost **one in six** have **five years or less**.
- Extensions rather than new sites
- New cemeteries likely to be smaller due to housing demand.
- Many cemeteries now closed with only ashes internments allowed.
- Suitable sites difficult to find.
- Re-use in London cemeteries after 75 years

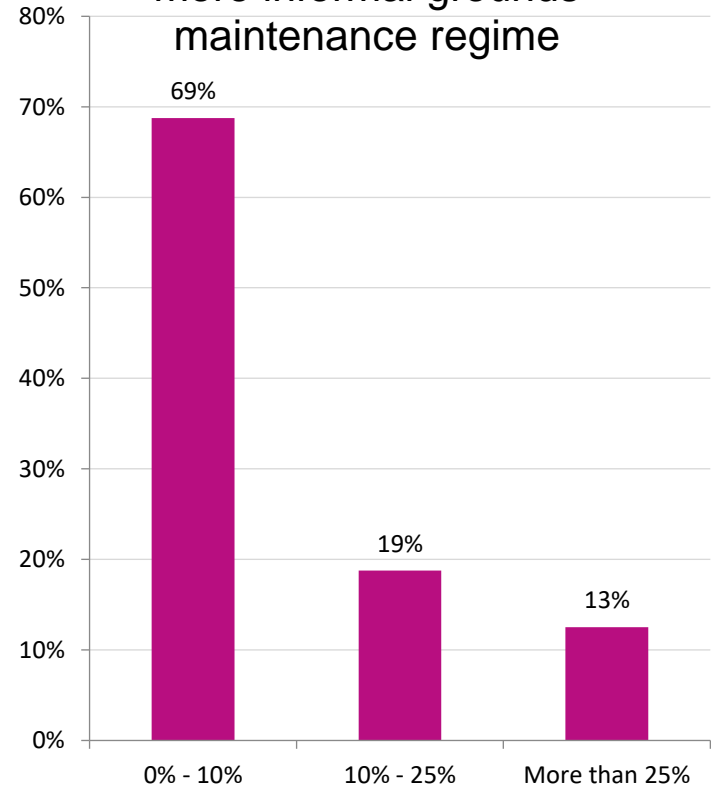


Biodiversity and land management

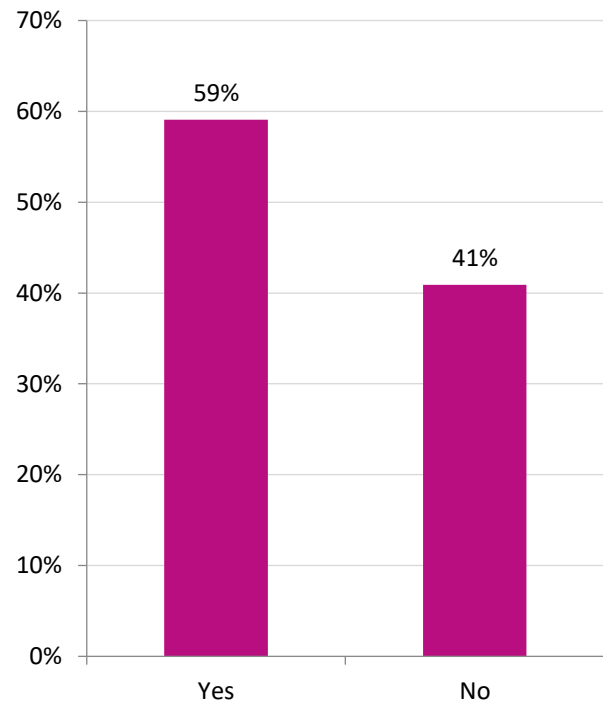
Do you manage any of your cemetery land as wildflower areas or nature reserve?



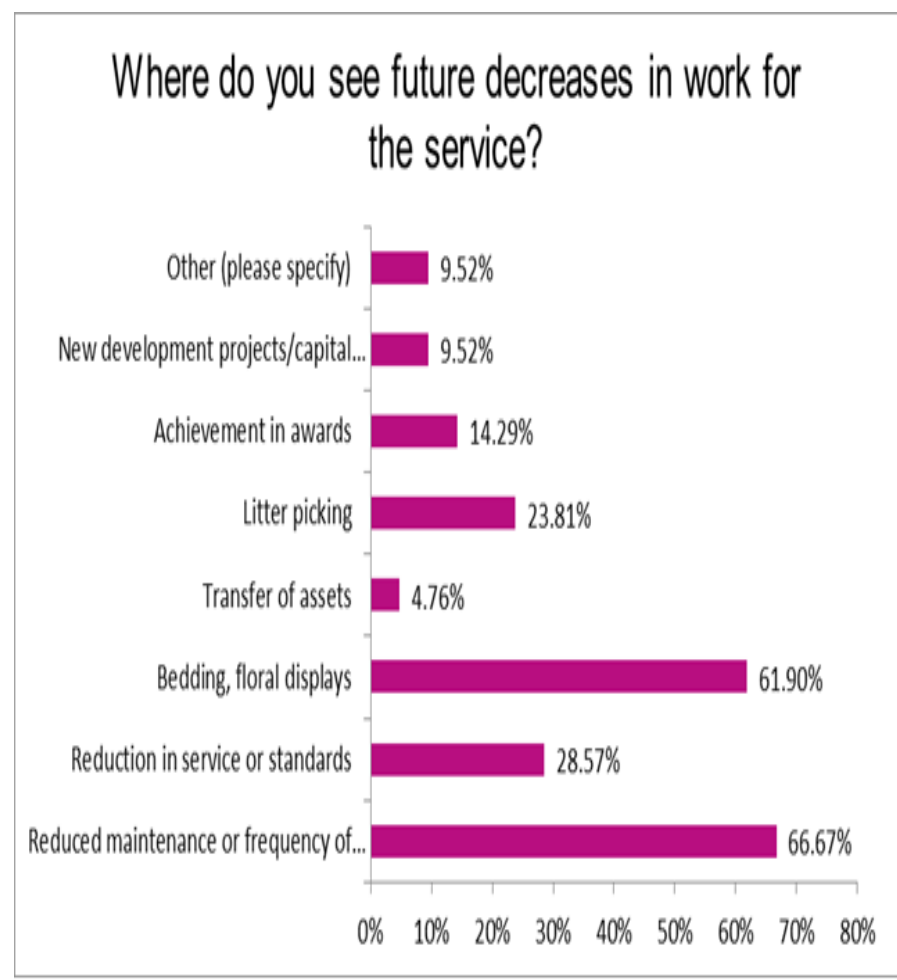
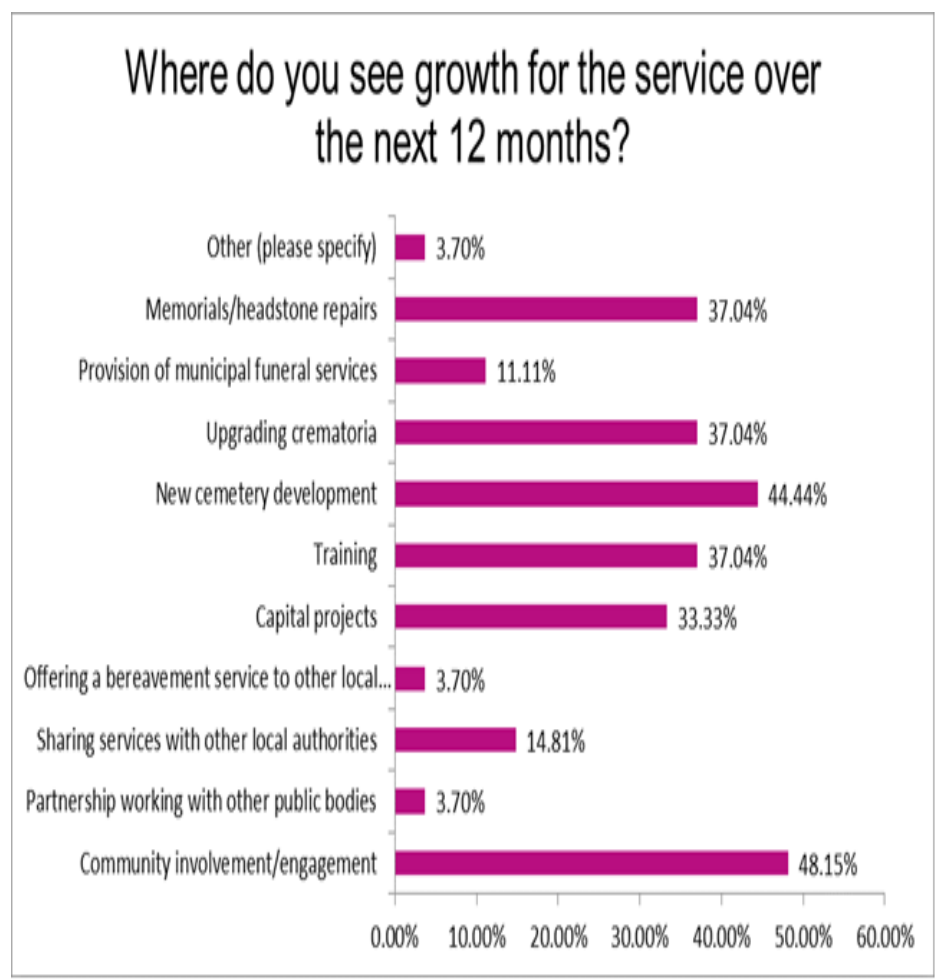
If yes, what % of your total cemetery land is given to a more informal grounds maintenance regime



Do you make specific provision for promoting biodiversity in cemetery grounds?



Service growth/decrease



Conclusions.

- Relatively low level of budget cuts compared to other services but evidence of future cuts.
- Staff levels stabilized – concerns about **future entrants and provision of apprenticeships**.
- Reducing public sensitivities over income generation schemes.
- Burial space set to become a major issue in the next 5-10 years
- **Environmental/social/cultural** considerations growing in importance but causing challenges.
- Greater opportunities to develop benefits from Friends of groups and volunteers.
- Need to monitor visitor numbers – multiple benefits.
- ASB still some cause for concern/unauthorized memorials
- Concerns over ability to provide quality cemetery grounds – possible links to **naturalised maintenance** and opportunities for biodiversity.



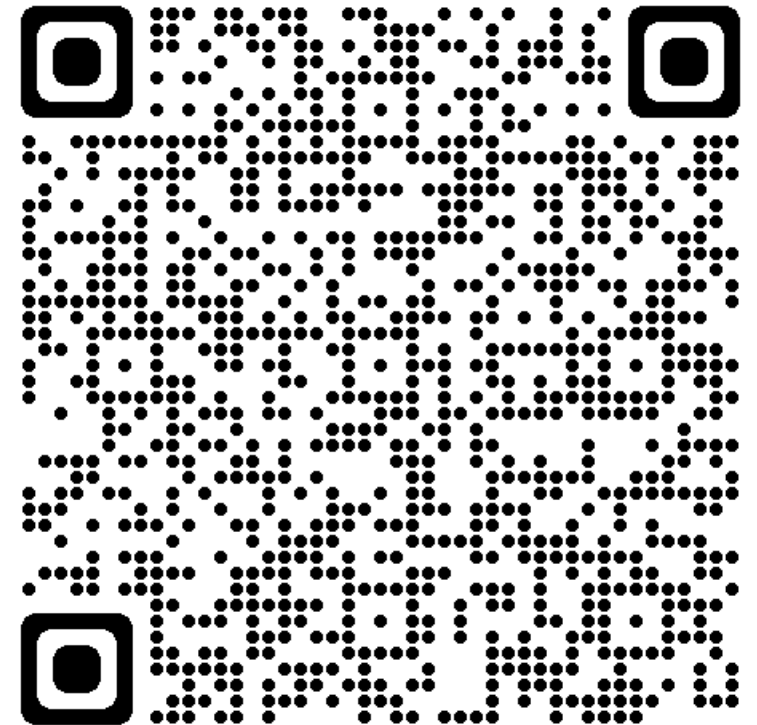


Legal and Practical Management of Cemeteries (ICCM) Masterclass

Book your place now...

13/06/23 (AM) + 14/06/23 (AM)

In addition to legal and practical compliance, this course will address common problems, issues and mistakes, participants will also explore the income that can be realised by burial authorities.



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