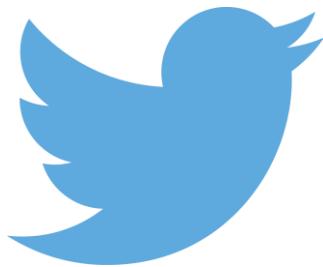




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APSE / Survation 2026

Annual Polling of Councillors & The Public

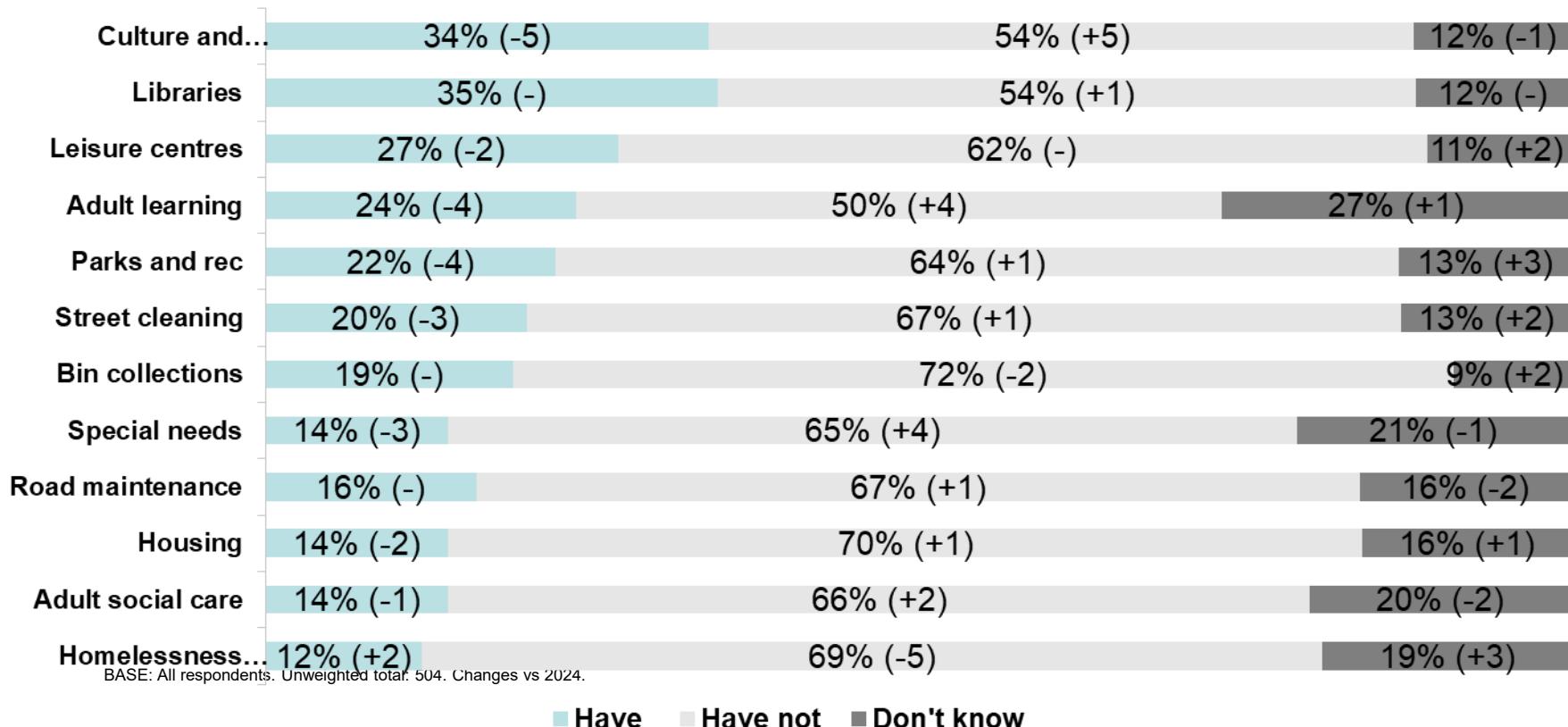


Councillor responses





Q3. Which of the following services, if any, has your local authority had to cancel or close since 2010?



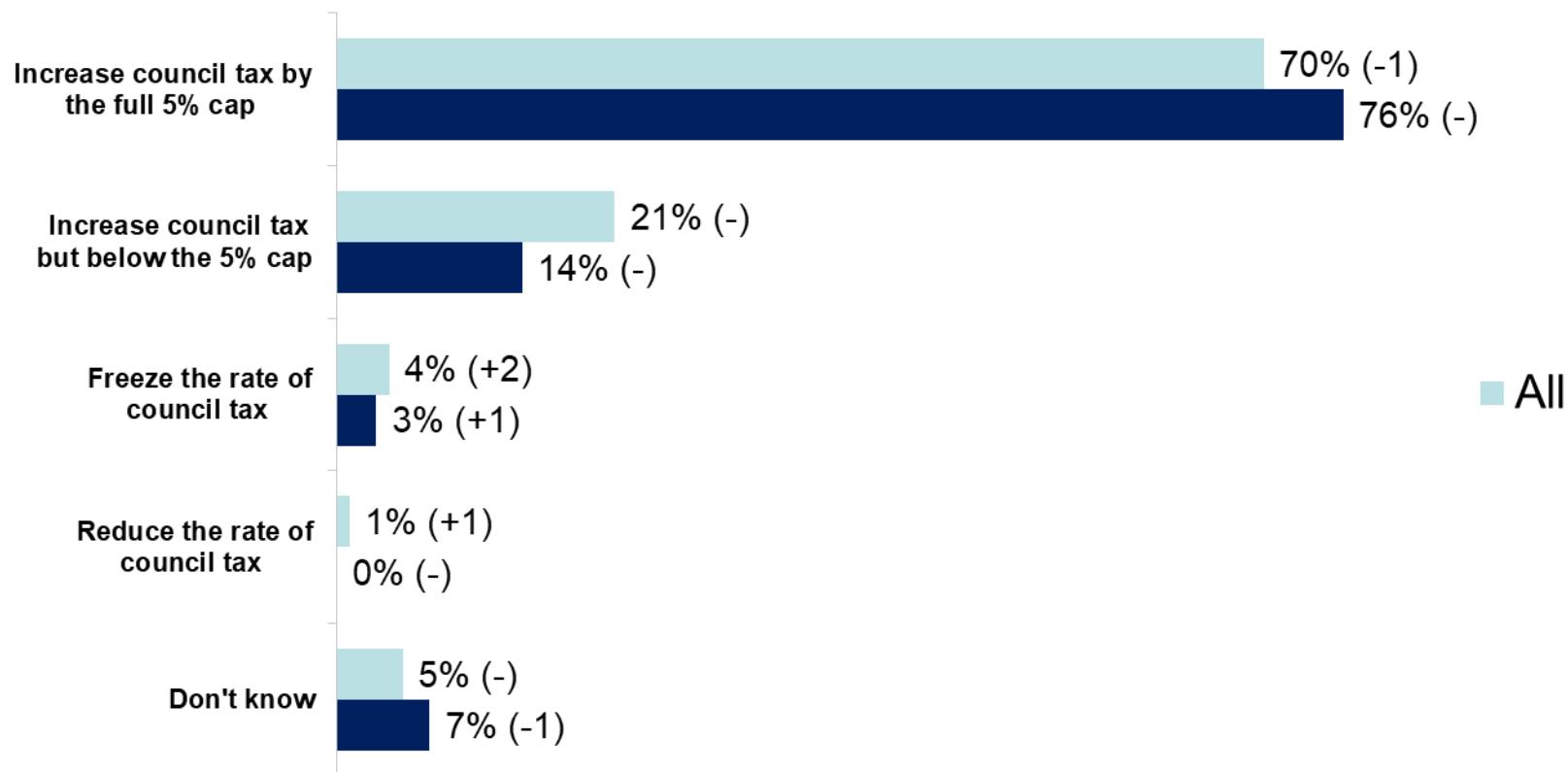


Street Cleansing Specifics

- Number of councillors reporting cuts in street cleansing 20% (down on 23% on previous survey)
- And 67% - up 1 % on the last survey – who are saying the service not reduced
- However this could be due to policy ‘corrections’ where too much was cut from the service

Q6. Local authorities are permitted to increase council tax by up to 5% - 3% for general services and an additional 2% for adult social care. Do you think your council will:

- All / Financial Committee Membership

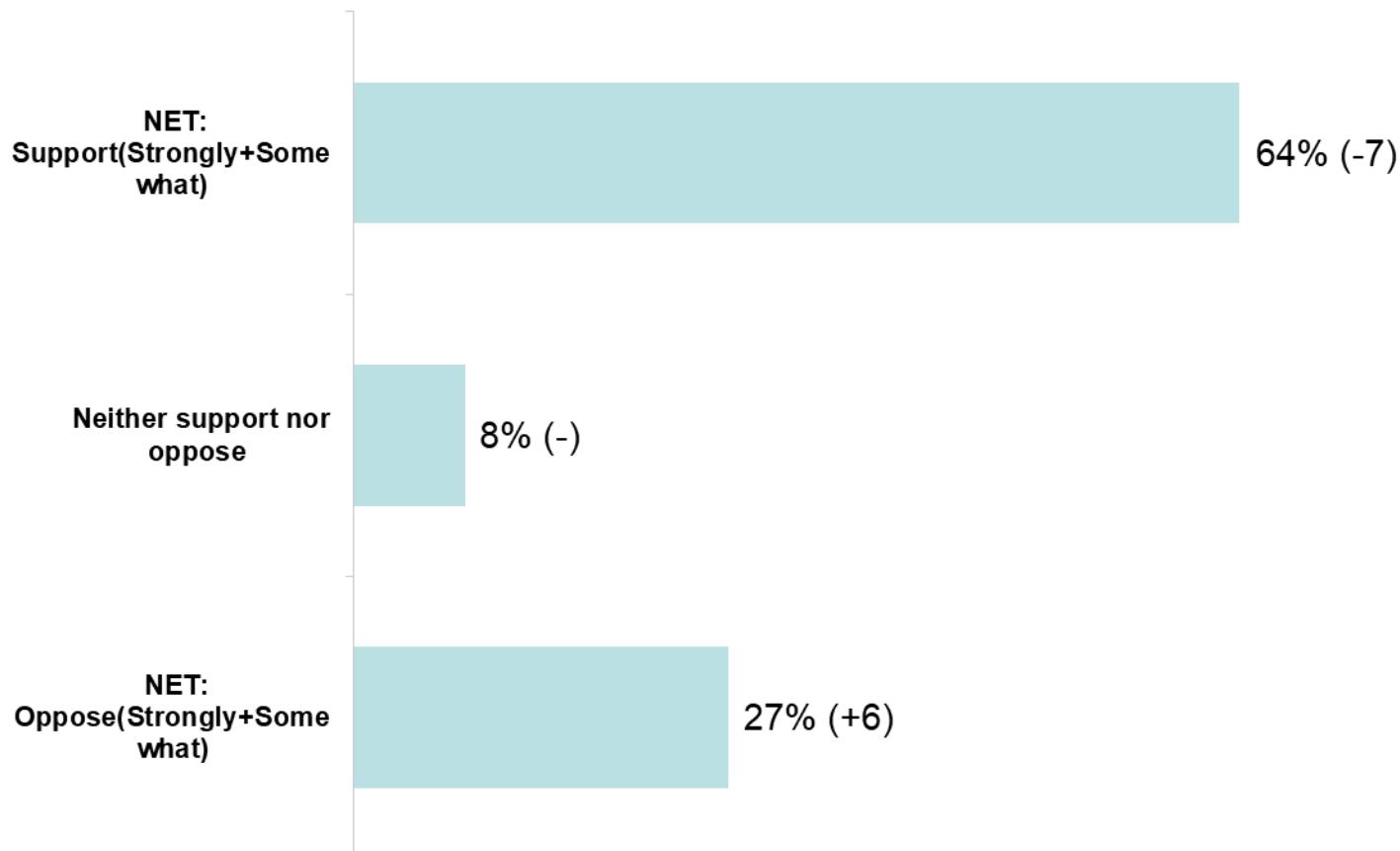




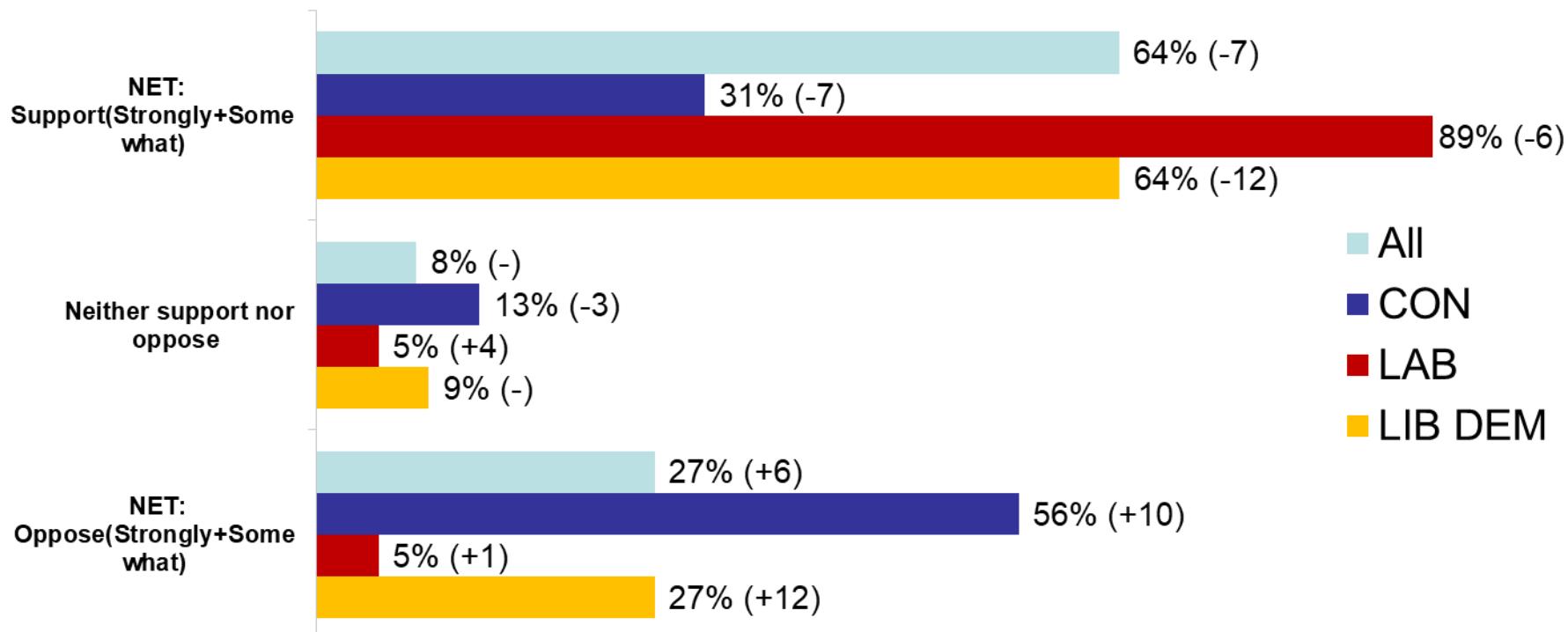
Funding for street cleansing?

- Latest settlements suggest marginal improvements (+6%)
- However.....
- Social care, housing, homelessness and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) are priorities

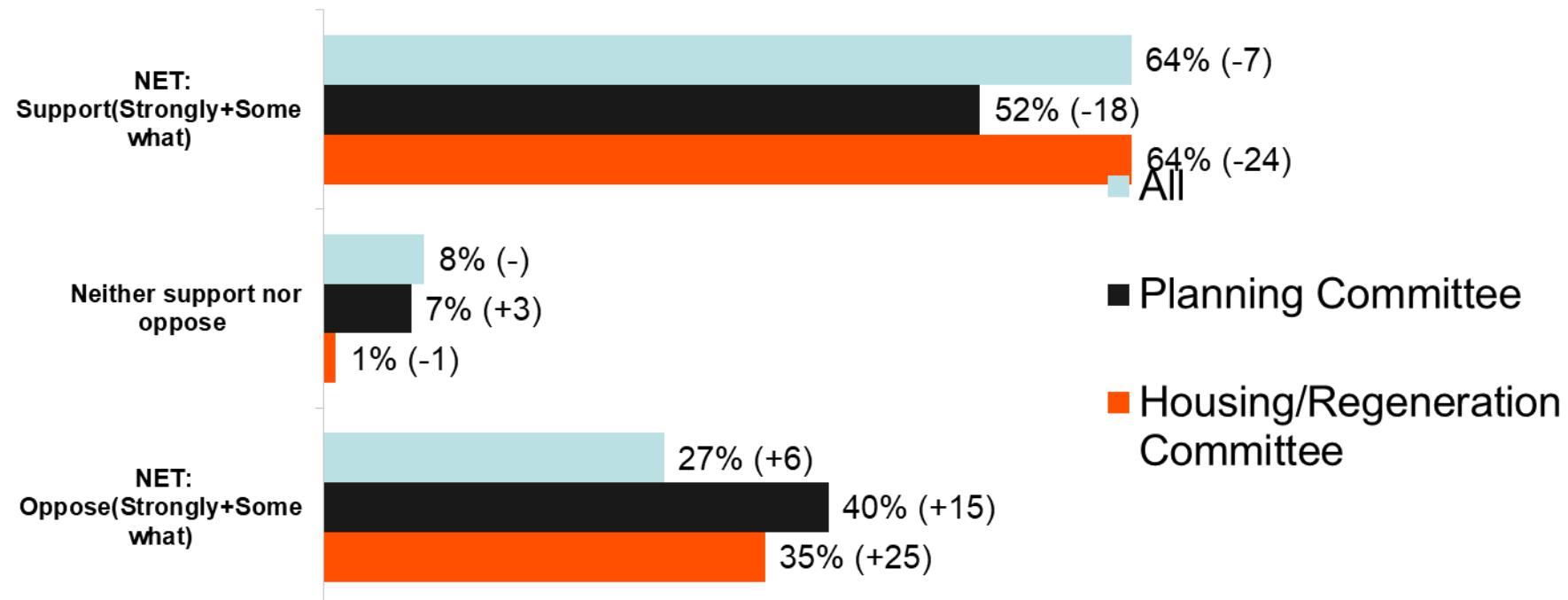
Q7. {to Councillors} The government has a target to build 1.5 million new homes in the current parliament. This means that some of these homes will need to be built in your local authority. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose more homes being built in your local area beyond current levels?



Q7. The government has a target to build 1.5 million new homes in the current parliament. This means that some of these homes will need to be built in your local authority. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose more homes being built in your local area beyond current levels? – By Political Party



Q7. The government has a target to build 1.5 million new homes in the current parliament. This means that some of these homes will need to be built in your local authority. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose more homes being built in your local area beyond current levels? – **By Committee Membership**





New homes.....



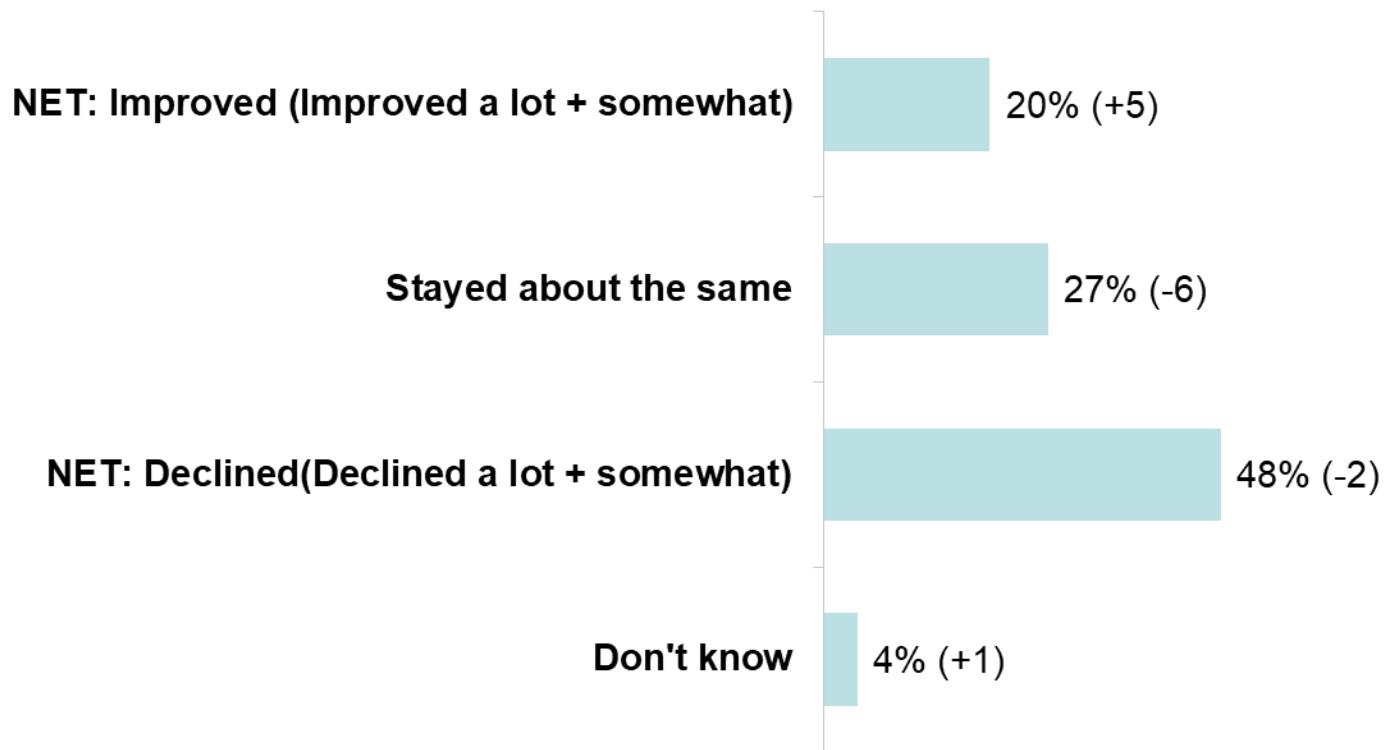


What do the public think?

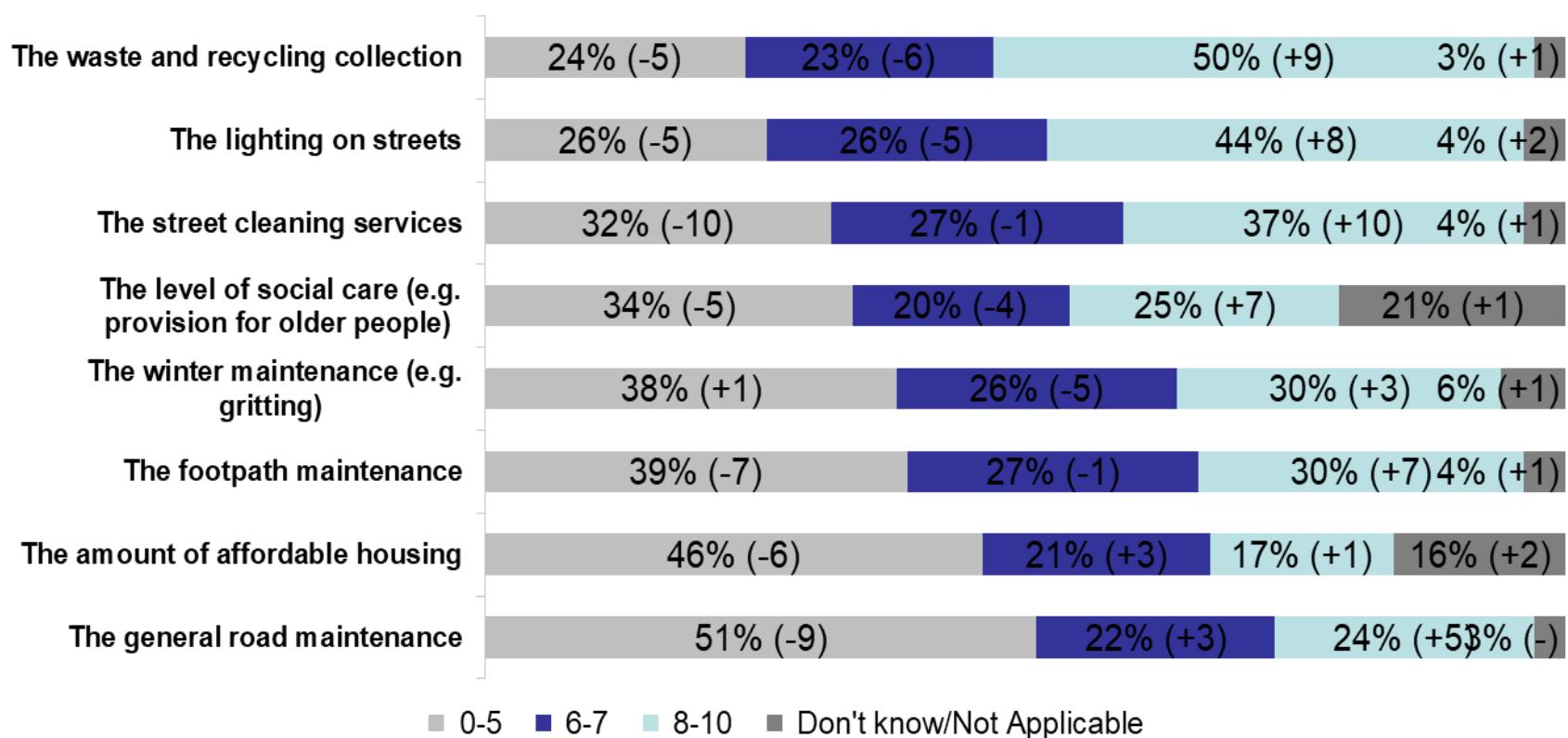




Q17. Do you think that local services have declined or improved in your local area in recent years?



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?



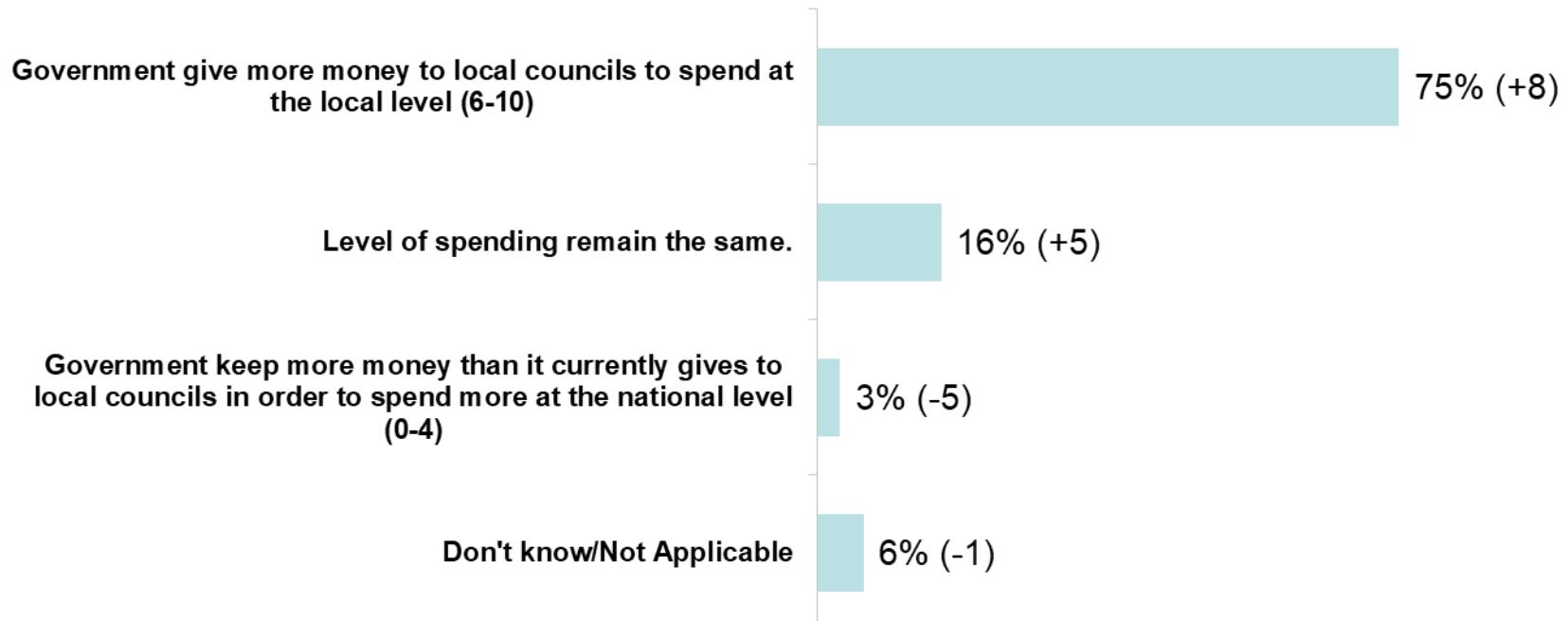


Public satisfaction on Street Cleaning

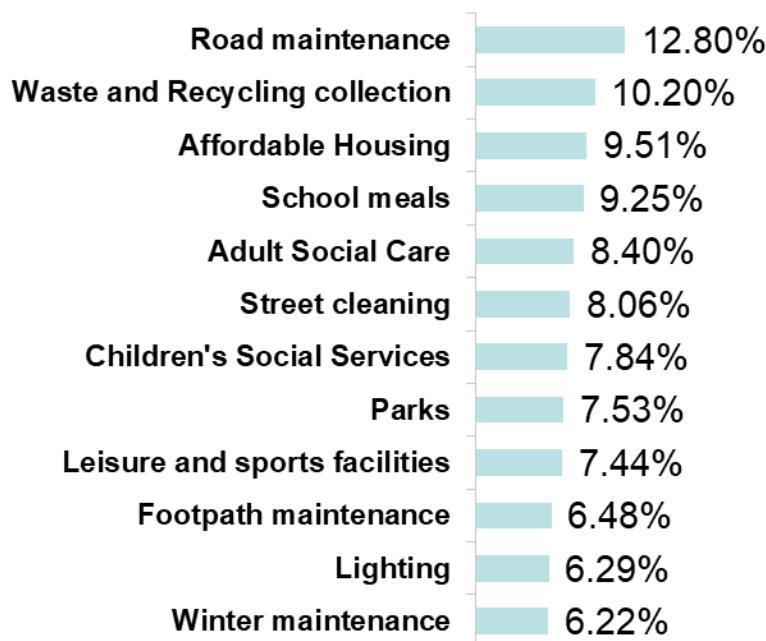
- Street Cleaning – in ‘negative’ end drops to 32%
- Satisfaction (scoring 6-10) – the ‘positive’ end up 37% a ten-point increase on the last survey.
- Does this suggest a positive correlation to lessening the financial pressures / councillors providing more funding to street cleaning

Q20. Please place yourself on the 0-10 scale below with respect to your opinion on spending in your local area.

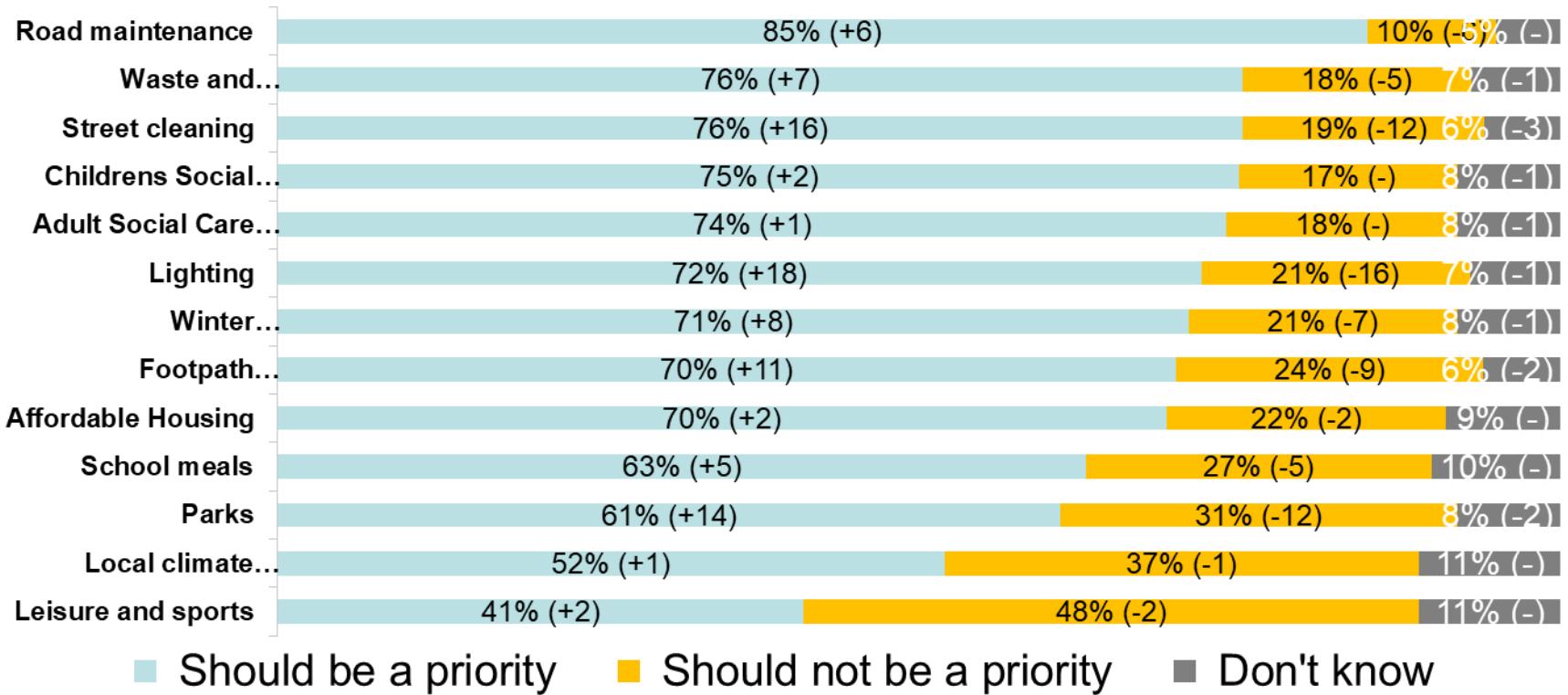
0 means that you would like to see the government keep more money than it currently gives to local councils in order to spend more at the national level and 10 means that you would like to see the government give more money to local councils to spend at the local level. 5 means that you would like to see the level of spending remain the same.



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?

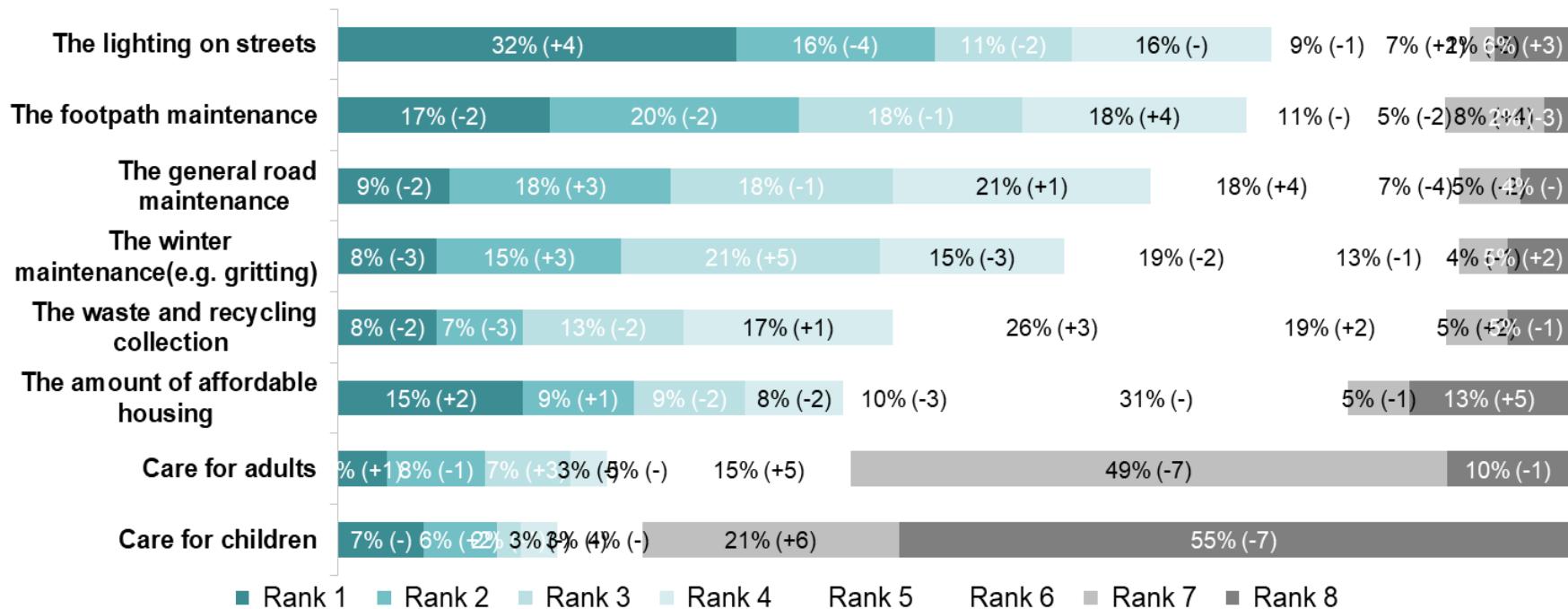


Q71-Q83. If the local government was making cuts to public services, should the following be a priority to protect? (THE PUBLIC)





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 **COUNCILLORS**

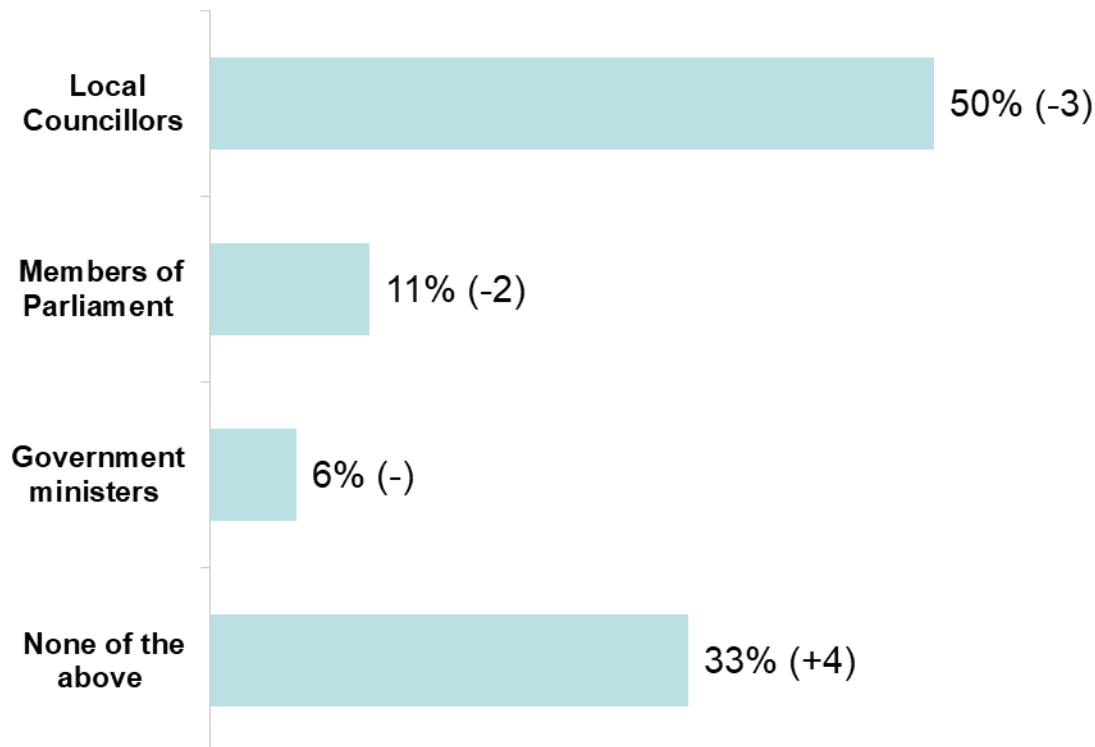




What about Trust?

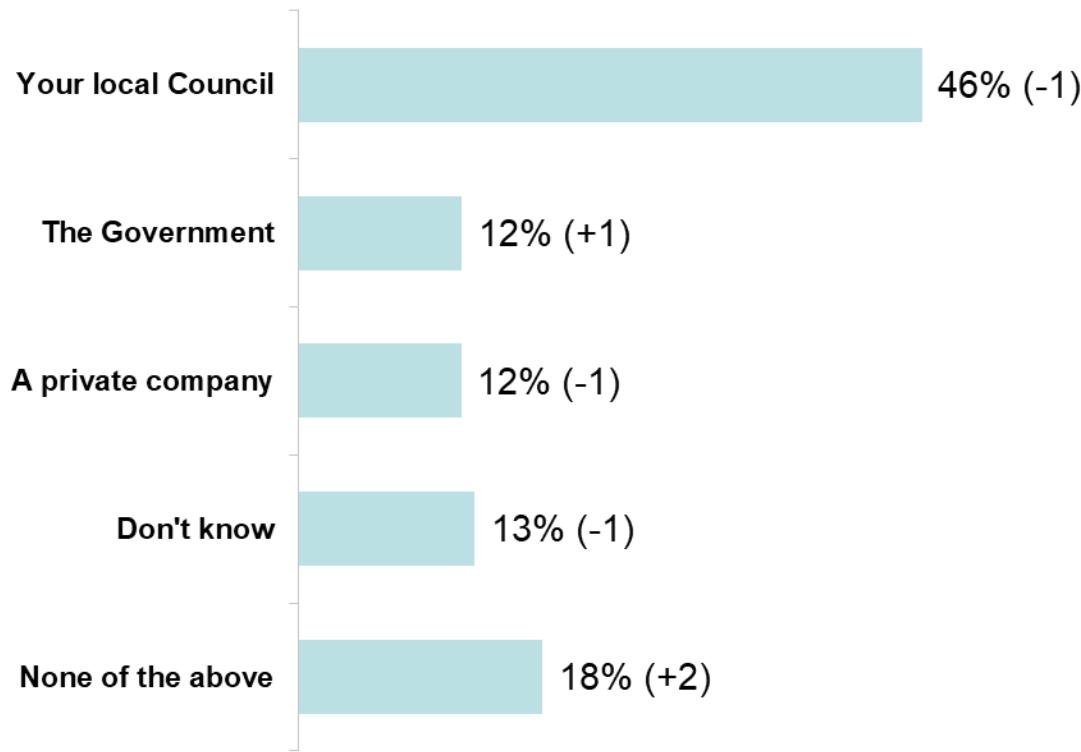
- Who do you trust on decision making?
- Who should run local services?

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?

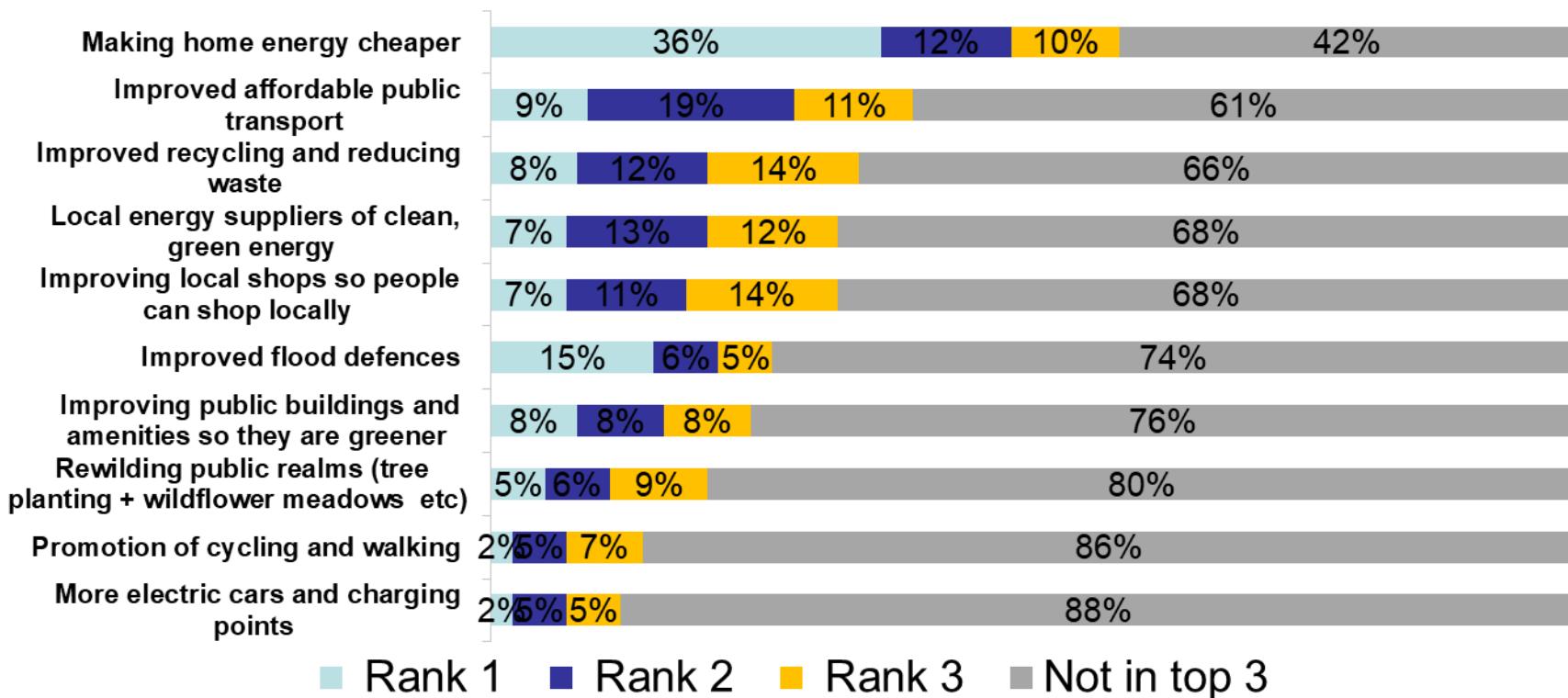


BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 2361

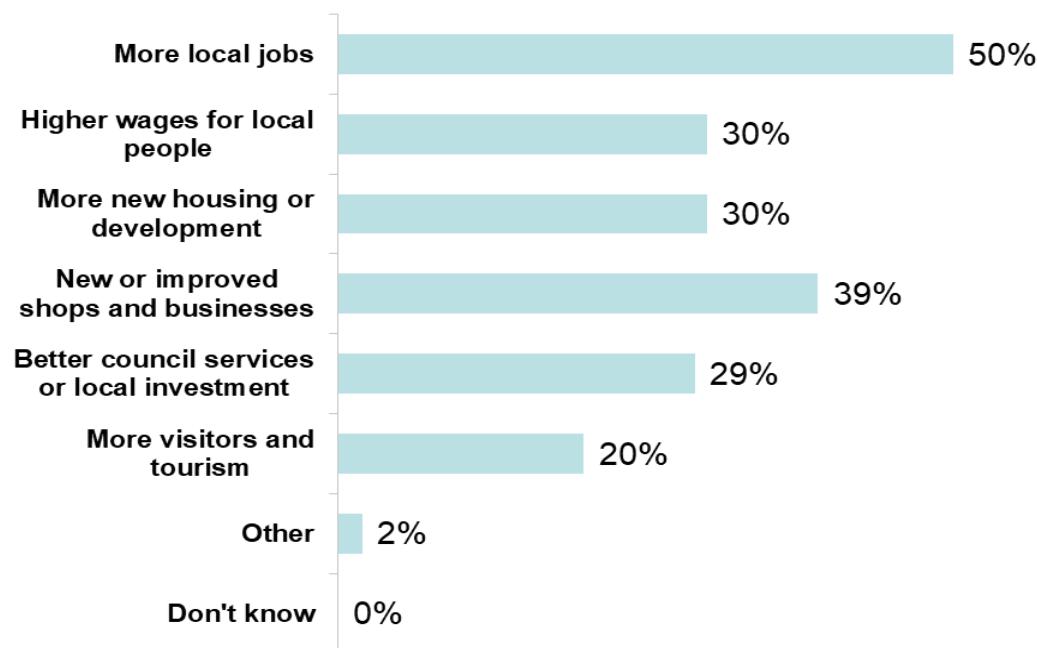


Climate Change and Local Economies

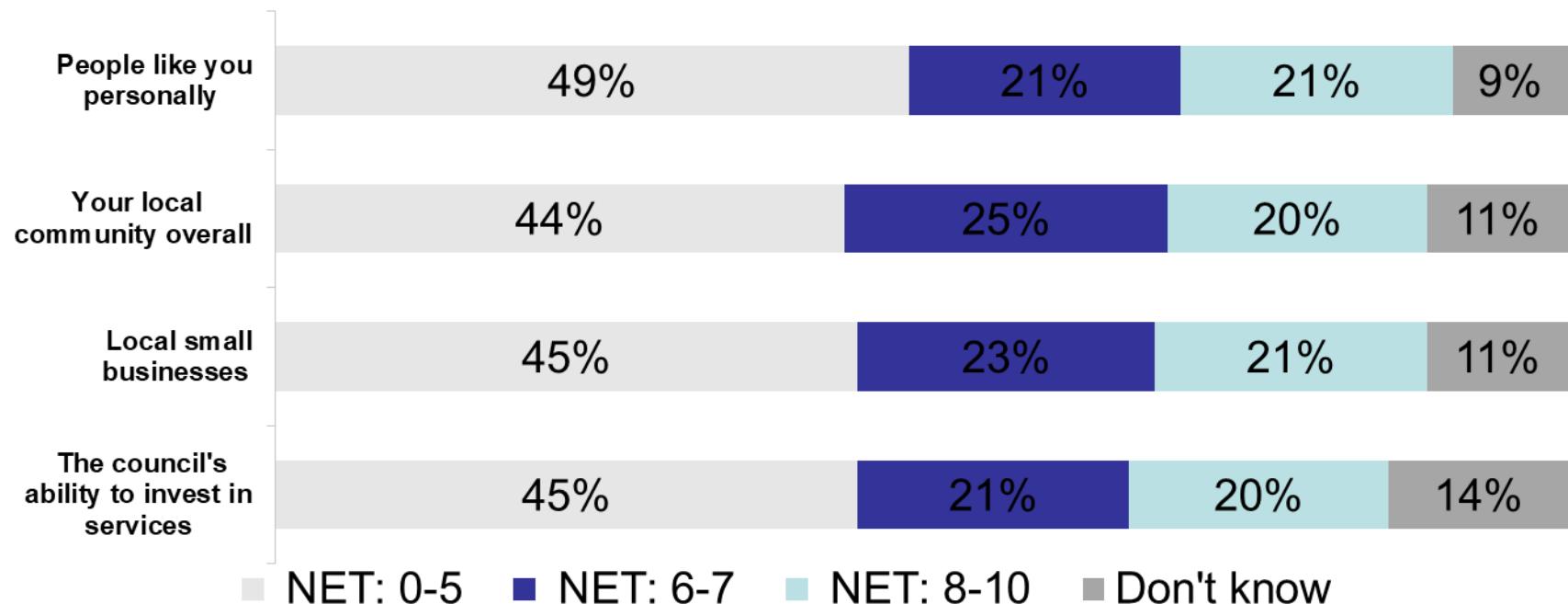
Q61_Q70_Summary. Thinking about your local area and the steps required to combat the effects of climate change, what are your top 3 priorities? Please rank your top 3 in order of preference



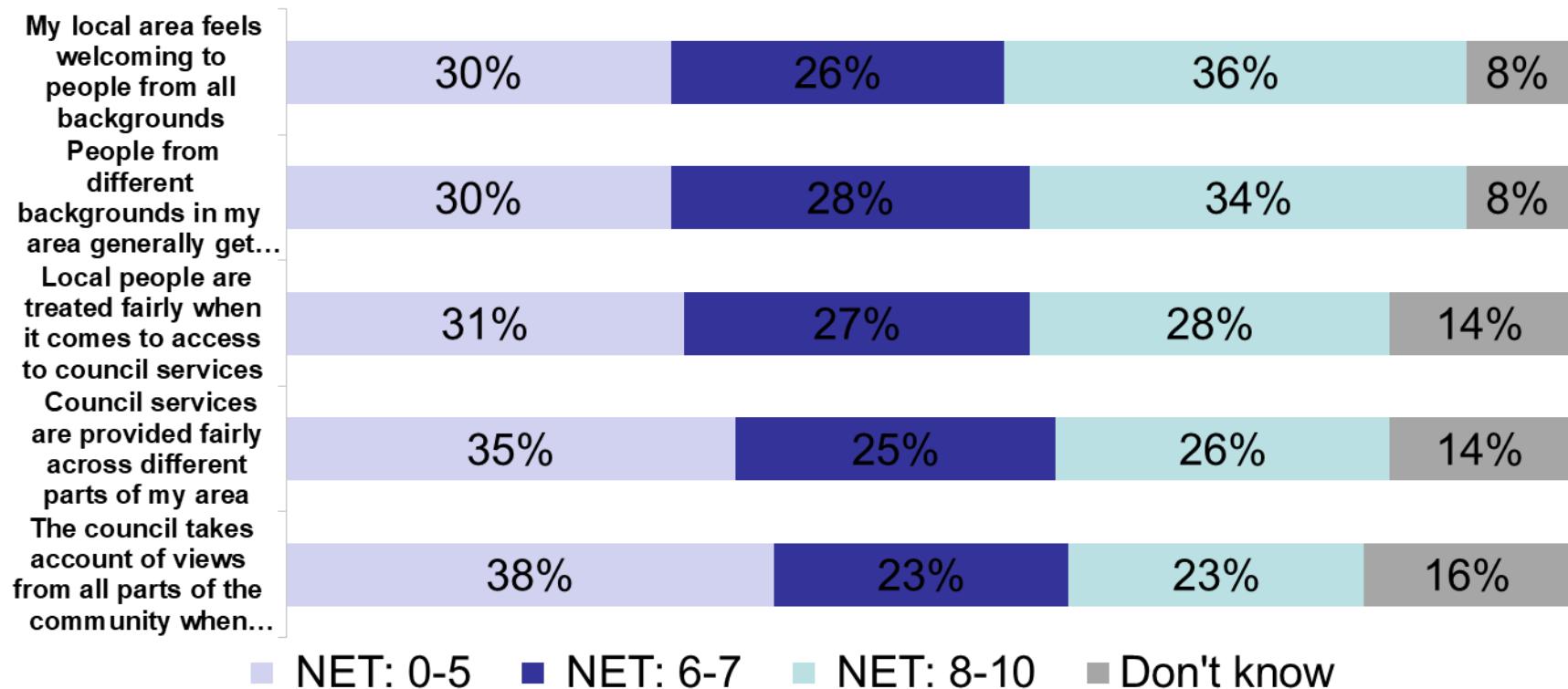
Q99. When you hear about 'economic growth' in your local area, which of the following comes to mind most?



Q100. People like you personally -On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'no benefit at all' and 10 means 'a great deal of benefit', how much do you feel recent economic growth (if any) has benefited each of the following?



Q86-Q90_Summary. Thinking about your local area - the place within about 15-20 minutes' walk from your home - how well do the following describe your local area? (0 = Not at all true, 10 = Completely true)





What Have We Learned From the Public and Councillors

- **Rising satisfaction.** While the public still recognises long-term pressures, satisfaction scores have increased across multiple services this year - a major positive for the sector.
- People more apt to attribute past decline to national funding decisions, not council mismanagement.
- Strong appetite for more local control and investment, reinforcing APSE's commitment to capable, resilient service delivery
- High support for air-quality schemes, neighbourhood improvements, and green transport
- Local government continues to enjoy significantly higher trust than national government.



We don't speak human!

- People feel that they are not listened to.
- 'Growth' is an abstract concept – the public view this as local jobs, businesses and wages
- The cost of living crisis lands better than 'net zero' but support for green initiatives remains
- The public like neighbourhood services to deliver the goods! Keep Going
- Street cleansing is highly visible! But well regarded but any slips will be noticed



The Takeaway for APSE Members providing Street Cleansing and other neighbourhood services

- Local government is delivering despite funding pressure and people can see it.
- Fewer councillors expect a Section 114/S95 notice – the worst may be behind us
- Public satisfaction is **up** across key services.
- Public satisfaction is up in street cleansing but a constant and visible battle!
- Residents and councillors trust **local delivery** far more than national government.
- There is clear public backing for **investment, local control, and cleaner, greener places**.
- **Your work is driving improvement.**

The public mandate is there but communicate!



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