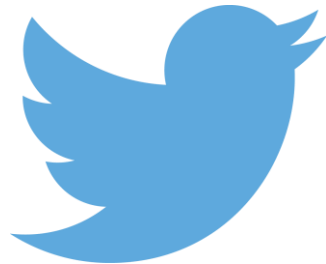




**Association for Public Service Excellence**

**Be part of the conversation!  
Follow APSE on Twitter and LinkedIn**



**@apseevents  
@apsenews**



**@APSE - Association  
for Public Service  
Excellence**

**[www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)**

## State of the Market Surveys

- State of the Market Survey now in its 15<sup>th</sup> 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 by National Litter Strategy, HLF, Parks Action Group, School Food Plan, Press and trade and national media to enhance knowledge of local government services.

### **State of the Market Survey 2026 Local Authority Street Cleaning Services**



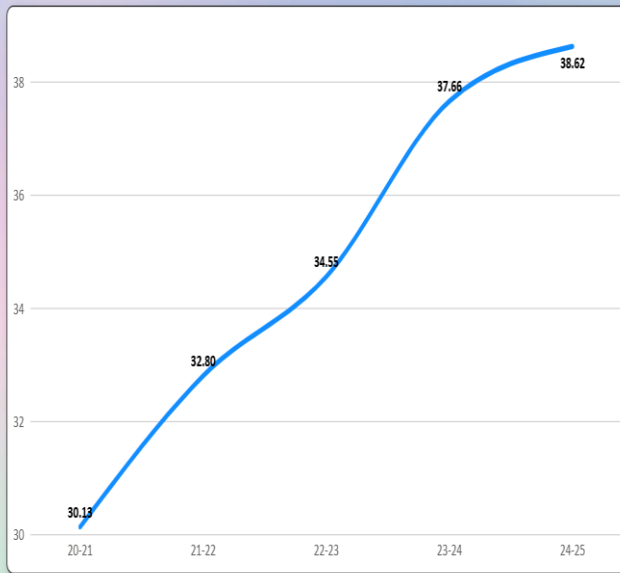


# Areas of interest

- State of budgets/future funding
- Service efficiencies
- Income generation
- Staffing levels/absence levels
- Cleanliness standards
- Management/service structures
- Litter bin strategies
- Use of community volunteers
- Future initiatives
- Areas of service growth/decline
- Service reviews

# The costs of street cleaning

PI 04 - Annual investment in street cleansing service per household (excluding CEC)

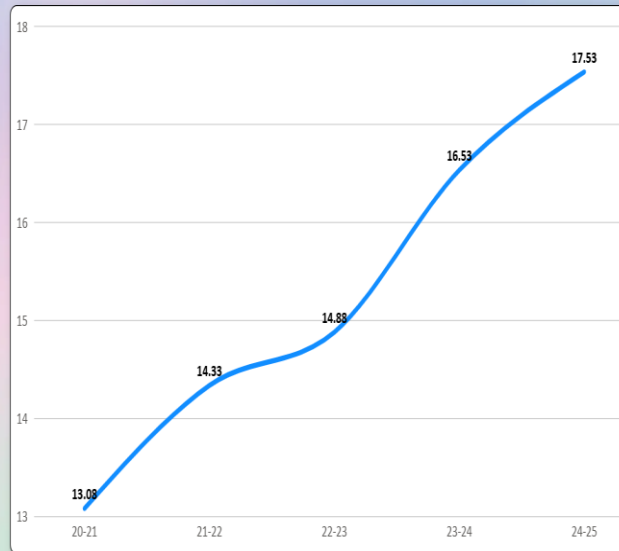


Financial year	Maximum	Minimum
20-21	81.59	6.92
21-22	67.06	10.70
22-23	75.70	10.94
23-24	81.89	13.13
24-25	79.19	13.01

At 38.62, 24-25 had the highest PI value average and was 28.18% higher than 20-21, which had the lowest PI value average at 30.13.

Across all 5 financial years, PI value average ranged from 30.13 to 38.62.

PI 05 - Annual investment in street cleansing service per head of population (excluding CEC)

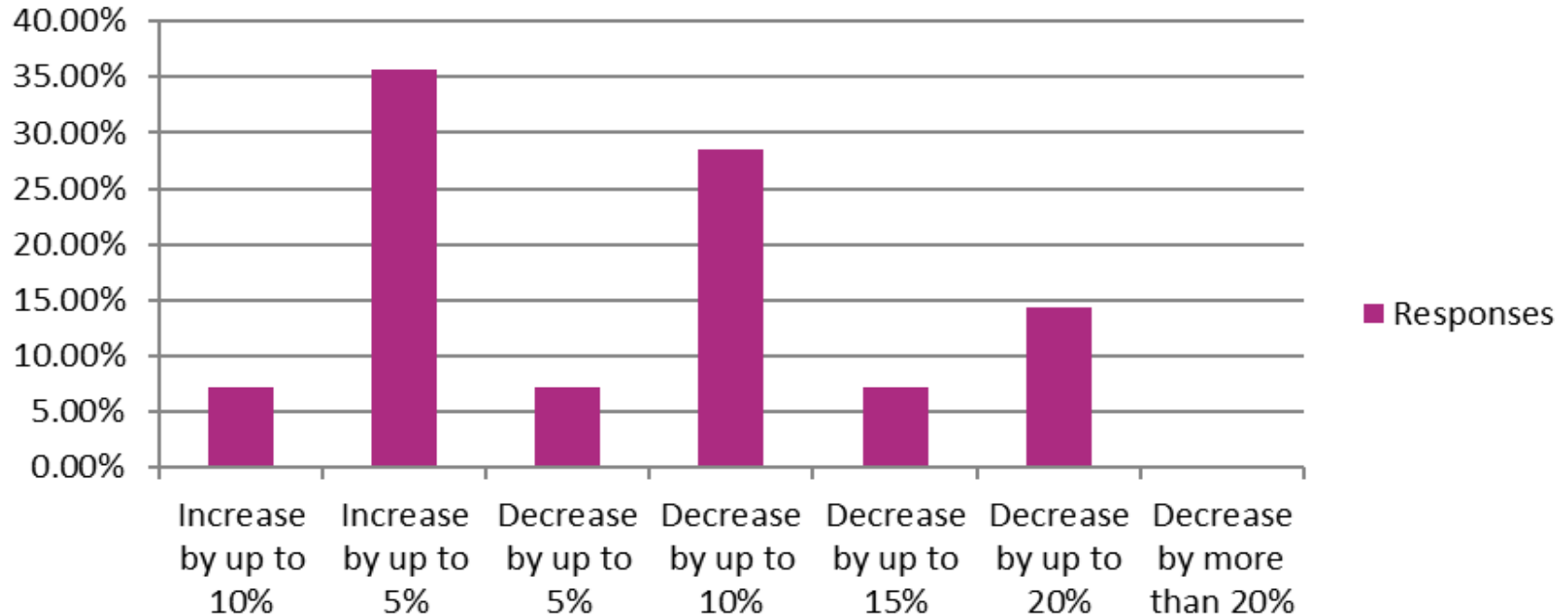


Financial year	Maximum	Minimum
20-21	36.69	3.16
21-22	27.65	4.76
22-23	30.67	4.63
23-24	30.63	6.03
24-25	38.71	5.98

At 17.53, 24-25 had the highest PI value average and was 34.04% higher than 20-21, which had the lowest PI value average at 13.08.

Across all 5 financial years, PI value average ranged from 13.08 to 17.53.

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





# Service Efficiencies

- Review of weekend working and tasks undertaken.
- Fleet review.
- Operational depot relocation to support multiple service areas in one location/building .
- Reductions in cleaning frequencies.
- Service restructure/Staff reductions.
- Auditing Litter bin collections to ensure correct service levels.
- Single crewed vehicle and more officers working on the ground.
- Digitisation of Data Capture: Moving from manual to digital data collection

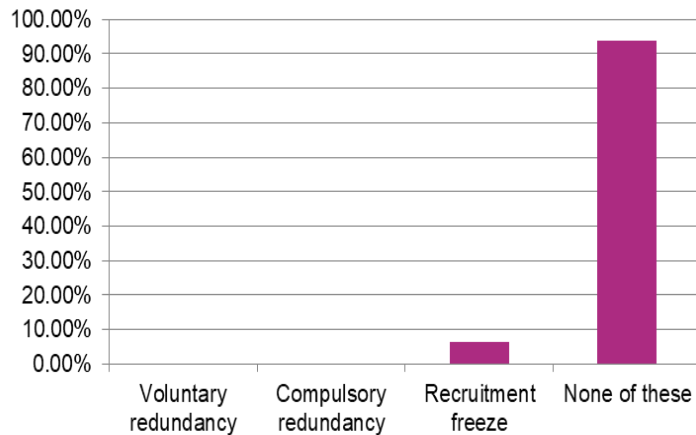


# Income generation

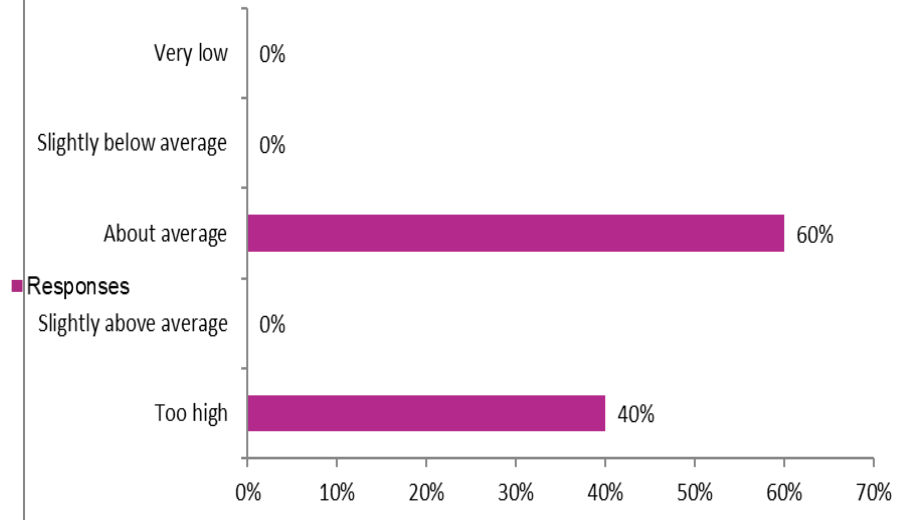
- Increased fees and charges
- Implementing an overall strategy to generate fees from new sources through charging (not through a wholly owned council company)
- Trading and charging through a wholly owned council company
- Shared services with another local authority

# affing

Has or does your service intend to implement any of the following within the next 12 months:



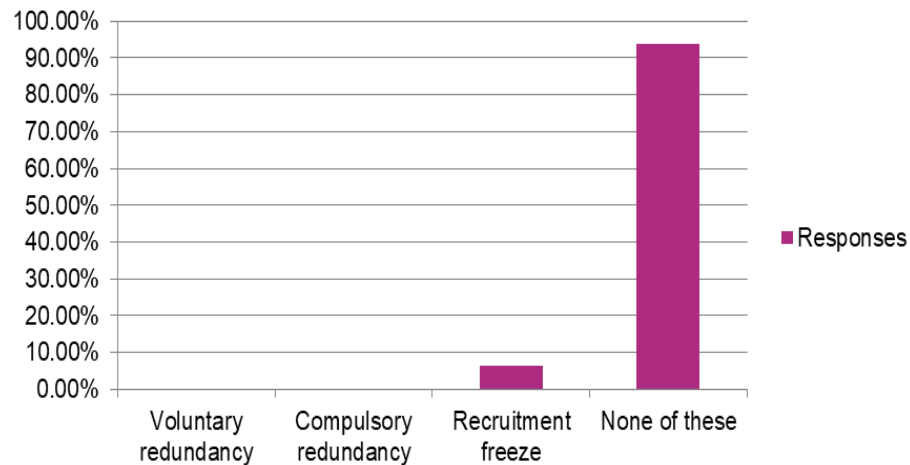
Are staff absence levels at an acceptable level?



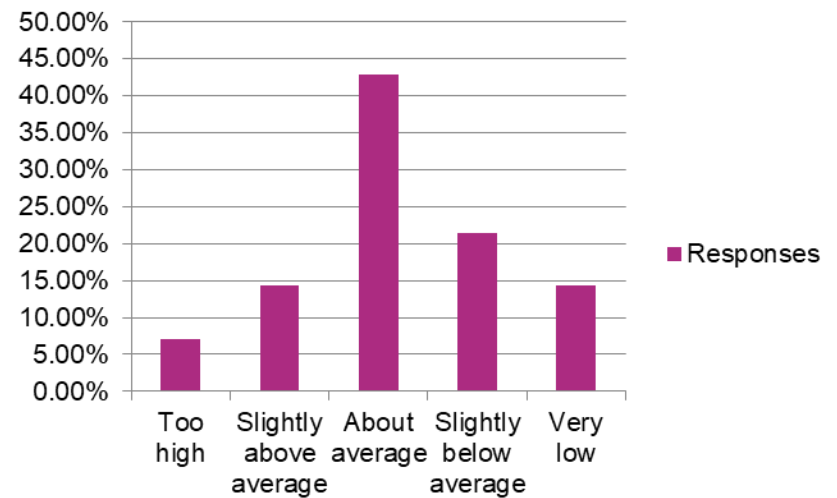


# Staffing

Has or does your service intend to implement any of the following within the next 12 months:

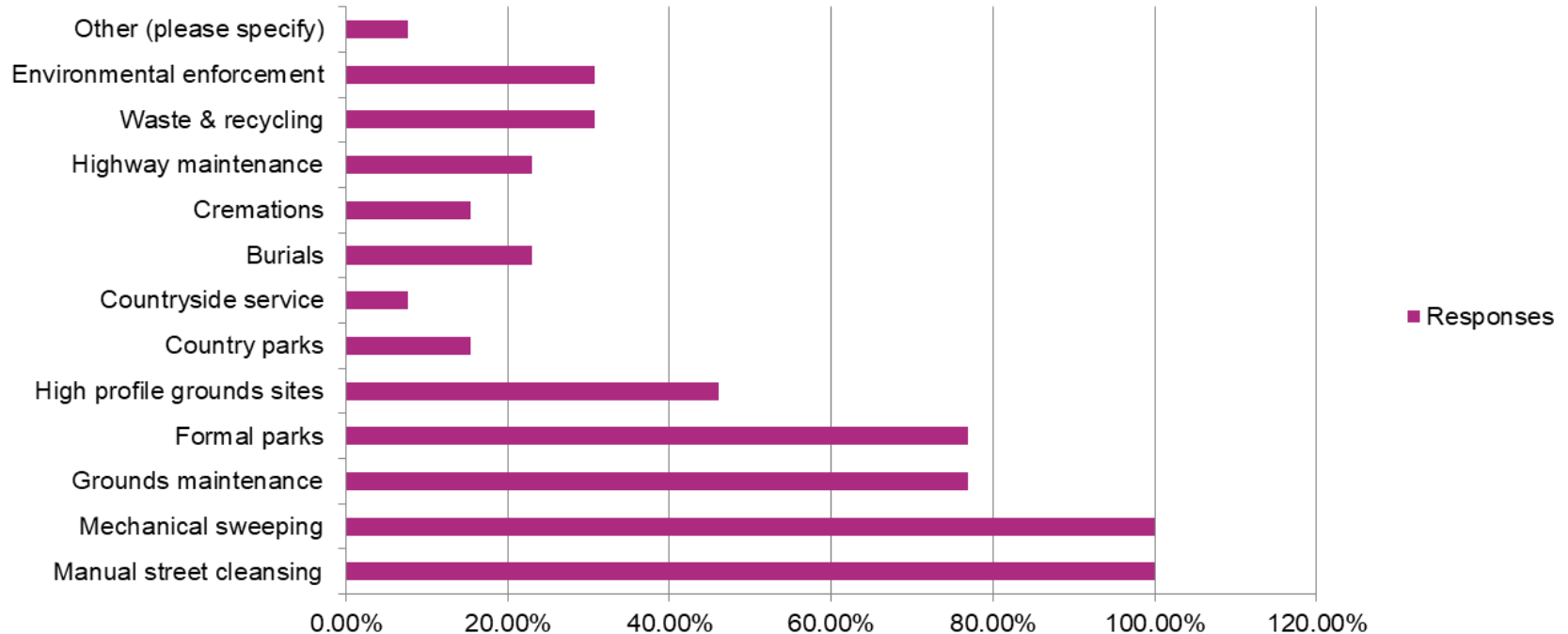


Are staff absence levels at an acceptable level?



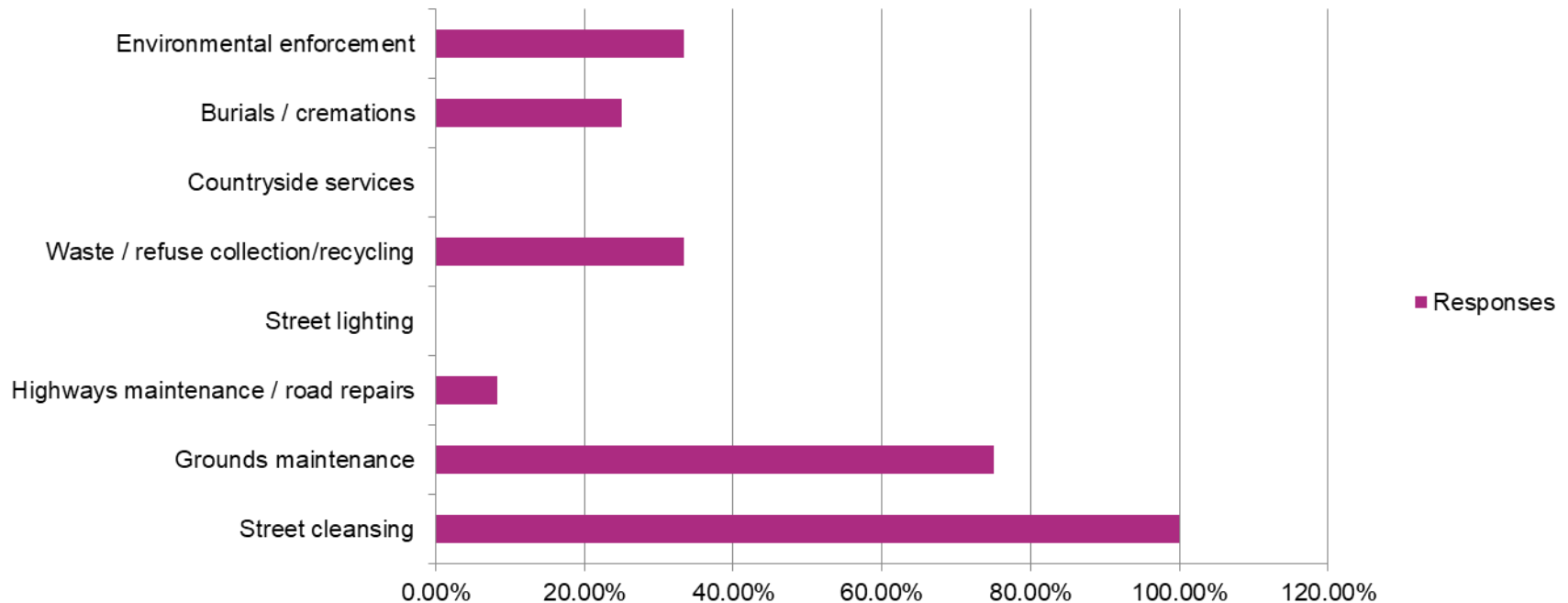
# Integration of Services (1)

If services and/or management are integrated, which ones of the following are included?



# Integration of Services (2)

If yes, which services are jointly delivered by front-line staff within your street scene department?



## Further Headlines

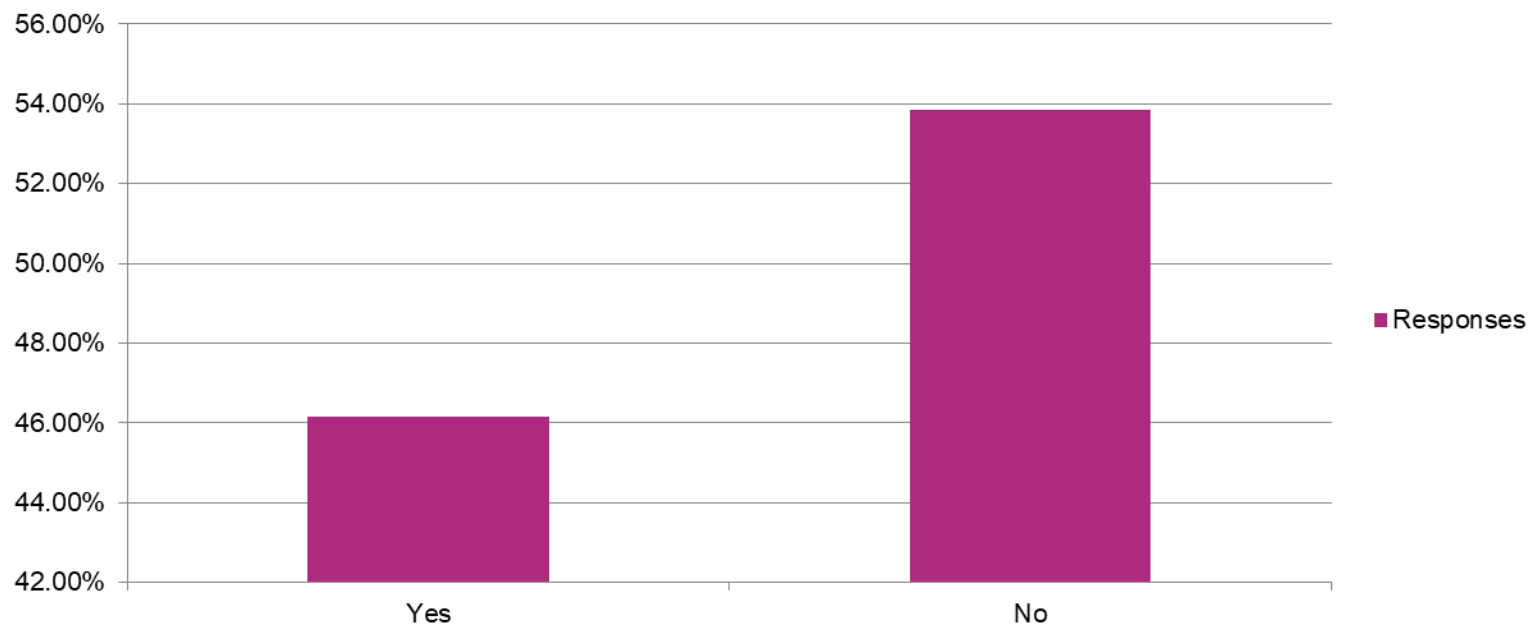
- SERVICE DELIVERY
- 60% stated that they have area-based teams. (67% 2025)
- 71% operate a 7-day service. (83% 2025)
- 20% currently undertake night-time street cleansing service
- 80% (67% 2025) stated that their service was managed in-house and 6% externally managed.
- **LITTER BINS**
- 15% of respondents provide 26+ litter bins per 1000 head of population
- Only 78% (60% 2025) of respondents had an accurate map of where their litter bin stock was located.
- 57% (80% 2025) stated that up to 5% of bins were replaced annually.

## External Support

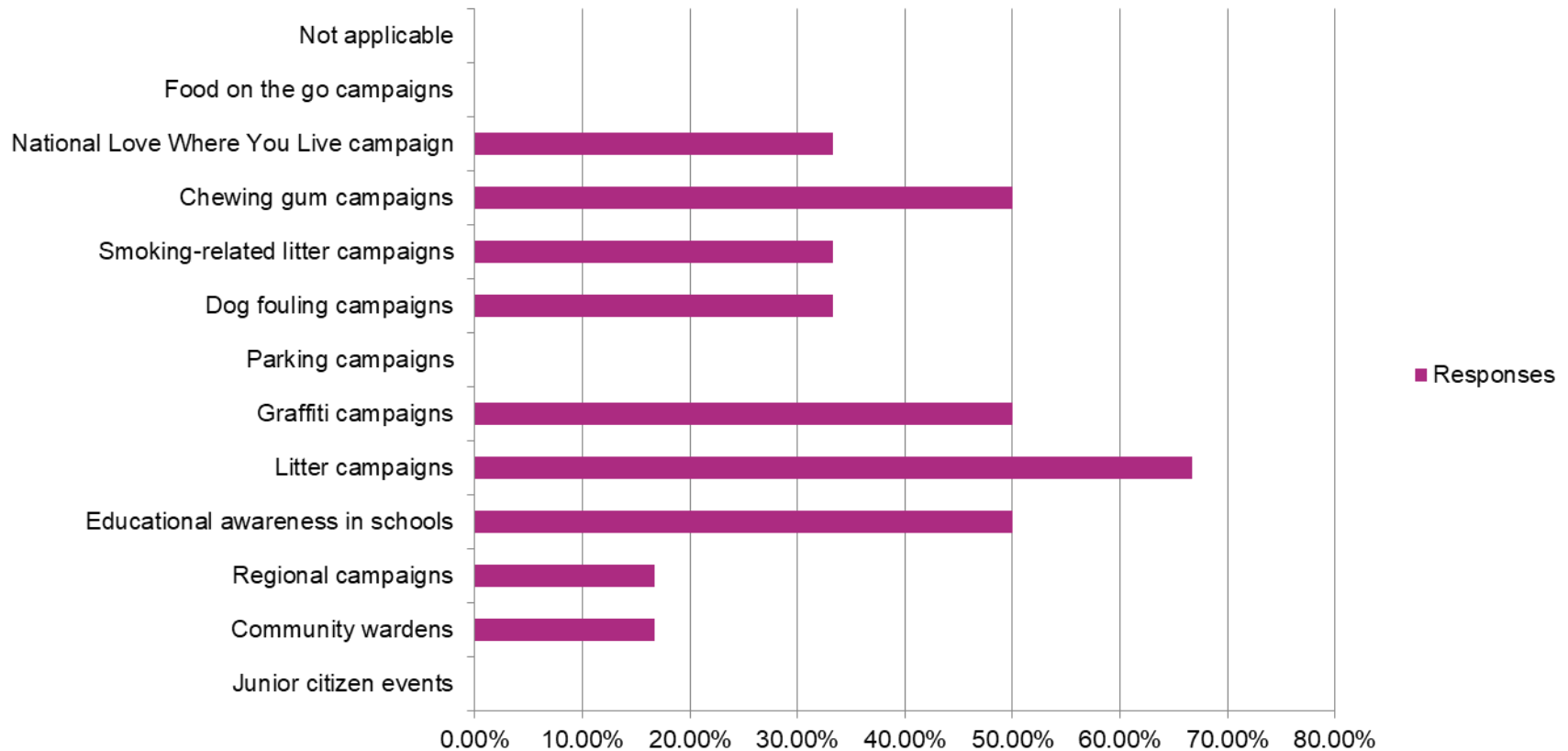
- 16% (**50% 2025**) stated that they provide street scene services as part of a Business Improvement District (BID)
- 7% (**20% 2025**) of respondents have individual street cleansing agreements with supermarkets, retailers and other businesses
- 71% clean ups by community sector
- 30% local environmental improvement projects
- 15% community payback schemes
- 23% education initiatives

# Education campaigns

Are you planning any education campaigns in the next 2 years?



## If yes, what are these?



# Enforcement

- 69% of respondents thought that there will be an increase in enforcement / notices issued in the next 2-3 years. (60% 2025)
- 66% of respondents now serve on the spot fines for littering and linked to this is the fact that 36% of authorities are also issuing litter clearance notices.
- WHY POWERS HAVE NOT BEEN USED
- 'insufficient resources' 62%
- 'it is covered by other agencies / departments' 50%
- 'they're not problem areas/we have other priorities' 25%
- 25% cited 'political reasons'





# Areas of work – increases and decreases

## INCREASES

- Income generation and selling services
- Provision of specialist street cleansing works to the private sector
- Mechanical sweeping of industrial units/supermarket car parks
- Community engagement and community-based projects
- Use of volunteers and community payback
- Education and prevention initiatives

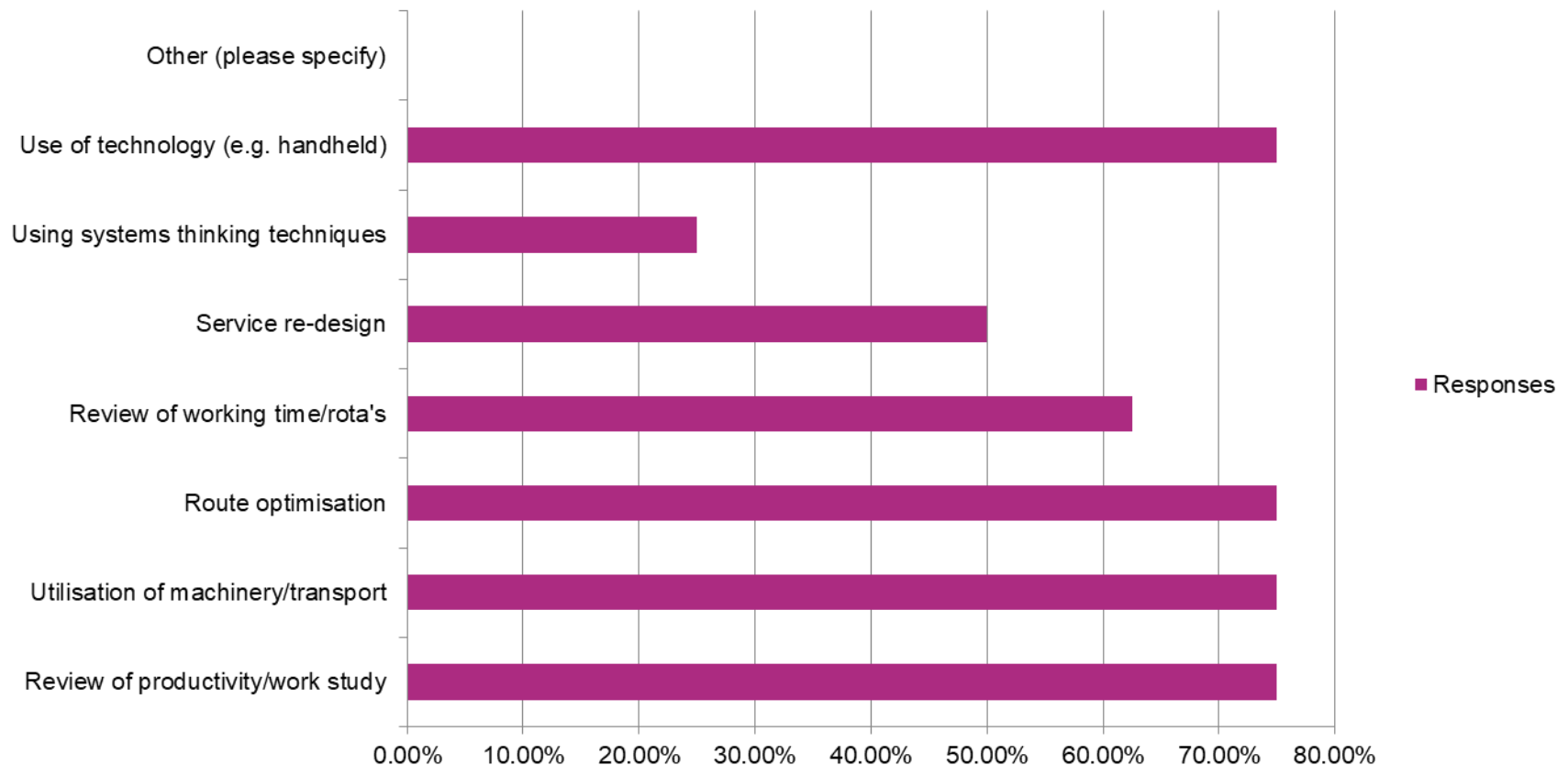
## DECREASES

### Private street cleansing work

- Frequency of cleaning of rural roads
- Private street cleansing work
- Litter picking
- Reduction in ability to provide assistance/advice to community groups due to budget constraints
- Standards of cleanliness.

# Service reviews

Will this review involve any of the following:





# Future considerations

- What will local government reorganisation mean for street cleansing services?
- Climate change and ecological impacts of service
- Innovations for street cleaning
- Greater public engagement
- New technologies
- Improved community engagement and volunteering
- New legislation



Association for Public Service Excellence

# Contact details

**Abi Ademiluyi, Principal Advisor**

**Email: [aademiluyi@apse.org.uk](mailto:aademiluyi@apse.org.uk)**

**Association for Public Service Excellence**

3rd floor, Trafford House, Chester Road,  
Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0RS.

**telephone: 0161 772 1810**

**web: [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)**



**GB 11409**



**GB 11132**



**GB 14074**