

Notice of Council



Date: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Chairman:

Cllr L Dedman

Cllr C Adams
Cllr S Aitkenhead
Cllr H Allen
Cllr M Andrews
Cllr S Armstrong
Cllr J Bagwell
Cllr S Bartlett
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr D Brown
Cllr O Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr J J Butt
Cllr P Canavan
Cllr S Carr-Brown
Cllr J Challinor
Cllr A Chapmanlaw
Cllr B Chick
Cllr J Clements
Cllr E Connolly
Cllr P Cooper
Cllr M Cox
Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson
Cllr B Dove
Cllr M Dower
Cllr M Earl

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Bull

Cllr J Edwards
Cllr G Farquhar
Cllr D Farr
Cllr A Filer
Cllr D A Flagg
Cllr M Gillett
Cllr C Goodall
Cllr A Hadley
Cllr J Hanna
Cllr E Harman
Cllr R Herrett
Cllr P Hilliard
Cllr B Hitchcock
Cllr M Howell
Cllr A Keddie
Cllr M Le Poidevin
Cllr D Logan
Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr A Martin
Cllr D Martin
Cllr G Martin
Cllr J Martin
Cllr C Matthews
Cllr S McCormack
Cllr P Miles

Cllr S Moore
Cllr A-M Moriarty
Cllr B Nanovo
Cllr L Northover
Cllr R Pattinson-West
Cllr M Phipps
Cllr K Rampton
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr J Richardson
Cllr V Ricketts
Cllr C Rigby
Cllr K Salmon
Cllr J Salmon
Cllr P Sidaway
Cllr P Slade
Cllr T Slade
Cllr V Slade
Cllr M Tarling
Cllr T Trent
Cllr O Walters
Cllr C Weight
Cllr L Williams
Cllr K Wilson
Cllr G Wright

All Members of the Council are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to attend or view the live stream of this meeting at the following link: <https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=6396>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email.press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

2 February 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

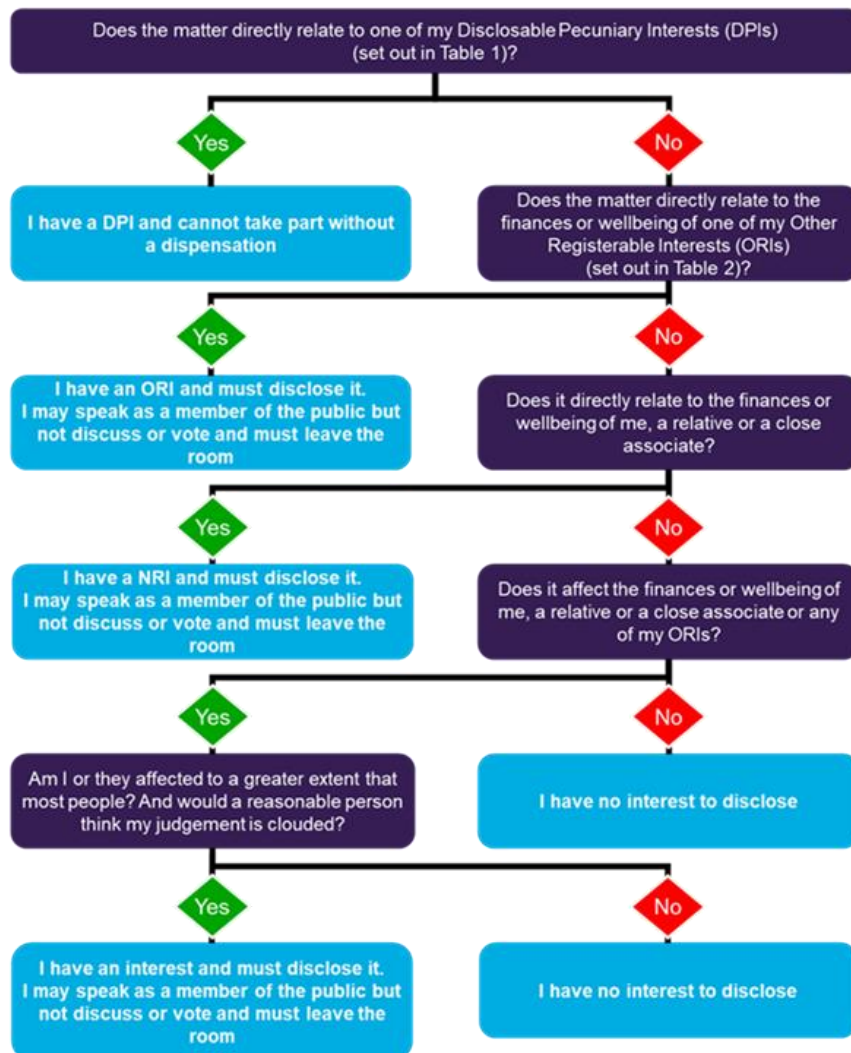


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2025.

7 - 18

4. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

To receive any announcements from the Chairman.

5. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link: -

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is mid-day Wednesday 4 February 2026 (3 clear working days before the meeting).

The deadline for the submission of a statement is mid-day Monday 9 February 2026 (the working day before the meeting).

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Tuesday 27 January 2026 (10 working days before the meeting).

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Recommendations from Cabinet and Committees

6. Cabinet 17 December 2025 - Minute No. 96 - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Expenditure Forecast 2025/26

19 - 32

RECOMMENDED that Council: -

(a) Approve a £14.3m increase in the 2025/26 high needs budget. This brings the forecast expenditure to £71.8m more than the grant made available by government as part of the DSG.

(b) Request the Corporate Director of Children's Services implement the deficit management measures outlined in this report.

<p>7. Cabinet 17 December 2025 - Minute No. 98 - Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that Council: -</p> <p>(a) note the consultation report, summarising feedback from residents and stakeholders;</p> <p>(b) adopt the Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2036 including the additional wording for paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 as recommended by the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and</p> <p>(c) approve the following service change to progress supporting actions set out in the Waste Strategy:</p> <p>(i) removal of current separate kerbside battery collections where household batteries are collected in a clear bag placed on top of the kerbside recycling bin.</p>	<p>33 - 150</p>
<p>8. Recommendations from Cabinet - 4 February 2026</p> <p>To consider the recommendations arising from the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 4 February 2026. The recommendations will be circulated as soon as practicably possible following the meeting of the Cabinet. A copy of the reports and appendices to the Cabinet have been published and are available on the Council's website on the following link: https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=6071&Ver=4</p>	
<p>9. Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Outside Bodies</p> <p>The Council is asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group, the appointment of Councillors on Committees and appointments to outside bodies following the political group changes.</p>	<p>151 - 158</p>
<p>10. Non-compliance with Standards Complaints Process - Determination</p> <p>This report is for information and provides the Council with updated details of various complaints received since the last report to Council against councillors which were upheld, but in addition, whereby the subject councillor has failed to comply with the remedies considered to be proportionate and appropriate by the Chair of and in consultation with members of the Standards Committee.</p>	<p>159 - 166</p>
<p>11. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10</p> <p>The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor M Howell and seconded by Councillor K Rampton.</p> <p>APR1 Numberplate</p> <p>That this Council resolves that the ownership of the Vehicle Registration number APR1, which used to be registered to the Poole Mayoral car, be transferred to the new Poole Town Council for zero consideration on the basis that it constitutes property of a historic nature relating to the Mayoralty</p>	

of Poole which should have been transferred to The Charter Trustees of Poole on the dissolution of the Borough of Poole.

The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor P Cooper and seconded by Councillor P Canavan.

Live Traffic, Flooding and Infrastructure Resilience for BCP

This Council notes that during the recent aftermath of Storm Chandra, Dorset Council provided residents with a dedicated live traffic update service, offering real-time information on road closures, incidents and disruption. This proved vital for public safety, emergency response and travel planning during severe weather.

In contrast, BCP Council does not currently provide a comparable live or real-time traffic and road status page. Information available to residents is largely limited to planned roadworks or issue reporting, leaving no central, publicly accessible source of live information during emergencies.

Council further notes that recent flooding events across the BCP conurbation have caused significant disruption to residents, businesses and essential services. These events are not new or exceptional, and climate-related severe weather is increasingly frequent and predictable.

This Council is also concerned that sewer backflow and inadequate sewer network capacity during torrential rainfall continues to exacerbate flooding, property damage and public health risks. These issues are often insufficiently acknowledged or addressed within planning, infrastructure capacity assessments and development decisions.

This Council believes the absence of a live, coordinated traffic and road status system, alongside unresolved drainage and sewer capacity challenges, represents a serious gap in resilience and emergency preparedness.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Ask Cabinet to set out the reasons why BCP Council does not currently provide a live, real-time traffic and road status service comparable to Dorset Council's, including an assessment of costs, funding priorities and whether financial considerations alone justify the absence of such a service.
2. Request that officers urgently explore the development of a publicly accessible, real-time system covering traffic disruption, flooding, road closures and emergency conditions across BCP.
3. Call for a long-term, resilient approach that brings together all relevant agencies, stakeholders and partners including highways, emergency services, water and sewerage providers, planning authorities and neighbouring councils to address information sharing, sewer backflow, drainage capacity and infrastructure resilience during extreme weather.
4. Require that sewer network capacity, flood risk and surface water

management are explicitly and robustly addressed within planning policy and development decisions.

5. Request a report back to Full Council setting out options, costs, responsibilities and timescales for delivery.

12. Questions from Councillors

The deadline for questions to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer is Monday 2 February 2026.

13. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

To consider any urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 09 December 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr C Adams, Cllr S Aitkenhead, Cllr H Allen, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr S Carr-Brown, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr B Chick, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr P Cooper, Cllr M Cox, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr B Dove, Cllr M Dower, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr, Cllr A Filer, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr D Logan, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr A-M Moriarty, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr R Pattinson-West, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr J Richardson, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr P Slade, Cllr T Slade, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight and Cllr G Wright

53. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bagwell, S Bartlett, O Brown, J Challinor, J Clements, C Matthews, F Rice, V Ricketts, J Salmon, P Sidaway, V Slade, M Tarling, L Williams and K Wilson.

54. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Mark Howell declared an interest in Minute No. 59 (Cabinet 29 October 2025 – Minute No. 64 – Upton Park Farm – Surrender of Lease) and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Sara Armstrong declared interests in Minute No. 62 (Cabinet 26 November 2025 – Minute No. 84 - Home to School Transport), Minute No. 63 (Cabinet 26 November 2025 – Minute No. 85 - Youth Justice Service Plan 2026-2028) and Minute No. 66 (Appointment of Parent Governor Representatives (maintained schools) Co-opted to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and left the room during the discussion and voting on those items thereon.

Council was advised that the Monitoring Officer had granted all Members dispensations in respect of the Home to School Transport item at Minute No. and the Community Governance Review item at Minute No. to ensure all Councillors were freely able to fully participate in the debate on these items.

Further to this Council was informed that the granting of this dispensation would be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

55. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 October 2025 and reconvened on 3 November 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

56. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman updated Council on her activity since the last meeting and made particular reference to: -

- Remembrance Sunday Service in Christchurch
- Bournemouth University Graduation Ceremonies
- Health University Graduation Ceremony
- Armed Forces Business Event for Veterans

The Vice Chairman updated Council on the events that he had attended since the last meeting including the Remembrance Service in Poole and the Bournemouth University Graduation Ceremonies.

57. Public Issues

Public Questions

Public Question from Susan Stockwell

Cabinet may not improperly influence licensing decisions. However, this is no barrier to departments under the control of this council from properly carrying out their various functions by making objections to strip club licensing. These include but are not limited to, community safety, public health, economic development, tourism, estates, highways and licensing itself. Rising crime in the neighbourhoods around Bournemouth's strip clubs and the evidence both from marches for women's safety and respondents to consultations on licensing policy make such objections essential to carrying out these council functions. Will this council now turn its attention to accepting the evidence in front of them for urgent action on strip club licensing.

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communications and Culture, Councillor Andy Martin on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services, Councillor Kieron Wilson

Council departments are aware of their ability to object to licences where they feel this is required, additional training and guidance has been given this year to departments including Children's Social Care. Evidence should support objections and both serious violence and anti-social behaviour rates have declined in Bournemouth Town Centre in the last year. The licensing and community safety teams work closely with Dorset Police to monitor issues related to any licensable premises.

Public Question from Daniel Glennon

"I appreciate the Winter Wonderland, the joy it brings, and the value it adds to our town's tourism industry.

"However, I have a serious concern regarding the environmental impact of the ice skating rink. Most artificial rinks use chemicals such as glycol and calcium chloride to maintain frozen surfaces; the latter is particularly harmful to aquatic life and soil biology. Each morning I observe large quantities of ice being swept from the rink and deposited directly into the Bourne Stream, one of our town centre's most valuable and biodiverse natural assets.

"Given this, has the council undertaken a full environmental assessment of the chemicals used to create and maintain the ice, and of the practice of daily disposing significant volumes of contaminated ice into the Bourne Stream, including potential cumulative impacts on water quality, wildlife, and the wider ecosystem, and whether mitigation measures or alternative, impact technologies have been considered?"

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

The health of the River Bourne is important to the Council.

The Council checked prior to the 2019/20 season, and the Council's event manager has rechecked with the operator last week that this is still the same process, she also checked with the Environmental Health Officer who is still satisfied.

It was established that the ice is made of pure water with all the glycol circulated through a closed system.

Permission for scraping the shavings into the Bourne was sought prior to the 2019/2020 season of the ice rink commencing and this was granted by the Environment Agency. The ice shavings created by the resurfacing of the rink are purely frozen water.

As no chemical compounds are added to the water to aid with freezing, and all ice is created by freezing water sourced from a local freshwater standpipe the Environmental Agency agreed that there would be no contamination caused through this process.

Thank you for raising your concern, I hope that this satisfies your query.

Public Question from Roger Mann

What measures is the council currently using—or prepared to introduce—to prevent demolition without a guaranteed, deliverable redevelopment plan, and to address cases where cleared sites remain vacant for long periods? Specifically:

Will the council consider restricting demolition through planning conditions?

Will it review the use of Section 215 or other tools to stop cleared sites becoming long-term eyesores?

Is it exploring policy or legal mechanisms to prevent speculative demolition with no clear funding or timetable?

Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

Demolition of a building does not usually require planning permission. Should an owner wish to demolish a building they need to apply for prior

approval before doing so however, the consideration of these applications is limited to the method associated with the demolition process, rather than the principle of demolition itself which is allowed under permitted development rights under national government legislation. There is no ability to take into account matters relating to appearance or if there is an alternative development proposed.

The Council already utilises S215 when appropriate to do so for sites which deteriorate to such a degree that they result in material harm to the surroundings. I'm aware of incidents, including in my own ward, where anti-social behaviour, fires in empty buildings, and significant vandalism potentially endangering people has meant we have pushed for demolition to reduce risk.

In a situation where demolition does require permission such as within a conservation area for example, permission is not granted unless a suitable replacement is agreed.

Public Statements

Public Statement from Patrick King

The last Council meeting saw several councillors questioning the labelling of residents expressing legitimate concerns as "far-right".

This warrants further clarification how this potentially inflammatory terminology was approved.

All Council members should combine to produce and publish the methodology used to categorise activism, enabling the public to understand how and why labels are applied, and what Council safeguards are in place ensuring the language in motions, does not itself, contribute to division or escalate tensions?

Also noticeably, it only takes two councillors to circulate "late" amendments, almost to the opening of the meeting.

This leaves other councillors minimal opportunity to give due consideration and process the effect of proposed changes, and the potential far-reaching, and long-term implications and consequences to policy and budget.

Public questions have to be received by three working days to be included, therefore it is a logical conclusion, amendment procedure requires reviewing.

58. **Licensing Committee 22 October 2025 – Minute No. 23 – Review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver, Vehicle and Operator Policies**

The Chair of the Licensing Committee presented the report on the Review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver, Vehicle and Operator Policies and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council adopted the final version of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver, Vehicle Operator Policies.

Voting: Unanimous

59. Cabinet 29 October 2025 - Minute No. 64 - Upton Park Farm - Surrender of Lease

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report on Upton Park Farm – Surrender of Lease and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) **noted the recommendations of the Cross-Party Strategic Asset Disposal Working Group on 19 September 2025; and**
- (b) **approved to purchase the Farm Business Tenancy at Upton Park Farm, on such terms to be approved by the Director of Finance acting in his capacity as Corporate Property Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.**

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor Mark Howell declared an interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Pete Miles joined the meeting at 7.30pm.

60. Cabinet 26 November 2025 - Minute No. 81 - BCP Homes Asset Management Plan and Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships presented the report on BCP Homes Asset Management Plan and Housing Revenue Account 30 Years Business Plan and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Council comprehensively discussed the paper with Members stressing the importance of active engagement with tenants.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) **approved the HRA Asset Management Plan at appendix 1;**
- (b) **approved the Baseline+ scenario for the HRA 30 Year Business Plan; and**
- (c) **noted that adjustments to the HRA 30 Year Business plans will be made on an annual basis alongside annual HRA budget setting and reported to Cabinet and Council accordingly.**

Voting: Unanimous

61. Cabinet 26 November 2025 - Minute No. 83 - Sea Cliff and Chine Management

The Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations presented the report on Sea Cliff and Chine Management and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members discussed the report highlighting the importance of the investment with some members expressing concern that the costs would be

significant and more investment would be required to effectively support cliff management.

In addition, a member raised the importance of effective scrutiny and was reassured that scrutiny had been engaged.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) noted the challenges being faced in managing BCP's sea cliffs and chines, including the impacts of climate change and limited resources allocated to this in the recent past;**
- (b) supported the immediate allocation of £1.446m from reserves to support responses to current cliff management issues and mitigate the lost income from commercial services on the seafront; and**
- (c) delegated to the Director of Commercial Operations in consultation with the Chief Operations Officer and Portfolio Holder the allocations of the funding.**

Voting: Unanimous

62. Cabinet 26 November 2025 - Minute No. 84 - Home to School Transport

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills presented the report on Home to School Transport and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Council stressed the importance of the report and of the statutory duty to provide transport.

RESOLVED that Council agreed to tender an external provider to deliver a transformation project over three years with a total cost of £1.5 million funded by the flexible use of capital receipts to deliver service improvements and by the end of the project on-going savings in SEND school transport projected at £3 million (net of additional resource requirement).

Voting: For:56, Against:1, Abstentions:3

Councillors Lisa Northover and Margaret Phipps advised that the electronic voting was not available on their console and requested their votes for the recommendation be recorded (these are reflected in the voting numbers above which include their votes in support of the recommendation).

Councillor Sara Armstrong declared an interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Margaret Phipps left the meeting at 8.51pm

63. Cabinet 26 November 2025 - Minute No. 85 - Youth Justice Service Plan 2025 - 2026

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills presented the report on the Youth Justice Service Plan 2025-2026 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council approved the Youth Justice Service Plan 2025-2026.

Voting: For:57, Against:0, Abstentions:2

Councillor Judes Butt advised that she had pressed the against button in error and requested that her abstention be recorded in respect of the vote (this is reflected in the voting numbers above which includes Councillor Butts abstention).

Councillor Sara Armstrong declared an interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

Meeting adjourned at 8.58pm
Meeting reconvened at 9.14pm

Councillors Anne Filer, David Flagg, Paul Hilliard, Mark Howell and Pete Miles left the meeting at 8.58pm

64. Cabinet 26 November 2025 - Minute No. 86 - Vitality Stadium land - draft heads of terms

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report on the Vitality Stadium land – draft heads of terms and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) **noted the decision of the Cabinet meeting held 1 October 2025 and Council Meeting held 14 October 2025;**
- (b) **approved the Heads of Terms (HOTs) recommended by officers for the Leasehold disposal of two parcels of land at Kings Park to AFC Bournemouth (Option C); and**
- (c) **instructed BCP officers to agree the recommended HOTs with AFC Bournemouth, instruct BCP's legal team accordingly and progress the two leases to completion.**

Voting: For:51, Against:0, Abstentions:3

65. Community Governance Review - Consequential and Supplementary Provisions

The Chair of the Community Governance Task and Finish Group, Councillor Oliver Walters presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Council was advised that the report presented the consequential and supplementary provisions required to implement the establishment of new town councils for Broadstone, Poole, and Bournemouth, following the Council's decision of 14 October 2025.

In addition Council was informed that the report outlined the arrangements necessary to ensure the new councils are legally compliant and operationally effective from 1 April 2026, and that key recommendations included the formation of Shadow Councils from 1 January 2026 to oversee the recruitment of qualified clerks and address pre-implementation matters, and the agreement of anticipated precept amounts for each council, enabling sound financial planning.

Further to this council was advised that the report detailed the limited transfer of assets, statutory requirements for allotments, and the continuation of certain services under Service Level Agreements to ensure continuity and mitigate risk, and that these measures were designed to provide a robust framework for the successful transition to new local governance arrangements and to support effective service delivery from inception.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Councillor Kate Salmon addressed the Council and provided a factual report of the debate of the Board on this item at the meeting the previous evening.

In relation to this Councillor Salmon advised that there had been an amendment proposed at the meeting in relation to recommendation (c) which sought to take the proposed precepts to the shadow councils in January before coming back to an extraordinary council meeting to take the final decision on setting those precepts. Council was advised that following debate the board had been split on the amendment relating to recommendation (c), but that the move had been narrowly defeated when put to the vote.

Councillor Salmon further advised that the outcome of the discussion by the Overview and Scrutiny Board had been by consensus to note the contents of the report rather than to express either support or objection.

Councillor Patrick Canavan proposed an amendment to the recommendations seeking to take the proposed precepts to the respective shadow councils prior to coming back to council, the recommendation read as follows: -

'the precept be referred to the shadow councils for consideration'

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Sue Aitkenhead.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the amendment during which members spoke in support of and against the amendment with some concern raised regarding any potential delays this could cause in respect of the recruitment of Town Clerks for the newly established Town Councils and the potential impact of holding the shadow council meetings and an extraordinary council meeting by the required 14 January date.

Councillor Hazel Allen requested a recorded vote in respect of the proposed amendment and upon receiving the required support for a

recorded vote the proposed amendment was put to the vote and fell with voting as set out below:

Voting:

For: 23

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr Peter Cooper	Cllr Jamie Martin
Cllr Sue Aitkenhead	Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr David d'Orton Gibson	Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr John Beesley	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Gavin Wright
Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Gillian Martin	

Against: 28

Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Rachel Pattinson-West
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr Adrian Chapmanlaw	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Claire Weight
Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Simon McCormack	
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Sandra Moore	

Abstentions: 3

Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Kate Salmon
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Voting: For:23, Against:28, Abstentions:3

Further comprehensive debate took place on the substantive recommendations with members speaking in both support and against during which the Task and Finish Group and in particular their chair were thanked along with officers for all their hard work.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) a Shadow Council for each new Council be established from 1 January 2026 for the purposes of recruiting respective Clerks and to deal with any other matters requiring resolution prior to implementation with the membership being as set out in paragraph 26 to this report;**
- (b) the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to commence the recruitment process and to advertise the positions of town clerks for Broadstone, Poole and Bournemouth;**
- (c) the anticipated precept amounts for Broadstone Town Council, Poole Town Council and Bournemouth Town Council, as detailed in the table at paragraph 35 to this report, be included in the Reorganisation Order.**

Voting: For:28, Against:21, Abstentions:5

Reason

It is important to ensure that the new town councils are safe and legal and capable of operating effectively from 1 April 2026. The recommendations are seeking to put in place arrangements to allow any matters to be resolved in a timely manner as they arise and to recruit qualified clerks for the new councils.

The agreement of the anticipated precept requirements is a required decision of the principal council which will allow the new town councils to function effectively.

66. Appointment of Parent Governor Representatives (maintained schools) Co-opted to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Sharon Carr-Brown presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Council was advised that the four-year term of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Co-opted Parent Governor Representatives (PGRs) came to an end resulting in Democratic Services commencing the process of recruiting two new PGRs (maintained schools) to sit as a Co-opted Members, and that following an election and in line with good practice, Council is asked to approve the appointment of the two successful nominees.

In presenting the report the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanked the previously appointed parent governor representatives.

RESOLVED that Council approves the following nominees to be co-opted to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a four-year term:

- **Jeremy Payne, Linwood Special School**
- **Matt Tuddenham, Highcliffe St Mark Primary School**

Voting: Unanimous

Reason

To appoint two new Parent Governor Representatives from maintained schools as Co-opted Members to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Sara Armstrong declared an interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

67. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Councillor Kate Salmon presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member

and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Council was advised that this was the annual report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer on Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) activity within BCP Council for which there is an annual requirement to report to Council, and that this promoted visibility of the O&S function and Council ownership of activity and any improvements required.

Further to this Council was advised that the annual report contained a summary and analysis of O&S activity during 2024-25, reflections on working practices and identified improvements to strengthen the O&S function.

Council was informed that the report was preceded by consultation on proposals with the O&S Board and Committees and comments raised by O&S members are summarised within this report.

In presenting the report the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board thanked the previous chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to the Scrutiny Specialist and supporting Democratic Services Officers for their hard work and support during this period.

RESOLVED that: -

- 1. Council considered and commented on the annual report;**
- 2. Council agreed the minor amendment to O&S committee remits as outlined in figure one.**
- 3. To maximise the resource available for O&S work, Council agreed the following:**
 - (i) for pieces of in-depth work, the constitution be updated to allow one scrutiny topic to be undertaken at a time across the whole O&S function, with one further topic being scoped during the same period;**
 - (ii) the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs group role be strengthened to include a responsibility to agree the priority of all work topics across the full O&S committee structure;**
 - (iii) the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs group strengthen scoping for all O&S topics by reviewing key lines of enquiry for topics on an ongoing basis to provide peer test and challenge; and**
 - (iv) the Monitoring Officer be delegated to make the associated updates to the Constitution.**

Voting: Unanimous

Reason

The Constitution requires the Statutory Scrutiny Officer to report to Council on an annual basis on the work of Overview and Scrutiny, including recommendations for any changes that may be required to ensure the function remains fit for purpose. The report must be informed by

consultation with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the O&S Committees and referred to the four O&S Committees for comment. Consideration and comment on the annual report by the O&S Committees and Council upholds principle b) of good scrutiny, as outlined in the Constitution, that O&S shall 'be a Councillor led and owned function that seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development'.

68. Questions from Councillors

Council was advised that there were no questions submitted from Councillors on this occasion.

69. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

Council was advised that no urgent decisions had been taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution since the last meeting of the Council.

The meeting ended at 10.40 pm

CHAIRMAN

CABINET



Report subject	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Expenditure Forecast 2025/26
Meeting date	17 December 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report responds to the agreed action in the quarter two budget monitoring report for 2025/26 for the Corporate Director for Children's Services to bring forward to December Cabinet a detailed report on the DSG high needs expenditure forecast and available mitigation measures. This report also seeks Council approval for additional resources required over the approved budget.</p> <p>The quarter two budget monitoring for the DSG reported to the council's Cabinet on 26 November was a projected increase in the high needs funding gap for 2025/26 from the budgeted gap of £57.5m to £71.8m. This reflects higher than expected growth in demand in the later months of the last financial year with this unabated and with a significant increase in the costs of pupil placements.</p> <p>The cumulative deficit at 31 March 2026 is projected to be £183.1m.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that CABINET recommend to COUNCIL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approval of a £14.3m increase in the 2025/26 high needs budget. This brings the forecast expenditure to £71.8m more than the grant made available by government as part of the DSG. b) Request the Corporate Director of Children's Services implement the deficit management measures outlined in this report.
Reason for recommendations	The council's financial regulations require that all budget overspends are approved by the Council.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Richard Burton – Children and young People
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley – Director of Children's Services

Report Authors	Lisa Linscott, Director of Education
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	Decision

Background

1. DSG high needs funding shortfalls have been well documented over recent years, with the latest report from the National Audit Office (NAO) in 2024 showing that while there has been a 58% real terms increase in DfE high needs funding between 2014/15 and 2024/25 to £10.7 billion, 43% of local authorities will have deficits exceeding or close to their reserves by March 2026. Overall, this contributes to a national cumulative deficit of between £4.3 billion and £4.9 billion.
2. Whilst funding has increased, this has not kept pace with the rise in the number of EHCPs, resulting in funding per plan decreasing by 35% over the same period. The system is both unsustainable financially, and crucially, not delivering outcomes for children despite record spend.
3. State special schools are over capacity. This may mean children are not in the most appropriate setting, including more expensive independent schools where the number of children with EHCPs increased by 17,000 between 2018/19 and 2023/24. This costs local authorities £2.0 billion in 2022/23, a real-terms increase of 46% from 2018/19. The NAO report concludes that if left unreformed, the SEND system is economically unsustainable. Looking ahead, for 2027/28 there is an estimated mismatch of between £2.9 billion and £3.9 billion when comparing current funding, maintained in real terms, against forecast costs.
4. SEND tribunal and appeals data underlines how challenging the SEND system has become. Since April 2018, in addition to judgements relating to education provision, the SEND Tribunal has also been able to make non-binding recommendations on the health and social care elements of EHCPs. Statistics from the Ministry of Justice show that in 2023/24, 17,000 outcomes in relation to SEN appeals were recorded, a 43% increase compared with the previous year, 2022/23. Data from 2014/15 shows 3,300 recorded outcomes for SEN appeals meaning that since the 2014 reforms, appeals have increased exponentially by four times (415%). Furthermore, 11,000 SEN appeals were decided by tribunal in 2023/24. This compares with only 792 in 2014/15. In 2023/24, nationally the local authority success rate was 1.3% of cases that went to a full hearing, meaning they won only 150 out of 11,157 cases. The increase in appeals is likely due to several factors, including the growth in families seeking assessments, the continued effect of the 2014 SEND reforms, and the expansion of the tribunal's powers to make recommendations on health and social care.
5. DfE statistics show that the number of EHCPs has increased to unsustainable levels over the past decade, increasing from 240,183 in 2014/15 to 638,745 by January 2025. This is an increase of 166% across this time period, and in the last year alone, January 2024/2025, there has been an increase of 10.8%. In 2024, 105,340 EHC needs assessments were carried out; this is 15.7% more than in 2023. 46.4% of

plans were issued within the 20-week statutory timescales. Timeliness has decreased over time as demand has increased. In the 2024/25 academic year there were 482,640 pupils in schools in England with an EHCP. This is an increase of 11.1% from 2023/24. 5.3% of all pupils in England now have an EHCP, an increase of 4.8% from the previous year.

6. The workforce challenges are widespread, with shortages among services such as speech and language therapists, health visitors and Educational Psychologists (EPs). In 2023, the DfE report into educational psychology services found that 88% of local authorities' Principal EPs reported that they were currently experiencing difficulties recruiting. Early support is essential for helping children thrive and a key moment to build relationships with parents. The statutory requirement for EP advice for all EHCPs means that this valuable resource is deployed for assessment rather than intervention purposes. EPs themselves have called for their role to do more early intervention and systemic work as part of a graduated response to prevent children and young people's needs from escalating, and therefore potentially reducing the demand for EHCPs.
7. School capacity data from 2023/24 shows that around 8,000 more secondary pupils are on roll in special schools than the reported capacity. Around two thirds of special schools report they are at or over capacity. It is important to acknowledge that current measurements of capacity do not take type of need into account, meaning the real term levels of capacity may be even more stretched. Since 2014/15 there has been an increase of 60% in placements in state-funded special schools, while placements in independent and non-maintained special schools (INMSSs) have risen 132%. Based on the current system, local authorities forecast that the total anticipated number of pupils in years Reception to 11 with an EHCP that will need a place in specialist provision to be an estimated at 273,000 by 2028/29.
8. The Isos Partnership research has previously looked at factors that were contributing to higher demand and cost. Those typically reported to them by local authorities included:
 - a. Extension of local authority responsibilities to include the 16-25 age range without financial support
 - b. Increased demand for special school places, with pressures on local capacity leading to increased use of placements in the independent/non-maintained sector
 - c. Reduced inclusivity of (some) mainstream schools
 - d. Higher rates of school exclusion and use of alternative provision
 - e. Greater complexity of need, with particular growth in numbers of children with an autism diagnosis and those with social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH)
9. While the Isos Partnership research identified some influence of increasing levels of need and demographic changes, a number of the above factors were reported to be linked to the impact of national policy, particularly expectations generated by the national SEND reforms 2014 (without funding to match statutory requirements) and increased attainment pressures on mainstream schools (which were making it more difficult for them to prioritise effective provision for SEND and inclusion).

10. The Schools White Paper due in autumn 2025 was to set out reforms to start tackling the system widely regarded as broken. It has been delayed to early 2026 and will likely be too late to inform the 2026/27 DSG high needs budget for councils. The Local Government Association (LGA) meanwhile has provided assurance that this change in timing does not change the commitment to supporting local authorities with the significant pressures from funding DSG deficits. It is understood that the LGA is working closely with HM Treasury and the Department for Education to finalise the details with more information to be provided through the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in late December.

BCP High Needs Budget and Forecast 2025/26

11. The budget projection for 2025/26 at quarter two is for a funding gap of £71.8 compared with the budget of £57.5 due to expenditure on high needs budgets as set out in the table below:

Table 1: High Needs Block Budget 2025/26

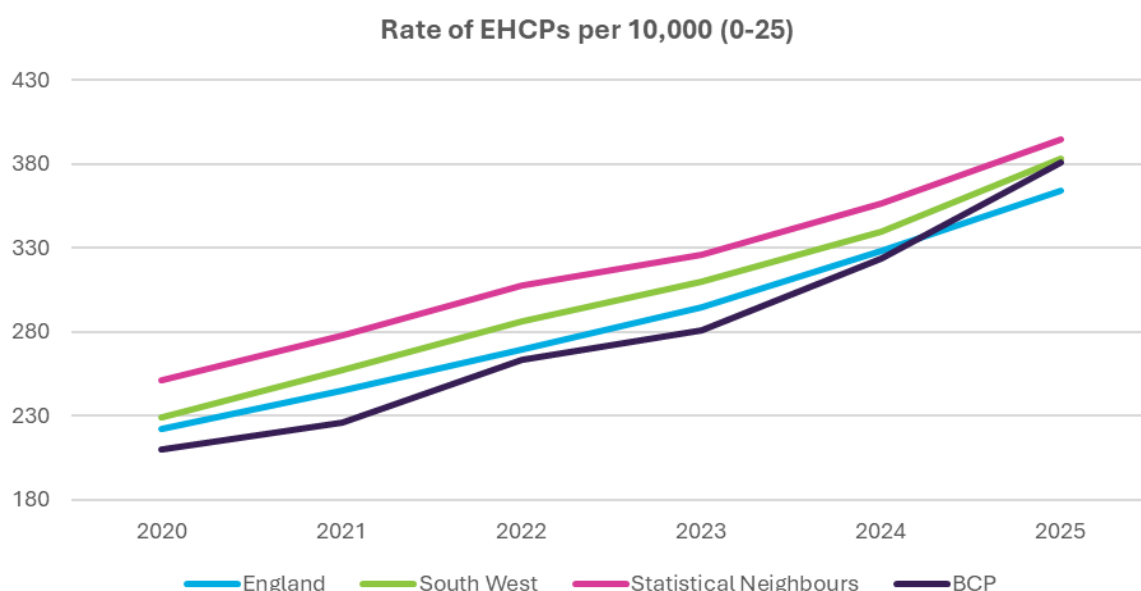
Expenditure Area	2024/25 Actual £000's	2025/26			Annual Increase £000's
		Budget £000's	Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	
Independent & NMSS	30,248	31,237	38,742	7,505	28%
Post 16 only providers	8,063	11,982	9,194	(2,788)	14%
Special Schools	19,020	18,306	21,720	3,414	14%
Mainstream & Units	15,570	15,522	19,518	3,996	25%
Other EHCP provision	11,624	14,612	17,016	2,404	46%
EHCPs top up	84,525	91,659	106,190	14,531	26%
Centrally commissioned (including place funding)	19,511	23,226	22,577	(649)	16%
TOTAL SEND EXPENDITURE	104,036	114,885	128,767	13,882	24%
TOTAL ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	7,870	8,326	8,190	(136)	4%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	111,906	123,211	136,957	13,746	22%
DSG FUNDING	(62,232)	(65,709)	(65,175)	534	5
FUNDING GAP	49,674	57,502	71,782	14,280	45%

12. Demand in the system from pupils with high needs has continued to rise over the second quarter of 2025/26 with the high needs funding gap increase now projected at £14.3m over that budgeted (£13.75m additional expenditure and £0.53m reduced funding).
13. There are many assumptions in the year end projection with a significant data lag in the system for new cases and changes in provision. An allowance for future cases has been allocated across provider types according to recent trends so individual EHCP categories may be less reliable than the overall total.

BCP EHCP numbers:

14. The scale of increase in EHCP numbers in recent years has been unprecedented making this difficult to forecast. This growth for BCP is typically higher than for other councils with the prevalence in BCP moving from below the national average to above.
15. Rate of EHCPs per 10,000 population (0-25): The council's [SEN2] data provides information on the numbers of children and young people with an EHCP as of January each year.
16. The data shown below in figure 1 shows that BCP's rate of EHCPs is now above the England average rate whilst remaining below the southwest and almost equal to statistical neighbours. The steeper gradient from January 2024 to 2025 will reflect the extra capacity created by the council to clear the backlog of cases that had grown over the previous year and with this backlog substantially cleared by December 2024.

Figure 1



17. In the absence of concrete information about how the national SEND system is to change, a reasonable assumption would be that the current trajectory for growth will continue. The 15-year deficit recovery plan developed two years ago had assumed demand for new ECHPs had started to peak and would gradually reduce each year from the actions included in the SEND improvement plan. The planned trajectory has not been realised and the scale of expenditure growth in 2025/26 indicates that new demand is still rising.
18. The report to the council's Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November provides actions currently underway or planned but the financial impact has not yet been established. The committee report is comprehensive, with two examples expected to have high system improvement and financial impact included below.
19. Funding has been secured from the DfE SEND Intervention Support Fund to drive improvement and transformation within Education Services leading to development in three key areas which should have some impact on the budget:

- a. The BCP graduated approach and ordinarily available provision toolkit to provide timely, high-quality support and services to children and young people through early intervention.
 - b. A sustainable three tier alternative provision model based on best practice with improved monitoring and oversight.
 - c. Inclusive whole school practice with the support of an established educational charity (The Difference).
20. As part of the SEND sufficiency strategy, 140 additional specialist places were delivered during the academic year 2024/25 and the plan for delivering beyond this is mapped out in a separated report to the November Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proportion of children in independent and non-maintained specials schools has been reducing, but it is still above the national average, and the growth in EHCPs means that the number of children placed in these schools is still rising.

Alternative Provision Budget and Permanent Exclusions

21. Alternative provision is less than 10% of the overall high needs budget but has still grown by around a third since 2023/24. Some of this growth has been due to the increase in children with mental health issues or those entering or returning to education after a period of elective home education. The larger part of the budget is spent on pupils permanently excluded from schools, being re-integrated after an exclusion or at risk of exclusion.
22. Details of the rate of permanent exclusions is provided in the table below.

Table 2 shows the permanent exclusion rate in BCP compared with regional and national benchmarks (per 10,000 children)

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (Provisional)
BCP	0.12	0.09	0.14	0.23	0.17	0.20
SW	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.13	0.15	n/a
Stat Neighbour	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.12	n/a
England	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.11	0.13	n/a

The above table shows:

- BCP's permanent exclusion rate has fluctuated over the six-year period, starting at 0.12 in 2019/20 (12 permanent exclusions per 10,000 children), dipping to 0.09 in 2020/21, then rising sharply to 0.23 in 2022/23.
- Although the rate dropped to 0.17 in 2023/24, the provisional figure for 2024/25 is 0.20. BCP's exclusion rate has consistently exceeded the Southwest regional average, statistical neighbours, and national figures in every year. For example, in 2022/23, BCP's rate of 0.23 was significantly higher than the national 0.11, the South West's 0.13, and statistical neighbours' 0.10.

23. Details of the number of Permanent Exclusions is included in the table below:

Table 3: Number of Permanent Exclusions by academic year

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (Provisional)
BCP	60	48	76	105	91	105

The number of exclusions increased from 60 in 2019/20 to a provisional 105 for 2024/25.

24. The report to the council's Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November provides further data and analysis with the following conclusions:
- a. The data reveals a persistent and disproportionate pattern of permanent exclusions among pupils with special educational needs in BCP, indicating ongoing systemic challenges in supporting this group.
 - b. Exclusion rates for pupils with an EHCP in BCP have also risen sharply and this is significantly higher than the national EHCP rate and suggests that even those with the highest level of statutory support are at increasing risk of exclusion locally. In contrast, pupils without SEND in BCP have consistently lower exclusion rates, aligning more closely with national averages.
 - c. The data suggests that current systems may not be adequately meeting the needs of SEND pupils, and that exclusion is being used as a response to unmet need rather than as a last resort. Strategic investment in SEND support, staff training, and behaviour pathways will be essential to reversing this trajectory

DSG Management Plan

26. The DfE published DSG management guidance in June 2022: [High needs budgets: effective management in local authorities](#) This document summarises some of the best practices identified adopted by top-performing councils in England to manage high-needs deficits. These practices are drawn from research and sector guidance. However, the report states that 'Judging their impacts on the management of high needs funding is a complex task which really requires a more longitudinal evaluation. However, it indicated that it is possible to provide some quantitative evidence of changes which may help identify practices that have had a particular impact.'. It is of note that of the ten 'good practice' local authorities in the report, all ten are reporting a deficit in 2025/26.
27. The above report cited the following recommendations based on the findings of the case studies, with a brief statement on BCP Council's position in relation to each recommendation:
- a. **'Local authorities should invest properly in SEND leadership, with dedicated time for strategic functions to avoid constant distractions from operational pressures'**: this is built into the SEND Improvement governance in BCP Council. Key leadership roles within Education and Skills have been recruited to and SEND is of a high strategic priority.
 - b. **'Authorities should review their joint commissioning arrangements to support more balanced contributions to high needs provision from the three key services (Education, Health and Social Care)'**: there have been some challenges with this, that are being addressed through more robust financial decision-making protocols and commissioning processes. Collaboration with partners informs joint commissioning plans through joint planning and data sharing.

- c. **‘Officers with SEND and Finance responsibilities should have joint accountability for effective management of this area, with high priority given to effective communication and mutual support, building on the positive practices identified in this report.’**: Joint accountability is in place and communication is improving but keeping the data up to date for committed expenditure on pupil placements and other costs remains challenging for commissioners, with the impact on being able to set robust budgets, forecasts and undertake medium term financial planning. There is already a programme of work in place to address this.
- d. **‘Local authorities should review their capacity for SEND support (and its funding base) to help strengthen their influence on the range of relevant outcomes. They should develop clearer agreements with services which set out commissioning expectations and monitoring arrangements.’**: Outreach provided by special schools has been a SEND support service funded by the high needs block over many years. Re-integration officers have also been introduced, and we should be seeing reduced reliance on alternative provision, but this is instead still growing. Early Years support includes area SENCos, a pupil assessment and outreach service (Dingley’s Promise) has recently been introduced, and a portage service has been funded for many years. Support services that schools could purchase had been declining over the years prior to LGR as schools reported that they were too expensive, with these services not reinstated for BCP. There has been a lack of robustness to the monitoring of the services that are commissioned so this has been addressed and going forward more robust monitoring will be in place. The service is currently learning from other LAs in relation to what kind of early support services they are funding from the High Needs Block.
- e. **‘Local authorities should review their current staffing levels and structures for SEND casework and enhance these where necessary, as part of their broader strategy for improving management of high needs expenditure and quality of service delivery.’**: A redesign of the SEND Service was completed in 2024, informed by good practice, parents and carers, and financial resource available. The phased pod structure is now embedded and receives positive feedback in terms of the approach. However, the high levels of request for statutory support mean that the teams struggle to meet statutory requirements. This is in line with the picture nationally.
- f. **‘Local authorities should review and further develop their approaches to partnership with key stakeholders, taking into account some of the positive practices described in this report (in addition to any broader policy emphasis on this area).’**: the work of the local area partnership has significantly improved. The partners have created and embedded a culture of shared values: Trust, Empathy, Belonging, Communication, and Respect. The strengthened partnership working is demonstrated by shared accountability, clear roles and responsibilities and significant progress in SEND Improvement Board meetings.
- g. **‘When creating new specialist provision, local authorities should be clear about the expected range and levels of need that this will cater for. They should also consider the potential impact on future demand and whether this can be financially sustained. The case for any proposed development**

should include detailed projections on the balance between investment and savings.': detailed modelling has taken place in relation to SEND sufficiency. Special school satellites and resourced provision in mainstream schools have recently been introduced but the effectiveness of these provisions now requires review.

- h. **'With regard to developments in local mainstream provision, investment should be targeted at strengthening inclusion, with impact monitored and evaluated at that level.'** This is a clear priority across the current development work, evidenced in the SEND and AP Improvement Plan. All BCP schools' data share, enabling a system leadership approach to addressing the challenges and strengths what the data reveals. Termly Head Teacher Forums enable meaningful discussion and prioritisation of actions in relation to inclusion. The Belonging Strategy is in the course of being delivered.
- i. **'Local authorities should set out more clearly their expected pathways for young people with different levels of need, ensure that these are presented earlier and more clearly to young people and their parents, and evaluate quality and outcomes on a more regular basis. Pathways should be realistic but ambitious.'** some of the pathways have been strengthened as part of the delivery of the previous SEND Improvement Plan. The Balanced System and Early Years support for speech and language is a good example of this. However, some pathways are at different stages of development. There is a strong mental health transformation plan in place for example, but this work is only just starting.
- j. **'Local authorities should learn from positive examples of innovative approaches to mainstream funding (including the option of greater devolution of resources to individual schools/groups of schools with clear expectations of outcomes).'** this has not been in place to date. However, a shared targeted funding model is being developed for consideration.

SEND and Alternative Provision Plan

- 25. The revised SEND and Alternative Provision Plan was approved by the SEND Improvement Board in September 2025. It was revised with partners including Parent Carer Forums, BCP Council, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB), education settings and health providers. Actions remain under the eight headings identified under the previous plan:
 - a. SEND Leadership, Management and Governance
 - b. Communication and Co-production
 - c. Early Identification and Intervention
 - d. Inclusion
 - e. Pathway
 - f. Sufficiency
 - g. Preparation for Adulthood (PfA)
 - h. Managing Resources
- 26. Funding has been secured to support demand management measures to impact the trajectory of high needs funding and help stabilise the system. This includes new investment to support schools in creating inclusive environments that meet the needs of all children and young people. Investment is made up of the:

- a. SEND Intervention Fund noted above of just under £600,000
 - b. SEND Inclusion Fund of £1.2m from the transfer of surplus school block funding to the high need block. The funding is earmarked to support outreach support, training and the recruitment of Inclusion Leads.
- 27. Further details of investment are detailed below as part of key actions included in the updated SEND and Inclusion Improvement Plan which includes:
- 28. **Belonging and Inclusion:** During the summer, the council hosted a well-attended Belonging Conference, bringing together school leaders, practitioners, and national experts to share best practice and strengthen our collective response. We are now working with The Difference—a charity focused on inclusive leadership—and the Ted Wragg Trust to embed inclusive practice and build capacity across our schools.
- 29. **Three-Tier Alternative Provision (AP) Model:** With a total investment of £143,000 from the SEND Intervention Fund, the Council is working with the Difference and in partnership with local schools, to develop a model of alternative provision aligned with plans set out in the government's national SEND and AP Plan. A multi-agency working group is in the process of developing a BCP three-tier AP model, which aligns with plans set out in the government's national SEND and AP Plan. The three-tiers will comprise of: Targeted early support within mainstream school, time-limited intensive placements in an alternative provision settings and longer-term placements to support return to mainstream or a sustainable post-16 destination. The model is designed to offer flexible, graduated support for children at risk of exclusion. This model includes:
 - i. Tier 1: School-led internal provision
 - ii. Tier 2: Commissioned outreach and short-term placements
 - iii. Tier 3: Full-time specialist placements
- 30. **Inclusion Practice in Schools:** We have funded and filled 50 places for our school leaders on 'The Difference's' Inclusion Leadership Course. This professional development initiative is designed to help school leaders improve whole-school inclusion, reduce lost learning and enhance outcomes for children and young people with vulnerabilities.
- 31. **Co-production of best practice guidance in relation to Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA):** The council is developing best practice guidance to support schools in responding to Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA). The guidance sets out clear strategies for identifying and addressing emotional barriers to attendance, with a focus on early support, inclusive practice, and multi-agency involvement. It aims to help schools create safe, nurturing environments where pupils feel a sense of belonging and are supported to re-engage with learning.
- 32. **Development of 'Way Forward' meetings:** *Way Forward* meetings are planned to provide structured support and planning when an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment Request (EHCNAR) is declined, or a decision is made not to issue an EHCP. These meetings bring together professionals and families to

review the child's needs, explore alternative support options, and agree next steps to ensure continued progress and inclusion within education settings.

33. **Updating our SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy:** An updated strategy is in development which will incorporate a dedicated secondary-phase focus to address the growing demand for secondary specialist pathways and alternative provision. This includes support for the implementation of a three-tiered model of AP—ranging from school-led interventions to specialist placements—ensuring a more flexible and graduated response to need. The strategy is being co-developed with partners and informed by data, lived experience, and national best practice, and will be monitored through the SEND Improvement Board to ensure accountability and impact.
34. **Development of Ordinarily Available Toolkit:** The council is utilising some of the above DfE SEND Intervention Support funding to second a school leader, supported by suitably experienced and qualified professionals, to develop Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) and the graduated approach across the area. The OAP toolkit will help schools distinguish between pupils who can thrive with consistent universal support and those who require additional interventions, and build their skill and capacity to meet need, particularly in relation to out high prevalence needs.
35. **The Graduated Approach:** Linked to the OAP toolkit, the graduated approach provides structured guidance for teachers and school leaders to identify, assess, and record the needs of pupils requiring additional or special educational provision. It supports schools in planning appropriate support based on individual needs, reviewing progress systematically and ensuring that interventions are evidence-based and proportionate. By embedding this approach, schools are better equipped to intervene early and consistently, reducing the likelihood of escalation to exclusion.
36. **Inclusion Lead Pilot:** As part of a pilot, we have recently appointed three Inclusion Advisors to support schools develop inclusive practice. The impact of their work will be monitored and evaluated, and if effective this is a model that could be scaled up.
37. **Outreach offer:** The Council has commissioned outreach services in partnership with our local special schools to provide support for mainstream schools including specialist advice and support to meet the needs of complex children and/or cohorts within their school. There is further scope for outreach services from our Alternative Providers, and this is being explored.
38. **Education Effectiveness Framework:** Working with our local school partners and learning from best practice in other areas, the council is developing a robust Education Effectiveness Framework aimed at driving continuous improvement across all educational settings. The framework will bring together key strands including inclusive practice, targeted support for schools, and a commitment to equity in outcomes for all learners. By working collaboratively with school and MAT leaders, as well as other partners, the framework will provide clear guidance on responsibilities and ensure every child, regardless of background or need, has access to high-quality teaching and learning.

39. **Transition:** BCP Council has established a cross-phase transition working group to improve the experience of children and young people as they move between different stages of education. The group focuses on strengthening continuity of support, sharing key information between settings, and promoting a sense of belonging during transitions—particularly for vulnerable learners who may face additional challenges.
40. **Admissions Re-design:** Work to progress the project to re-design SEND Admission arrangements will start in November 2025. This is a major piece of work that will significantly improve our placement decision making which is a necessary foundation for commissioning sufficiency of specialist places. The purpose of the redesign is to create a fair, transparent and complaint admissions system for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan, ensuring appropriate placement decisions are made through improved processes and robust governance arrangements. The project will be implemented in 4 phases over a 7-month period with implementation in from April 2026 and a period of a further 7 months thereafter for continuous review and refinement.
41. **Updated In Year Fair Access Protocol:** An updated In-Year Fair Access Protocol is in development to ensure that children requiring school placements outside the standard admissions cycle are supported through a fair, transparent, and timely process. Developed in partnership with a task and finish group of headteachers, the protocol includes a decision-making matrix that enables consistent, objective evaluations of each case. At the heart of this approach is a commitment to child-focused discussion and decision making ensuring that every placement considers the individual needs, circumstances, and best interests of the child. This collaborative framework strengthens inclusion and equity, balancing the needs of pupils and schools while promoting positive outcomes for all learners. After extensive consultation, the new protocol is expected to go live during November 2025.
42. **Transitions:** Establishment of a cross-phase transition working group to improve the experience of transitions between phases of education for our children and young people. The working group will identify best practice locally, regionally and nationally to improve outcomes.
43. **Multi-agency Belonging Forums:** Implement best practice from other local authorities who have established multi-agency forums as a way for schools to both support each other to meet the needs of children and young people with vulnerabilities and gain support from partner agencies.
44. **Pre EHCP funding:** BCP Council is currently developing its thinking around a pre-EHCP funding model to strengthen early intervention and reduce escalation to statutory Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The aim is to provide timely, targeted support for children with emerging or lower level SEND needs within mainstream settings, without requiring a full EHCP assessment. The model would offer schools access to additional resources such as specialist input, equipment, or short-term interventions based on clear criteria and evidence of need. Co-produced with schools and parent/carers representatives, the model would be designed to promote inclusion, reduce delays in support, and ensure that children's needs are met earlier and more effectively. The next step is to

engage our partners to develop the idea and review best practice in other local authority areas.

45. **Revised High Needs Deficit Recovery Plan** is in the early stages of drafting with the following priority areas, all of which tie in closely to the SEND and AP Improvement Plan with the governance arrangements to be in place by January 2026.

- a. Build skill and capacity to meet need in mainstream
- b. Provide support at an earlier stage
- c. Develop support while waiting
- d. Strengthen support at transition points
- e. Deliver SEND sufficiency of places and proactive commissioning
- f. Provide timely and high-quality statutory support
- g. Provide strong financial oversight and governance

New governance arrangements are in development, which include creation of a suitably high level of Board that fills the gap left by the disbanding of the Safety Valve Board. Clear governance is aimed to increase trust among DfE, schools, and local partners and reduce the high needs block deficit over time, improving the council's financial position.

Options Considered

46. Options to reduce discretionary spend were considered but discounted as these are supporting early intervention in schools and early years settings or individual children. Reductions in these services could result in higher future costs and start to disrupt the service improvements being made. Reductions could not be made at any scale and the majority of spend is underpinned by staffing or third-party contracts.

Summary of financial implications

47. The November Cabinet budget monitoring report for quarter two provided the following year end projection of an overspend of £13.7m on high needs expenditure with an accumulated deficit of £183.1m.

Table 4: Summary position for dedicated schools grant

Dedicated Schools Grant	£m
Accumulated deficit 1 April 2025	113.3
Prior year additional funding – early years	(1.9)
Budgeted high needs funding shortfall 2025/26	57.5
High needs funding reduction 2025/26	0.5
High needs overspend 2025/26 - TBC	13.7
Projected accumulated deficit 31 March 2026	183.1

48. The statutory override to prevent the deficit being considered against the council's reserves position has been extended to March 2028. The 26 November 2025 Budget Statement included that government are proposing to take over the responsibility for day-to-day funding of SEND from that date onwards.

49. The current accumulated deficit and any further increase between now and the 31 March 2028 will be retained by BCP Council with any support for these elements announced as part of the December 2025 provisional local government finance settlement for 2026-27.
50. The development of a deficit management plan to limit further expenditure growth is therefore still relevant and will be dependent on the government's aspirations and timing of system change outlined in the awaited Schools White Paper expected early next year.

Summary of legal implications

51. Relevant legislation includes the assessment and (if applicable) relevant plan implementation process in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 and related Code of Practice (the Statutory Obligations).
52. A failure to meet the statutory obligations could result in relevant claims being made, the consequences of which could result in legal proceedings and damage to the council's reputation.

Summary of human resources implications

53. None

Summary of sustainability impact

54. None

Summary of public health implications

55. None

Summary of equality implications

56. There are no recommendations in this report that have any equality implications

Summary of risk assessment

57. There is an ongoing risk from the DSG accumulated deficit on the financial stability of the council.

Background papers

Schools Forum November 2025 meeting

Children's Overview and Scrutiny November 2025 meeting

Appendices

None

CABINET



Report subject	Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036
Meeting date	17 December 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>With the UK Government progressing major waste legislation and policy reforms, the Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-36 has been drafted setting out clear ambitions and commitments, with consideration to the key drivers for change, to provide a pathway for enhancing our waste and recycling services over the coming decade.</p> <p>This strategy will direct the retender of a major waste disposal contract in 2027 and sets out ambitions and supporting actions for progressing towards achievement of our waste and carbon targets by 2035.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) Notes the consultation report, summarising feedback from residents and stakeholders</p> <p>b) Recommends the Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2036 for adoption by Council</p> <p>c) Recommends the approval of the following service change to progress supporting actions set out in the Waste Strategy:</p> <p>i) removal of current separate kerbside battery collections where household batteries are collected in a clear bag placed on top of the kerbside recycling bin.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>Adoption of the Waste Strategy for BCP Council provides the framework for waste management across the conurbation for the next 10 years and demonstrates a commitment to the provision of high performing waste management services across our three Towns.</p> <p>Drafted, with consideration to the key drivers for change, to provide a clear pathway for progressing our waste and recycling services over the coming decade, offering flexible, comprehensive and efficient waste collections and supporting</p>

	<p>service that engage residents and commercial customers to effectively manage their waste.</p> <p>The strategy providing a key framework to direct the tender of our major waste disposal contracts and progress towards achieving our waste and carbon targets over the period of this strategy, whilst enabling greater engagement in reuse and repair activities and campaigns will reduce waste for BCP Council to manage and enhance community action.</p>
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton
Report Authors	Georgina Fry
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

BCP Council position

1. BCP Council manages over 188,967 tonnes of waste from households and businesses each year. In 2024/25, BCP Council reused, recycled or composted 43.9% of our household waste and diverted 89.7% of waste from landfill. Councils achieving higher rates are normally more rural with higher quantities of garden waste to compost than in the BCP area.

National position

2. In England, recycling rates increased from 11% in 2000/01 to 42% in 2021/22. However, in recent years household recycling rates have plateaued around 42-44%, missing the 2020 target of 50%. The UK Government has set new targets to recycle 65% of municipal waste (household and similar commercial waste) and send less than 10% to landfill by 2035.
3. In the last few years, there has been considerable change in the UK Government's approach to waste management and the transition towards a circular economy, emphasising sustainability and resource efficiency through various legislative measures and strategies.
4. Simpler Recycling along with other waste reforms such as the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging are anticipated to drive packaging reduction and increases in recycling performance over the next 5-10 years. The inclusion of Energy from Waste facilities in the Emission Trading Scheme will also encourage the decarbonisation of waste, diverting and recycling waste from the refuse stream to avoid financial penalties.

Our Waste Strategy journey

5. While Councils have some flexibility for services, much is now dictated by legislation and national policy, which going forward will impact how BCP Council is required to collect, handle and dispose of waste, substantially alter the waste composition available to collect and change how these collections are funded.

Data & insight

6. To inform our approach, a comprehensive Waste Compositional Analysis was undertaken in 2023 of both rubbish and recycling bins, highlighting the waste materials in each bin that could be diverted from reuse or recycling. 51% of a household BCP refuse bin could have been recycled in either the kerbside recycling bin, a garden waste bin or a food waste container.

7. Detailed baseline and options modelling of BCP Council's waste collections have been undertaken by SLR consulting, funded by WRAP. Our current waste and recycling collections are comprehensive, easy to use and have a high level of public satisfaction (81% in 2023 Resident's survey). A review of collection routes across all waste streams is planned to rebalance collection rounds and maximise service efficiency.
8. Variations in design and frequency of residual and recycling collections have been initially modelled to consider operational service design for the future. Due to the unknown impact of the various government reforms on our waste composition and tonnages, and the introduction of food waste collections to Poole and flats in April 2026, further modelling and analysis will be needed and progressed before any substantial waste collection service redesign.
9. The Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-36 has been drafted, with consideration to the key drivers for change, to provide a pathway in uncertain times, for improving our waste and recycling services over the coming decade and directing the tender of our major waste disposal contracts during 2026.

Strategy development

10. The following seven ambitions were developed prioritising waste prevention and service improvements to underpin our Waste Strategy for BCP Council aligning with national strategy and policy, refer to Appendix One for full strategy:
 1. Engage and enable residents and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more
 2. Use circular economy and waste hierarchy principle
 3. Achieve waste and carbon targets
 4. Deliver effective and efficient waste collections
 5. Dispose of waste sustainably
 6. Use modern waste infrastructure
 7. Deliver futureproof and safe services
11. To progress achievement of these ambitions, 35 supporting actions have been identified, which will be embedded through service and team plans and further developed during the strategy lifetime.
12. These supporting actions will encourage greater diversion of recycling, food waste and garden waste to the correct bins. Greater diversion will increase our recycling rate by up to 8% progressing toward the 65% target and offer financial savings of up to £1m.
13. Any major resulting policy or service changes required during the period of this strategy will be subject to further detailed financial, environmental and performance modelling and consideration, before the business case is presented separately for decision.
14. These ambitions, and supporting actions for achievement, were developed with insight from detailed baseline service and performance analysis of BCP Council waste collections, benchmarking with other local authorities and with consideration to key drivers for change within the waste management sector.

Strategy engagement

15. A public consultation was held from 2-29 June 2025. The consultation provided an opportunity for respondents to indicate their level of agreement with the draft strategy, its priorities, targets, and approach to the management of waste. Respondents to the consultation were also able to provide comments and suggestions on the strategy and its approach.
16. Residents were able to respond online or request a paper version from a library. 312 responses were received, 303 online and 9 paper copies. These included over 940 comments in free text boxes. The Waste Strategy Consultation Report is provided in Appendix 2.
17. There was broad support from respondents for the ambitions. Residents were looking for recycling to be as straightforward and accessible as possible with clear instructions to minimise confusion regarding harder to recycle items. Residents were in favour of improving initiatives and schemes to facilitate the repair, reuse and rehoming of items but felt they needed further support to do this.
18. There was a strong view that services should be consistent across BCP and for better education and communication to help both residents and businesses understand how to recycle items correctly.
19. A full Council member briefing was held in May 2025 and an informal cross party member working group was established, following this briefing who met in October 2025 to consider the required legislative impacts, developed ambitions and public consultation results.

Battery collections

20. Separate kerbside battery collections are currently operated where household batteries are collected in a clear bag placed on top of the kerbside recycling bin. Batteries are stored after collection in a plastic container on the outside of the recycling collection vehicle.
21. In 2025, batteries disposed of in kerbside recycling and rubbish bins have reportedly caused four fires at BCP transfer stations and five in collection vehicles.

Options appraisal

22. Waste Strategy adoption

Option 1 - recommended

- a. Cabinet recommends the new Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-36 for adoption to Council. This will provide a pathway for development of waste and recycling services, initiatives and campaigns prioritising waste reduction and highlighting priority spend of waste budgets. The long-term intentions for waste collection and disposal will also support the tender of our major waste disposal contracts.

Option 2

- b. Cabinet rejects the new Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-36 for further development. This will negatively impact on the prioritisation and clarity of service delivery, allocation of limited waste collection and disposal budgets

and provide delay to any insight for prospect contractors bidding for major waste disposal contracts in 2026/7.

23. Removal of kerbside battery collections

Option 1 - recommended

- c. To remove kerbside battery collections, reducing the risk of fires caused by batteries during transfer in collection vehicles or at transfer stations.
- d. Supporting communications with the fire service will advise of fire risks associated with putting batteries in any kerbside bin
- e. Residents will instead be directed to local battery recycling drop-off points in nearby shops and at recycling centres for separate and safe storage before recycling. Retailers that sell batteries must provide a free take back point in store.
- f. From Waste Strategy consultation, 71% of respondents had never used the kerbside battery recycling service, 16% of respondents had used the service in the last 6 months.

Option 2

- g. To continue with kerbside battery collections with high fire risk. Batteries and vapes containing batteries disposed of in kerbside recycling and rubbish bins have caused four fires at BCP transfer stations in 2025, including a substantial fire at BCP Council's Hurn transfer station in July, and are suspected of causing five waste collection vehicle fires in the last year.
- h. Improved storage containers are needed on all recycling collection vehicles to comply with legislation and reduce fire risk.
- i. A comprehensive communication campaign (£20k) may encourage safer use of the kerbside battery collections; however this would need to be ongoing as arrangements for battery collections are difficult to communicate clearly, causing confusion for residents. Batteries should be put out on top of the recycling bin in a clear bag, not placed in the recycling bin.

Summary of financial implications

- 24. The Waste Strategy for BCP Council and subsequent delivery plans are being developed in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 25. Any resulting policy or service changes from this Waste Strategy will be subject to further detailed financial and performance modelling, before being presented for decision.
- 26. Capital (£1.537m) and transitional funding (£483k) has been awarded by DEFRA to introduce a food waste service for Poole and flats. Ongoing revenue costs should also be awarded under the new burdens doctrine to BCP Council from 1 April 2026 for food waste collections in Poole and at flats.
- 27. £9.447m of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) payments have been allocated to BCP Council in 2025/26 for the collection and disposal of packaging. Ongoing payment for future years is subject to change on the provision and evidence of effective and efficient waste collections and the tax received from the packaging industry

28. Battery disposal is free for Councils; however, removal of kerbside battery collections will reduce financial burden associated with service disruptions and fire. Fire damage to collection vehicles and transfer stations may result in hefty repair or replacement costs.
29. Any financial investment in enhanced commercial waste services will be balanced by the commercial waste income received as a result.

Summary of legal implications

30. Waste management in the UK is governed by legislation and policies that prioritise the circular economy, reduce landfill reliance, eliminate avoidable waste and increase recycling and resource efficiency. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 set out legal duties concerning waste collections and management.
31. The Environment Act 2021 specifies requirements for Councils to offer improved recycling collections, with the introduction of statutory food waste collections from every household and business, collection of a core set of materials for recycling, including plastic film by 2027 and separated paper and cardboard, unless separate collections are technically, environmentally or economically unpracticable.
32. Officers will continue to remain informed, attend government briefings and collaborate with other Councils, industry networks and businesses to adapt BCP Council's waste services as needed to comply with legislation and future government policy.

Summary of human resources implications

33. Appropriately skilled or trained officers will implement the service and team plans and any resulting policy and service changes, which will sit under the Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-36.
34. Any proposed service change, resulting from this Waste Strategy will consider the impact on staff engagement, recruitment, training, terms and conditions etc, as part of the modelling, planning and decision process.

Summary of sustainability impact

35. Sustainability is a central theme of this Waste Strategy and is woven throughout the ambitions and supporting action.
36. A full Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed (Appendix 3) for this Waste Strategy, with all impacts as green/positive including for climate change & energy, waste & resource use, natural environment, communities & culture.
37. Any proposed service change, resulting from this Waste Strategy will consider the sustainability impacts, as part of the modelling, planning and decision process.

Summary of public health implications

38. Any proposed service change, resulting from this Waste Strategy will consider the public health impacts, as part of the modelling, planning and decision process.

Summary of equality implications

39. Two EIA screening tools have been completed and reviewed by the EIA panel – one for the Waste Strategy and one for the removal of the kerbside battery collections.

40. As a result of the Waste Strategy, several equality issues have been identified associated with age, disability and race.
41. Mitigating actions for the Waste Strategy impacts include:
- j. Use of plain language and pictorial information, where possible to aid understanding. A glossary has also been included to explain technical terms.
 - k. Once hosted on the BCP Council website, the Waste Strategy document can be adapted by use of text to speech and online translators.
42. As a result of removal of kerbside battery collections, several equality issues have been identified associated with age, disability, race, carers, socio-economic status and pregnancy and maternity.
43. Mitigating actions for the removal of battery collections include:
- l. Batteries can be deposited for recycling at BCP recycling centres and 50+ local shops that sell batteries. A postcode look-up will provide a list of nearby drop-off points linked from our website.
 - m. A mix of digital and non-digital communications will be used to clearly update residents on the service changes, including on the BCP Council website, social media and on bins. New bins will be embossed, and bins stickers will be used to advise against disposal of batteries in the kerbside bins.
 - n. The Customer team will be able to provide information about batteries collections, assist with location searches and answer queries via FAQs.

Summary of risk assessment

44. There are risks associated with the unknown impacts of government legislation and policies on the type and amount of waste that BCP Council will be required to collect and dispose of in the future. Detailed modelling and further waste compositional analysis will be needed before any major policy changes or waste collection service redesign. A review of collection routes across all waste streams is planned to rebalance collection rounds and maximise service efficiency.
45. There are risks associated with not meeting government targets of 65% recycling rate by 2035. These supporting actions will encourage greater diversion of recycling, food waste and garden waste to the correct bins. Greater diversion of recycling may increase our recycling rate by up to 8%, food waste collections in Poole and to flats may increase by up to 7%, relaunching food waste collections in Bournemouth and Christchurch alongside other potential service changes will need to be progressed to achieve the 65% target by 2035.
46. There are risks associated with removing of the separate battery kerbside recycling service that more batteries will be disposed of in the kerbside bins. A supporting engagement campaign with the fire service will be run to divert batteries to the many local disposal points. Bin stickers will include messages about no batteries in bins. A postcode look-up for nearest battery drop-off points will be available online.
47. Any proposed service change, resulting from this Waste Strategy will consider risk impacts, as part of the modelling, planning and decision process.

Background papers

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Kerbside waste and recycling compositional analysis: M.E.L. Waste Insights Alfred H. Knight Group 2022

WRAP (2022) & (2025) Waste and Recycling Technical Support to BCP Council

BCP Council's Residents Survey 2023

Appendices

1. Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council 2026-36
2. Waste Strategy Consultation Report
3. Decision Impact Assessment – Waste Strategy for BCP Council.

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A Waste Strategy for BCP Council

2026-2036

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Introduction

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council is a unitary authority formed in 2019. In 2024/25, we managed 188,967 tonnes of waste from 189,550 households and 3,300 businesses.

In England, household recycling rates have risen from 1% in 2000/01 to 44% in 2022/23 but have now plateaued below the 50% target set for 2020. New government targets for municipal recycling aim for 55% by 2025, increasing to 65% by 2035.

As a local council, we are legally responsible for the collection and disposal of household waste and recycling from the kerbside and for the provision and management of recycling centres for residents to deposit waste. We must offer commercial waste collections when requested.

To support sustainable waste behaviours, we engage residents and businesses in targeted waste campaigns and initiatives following the waste hierarchy to encourage reduction and reuse as a priority and promote good recycling habits.

What we do with waste and recycling after it is collected depends on factors such as the availability of local disposal facilities and a market demand for recycled products.

We must balance managing waste within council budgets, established legislation and policies to preserve resources and protect the local and global environment we live in.



The waste hierarchy

The good news is that England's management of waste is undergoing transformational change at the national level. There is an emphasis on creating a circular economy aimed at increasing waste reduction, reuse, and repair.

With much variation in waste services offered by councils across the country, new legislation will provide more consistent recycling collections for households and greater opportunities for recycling at work. New legislation will also influence the types of packaging used by producers, designing out waste and enhancing its recyclability.

The Environment Act 2021 has led to simpler recycling collections, a deposit return scheme for drinks containers and an extended producer responsibility for packaging scheme, where producers pay for disposal. The inclusion of energy from waste facilities in the emissions trading scheme



A circular economy

will encourage the decarbonisation of waste, diverting and recycling waste from the refuse stream to avoid financial penalties.

While councils have limited control over the amount and types of waste thrown away, these measures should help reduce waste, disposal of plastic and single use textiles and make recycling easier with less confusion for residents on how items can be recycled.

Ultimately the contents of rubbish and recycling bins will likely alter and methods of waste collection and disposal for households and businesses will need to adapt over the lifetime of this strategy.

This Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole sets out a pathway for managing our waste over the next ten years, with consideration to the changes and challenges coming ahead.





What remains unchanged is our commitment, we will continue to work with our residents, businesses and communities to manage our waste in the most sustainable way that we can. We will reduce our waste through prevention, reuse and repair, recycle when those things are not possible and dispose of anything that is left in the most environmentally responsible manner available.

Where we are now

Waste collections





In 2024/25, we managed 165,200 tonnes of household waste from 189,550 homes.

We collect waste from standard households using the following collection arrangements:

Collection	Residual	Recycling	Food	Garden
Frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly (Bournemouth and Christchurch)	Fortnightly subscription
Container (Litres)	1 x 180L	1 x 240L	1 x 23L outdoor container and 1 x 7L indoor kitchen caddy	1 or 2 x optional and chargeable 240L
Colour				

Additional bins can be allocated to households of 5 or more, 2 or more children in nappies or for medical reasons, subject to specific criteria.

The following containers are provided as standard to flat blocks, which make up 27% of households in the BCP area. The numbers of containers will depend on the number of flat units, and the overall capacity should approximately align to standard households:

Collection	Residual	Recycling	Food	Garden
Frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly (Bournemouth and Christchurch)	Fortnightly - subscription
Container (Litres)	660/1100L	660/1100L	140L outdoor bin and optional indoor 7L kitchen caddy	1 or 2 x optional and chargeable 240L
Colour				

We do not collect extra waste on top or outside of bins or contaminated recycling bins.

All new, replacement or extra rubbish and recycling bins must be paid for by the resident, or landlord, if the property is rented. Exemption applies where bins are reported lost or damaged by our crews during collection or where a permanent resident of the property receives certain income-based benefits.

Our waste collection guidance sets out our collection policies and instructions on our [website](#).

In the kerbside recycling bin, we can recycle mixed paper, cardboard, cartons, cans, foil, glass bottles/jars and plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays. All items should be loose, clean, dry and empty.

We offer a sharps collection, upon request for residents unable to return sharps waste to a GP or pharmacy.

Waste sites

We operate three recycling centres in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole where residents and businesses can deposit waste and recycle a wider range of items, including garden waste, electrical items, DIY waste, batteries, paint, wood, oil, coffee pods, printer cartridges and textiles.

Each recycling centre has a reuse area, where residents can leave items worthy of another life which are taken to sell at our reuse shop, new to you, currently located at Cabot Lane in Poole. We have 19 textile banks in accessible locations across the conurbation.

The three waste transfer stations we operate allow us to store and bulk waste and recycling where needed from kerbside collections and waste collected from the beach, before it is sent on for treatment or disposal.

Waste performance

In 2024/25, we diverted 89.72% of our 165,200 tonnes of household waste from landfill and achieved a recycling and composting rate of 43.9%, in-line with the national average of 44%. While high performing Councils are usually rural with higher quantities of garden waste to compost than in the BCP area, we know we can do better and want to improve our recycling performance.

Our recycling and composting rate has fallen from 53.9% in 2019/20, partially due to wood processing being reclassified from recycling to energy recovery and a reduction in collected recycling weight from lighter packaging. Household waste per person remains high at 407.18kg per year, compared to the national average of 377kg.

In 2024/25, we managed a total of 188,967 tonnes of municipal waste (waste from households and similar waste from businesses) and recycled 40.60% of it. The UK Government new targets are for municipal waste, so businesses must be encouraged to recycle too.

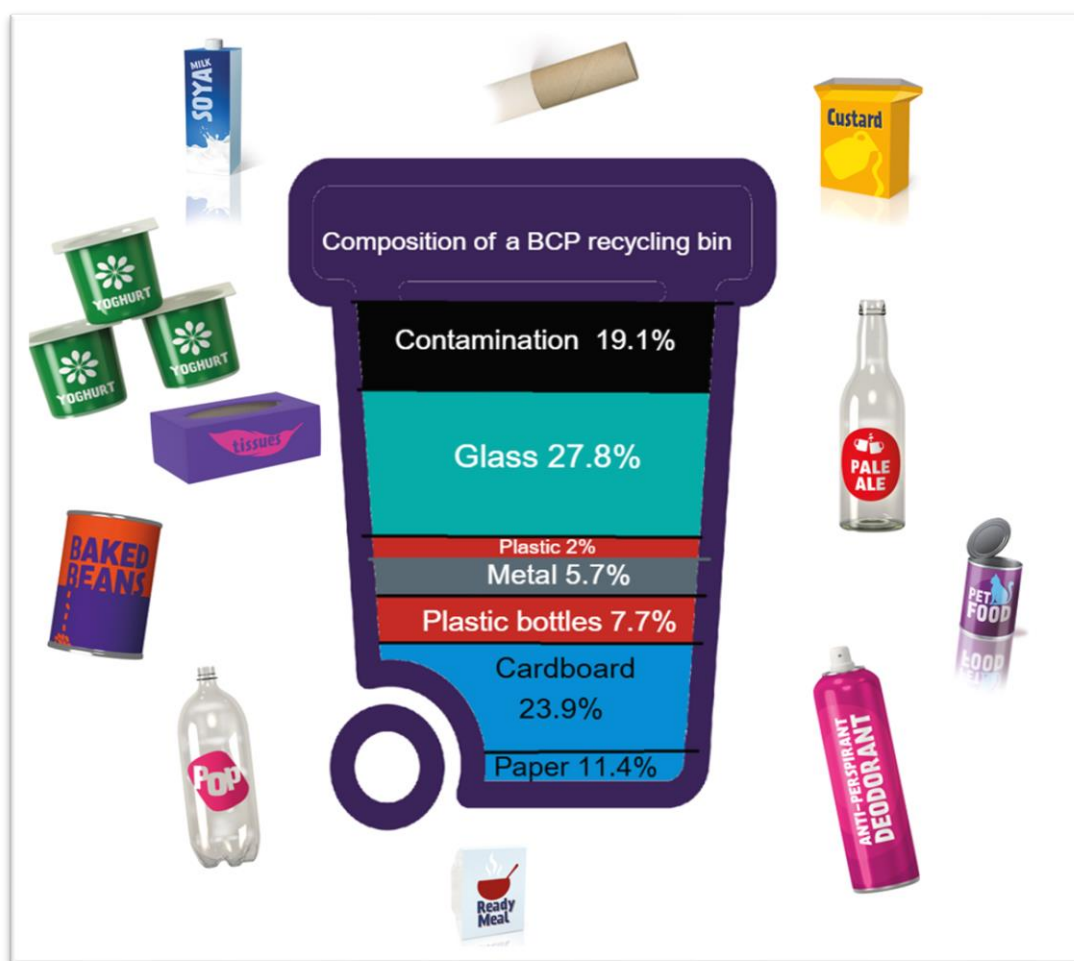
Waste analysis

In May 2022, we collected and weighed a sample of our residents' bins - a waste compositional analysis - to understand what types and amounts of waste are being put in our kerbside rubbish and recycling bins.

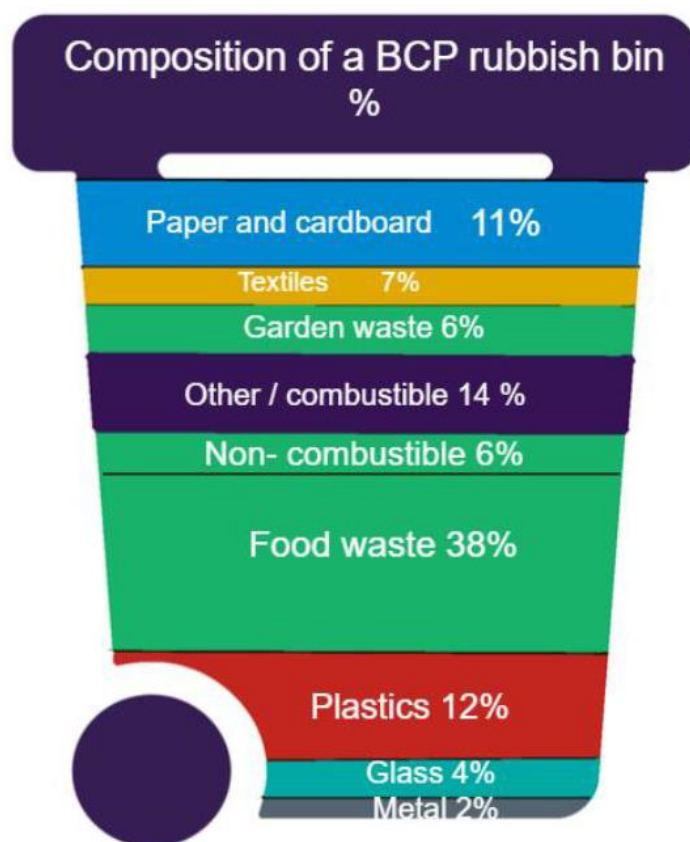
The good news is most households are recycling, 79% of households regularly put out recycling bins for collection, with an average of 3.1 kg per household per week recycled.

We can recycle mixed paper, cardboard, cartons, cans, foil, glass bottles/jars and plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays in the kerbside bin.

There is still uncertainty from residents about what goes in which bin as a result, contamination in the recycling bin has continued to increase to 19%. This is what residents put in bins, not the amount collected. Our collection crews check bins for contamination, then tag and leave contaminated bins uncollected. Contamination is removed when our recycling is separated into different material types at the Materials Recycling Facility. Contamination is primarily caused by non-recyclable plastics, wet paper or card, and food waste.



BCP households produce on average 5.7 kg of rubbish each week.



Notably, 51% of this waste in the rubbish bins could be recycled at the kerbside, showing a huge potential for improvement. There is still a substantial amount of food waste (38%) in the rubbish bins in Bournemouth and Christchurch that could be collected separately for recycling. 76% of this food waste is avoidable, so could be reduced with better planning and use of food.

Food waste collection yields in Bournemouth and Christchurch are average in comparison to other local authorities of similar type but could be improved through better communications and service updates.

Diverting recyclable waste from the rubbish bin into the kerbside recycling bin is estimated to increase our recycling rate by 8% and offer £1m of disposal costs saving. Introducing food waste collections to Poole and all flats is anticipated to increase our recycling rate by 7%. Additional diversion would be achieved by redirecting food and garden waste from the rubbish to the correct bins.

Proportion that is recyclable	
Paper and card	5%
Garden waste	4%
Food waste	34%
Plastic	3%
Metals	1%
Glass	4%
Total recyclable content	51%

Resident satisfaction

The BCP Council's Residents' Survey 2023 reported 81% of respondents were satisfied with our waste collection service, a 1% decrease since 2021. When asked about our local tips and household waste recycling centres, 58% of respondents were satisfied. However, of the 64% of respondents that have used one of our recycling centres in the past year, 80% were satisfied with the service.

Carbon impact

In 2022, waste contributed 3% of the total greenhouse gas emissions within the BCP area. A 2024 carbon impact assessment highlighted expanding food waste collection across BCP would reduce total carbon emissions, through lower residual waste emissions and an increase in recycling. Vehicle emissions would slightly increase due to expanded collections, but overall environmental impact would be significantly improved.

What happens to our waste?

Residual waste is processed through Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities or sent to landfill. There are currently no local energy from waste facilities and only one landfill site. Residual waste is therefore transported long distances for disposal, with the end destination dependent on available capacity, market conditions and economic contracts.

Mixed dry recycling is transferred to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Kent, where it is separated into different material streams for recycling. Recycling is a worldwide commodity that is bought and sold daily - as there is more recycled waste than is required by UK businesses, the value is therefore dependent on worldwide economic and trade conditions.

Food waste is processed at an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant in Dorset, producing biogas and bio-fertiliser, while garden waste is composted in open windrow at Hurn. A new biogas facility is being built at Hurn for additional food waste from the BCP and surrounding areas.

The council currently disposes and recycles 188,967 tonnes of waste under various contracts that are due to expire during the period of this strategy. The UK waste management model is for contracts to be put in place between waste collectors and waste disposal/recycling sites, sometimes through a third party.

We currently have contracts with 13 different suppliers to dispose of our waste and recycling, with some end destinations in the UK and some across the world.



Commercial waste services

There are nearly 15,400 businesses in our area, 89% of which are micro-businesses with fewer than 10 employees.



We offer commercial waste collections tailored to the specific needs of the business for refuse, recycling and food waste and have a customer base of 3,300. Commercial weighbridges operate at Bournemouth and Poole Recycling Centres, where businesses can dispose of general waste, wood, green waste, soil/rubble and recycling, in 100kg increments to offer a cost-effective solution for small amounts of waste.

Food waste and recycling collection uptake has increased since April 2025, when businesses with 10 or more employees were required legally to arrange separate collections for food waste and recycling. Businesses with under 10 employees will be required to arrange separate collections of recycling and food waste from 31 March 2027.

Additional services operated by our commercial team include bulky household waste collection, skip hire, and grab bags for smaller waste quantities.

Waste prevention campaigns

We encourage residents and businesses to reduce and reuse their waste where possible through various campaigns and initiatives including:

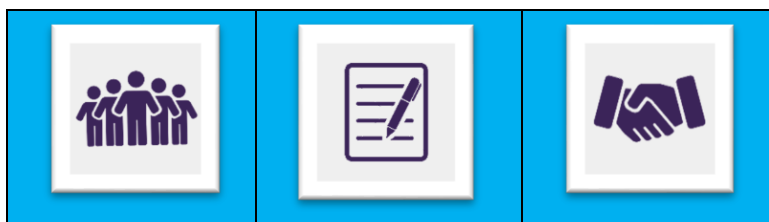
- The Schools Environment Award which promotes eco-friendly behaviours in primary schools
- Reusable nappies incentive scheme offering vouchers, cashback and starter kits to parents
- Love Food Hate Waste campaign to reduce food waste
- Zero waste projects map highlighting local sustainability initiatives such as Repair Cafés, Community Fridges, Toy Libraries, and reusable nappy retailers.
- Home composting to encourage garden and food waste reduction at source
- new to you reuse shop in Poole sells items collected for reuse from recycling centres, supporting waste diversion and reuse.

Waste budgets

In 2024/25, we spent £17.3m on waste collection and sites, plus £19.4m disposing of waste and recycling. The waste service generated £10m of income from our commercial waste, garden waste services and sale of some recycling. In 2025/26 the Council received £9.4m of funding from packaging producers through a new national tax on packaging producers.

The net waste management budget is now around £17.3 million per annum, although this can change quite quickly because of new national government policies and regulations, RPI/CPI, the weather (growing conditions), the country's economic status and events that affect the world economy.

Key drivers – why do we need to act?



Waste growth

Between 2022-2024, our population increased by between 0.6 -1% each year to 408,967. In the last five years, 6,000 new properties have been built in our area and with a government target of 2,958 additional builds each year, our population and waste are set to increase. This may result in the generation of an additional 25,674 tonnes of waste per annum in the BCP area by 2036, although other waste reduction policies will impact tonnage too.

National waste policies and legislation

Waste management in the UK is governed by legislation and policies that prioritise the circular economy, reduce landfill reliance, eliminate avoidable waste and increase recycling and resource efficiency. The Environmental Protection Act 1990, Landfill Tax and Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 set out legal duties concerning waste management, waste reduction and recycling targets.

In December 2018, the Government published 'Our Waste, Our Resources: a Strategy for England'. This strategy and UK's Circular Economy Package that followed, set targets for at least 65% of municipal waste to be recycled by 2035, with no more than 10% ending up in landfill and the elimination of food waste to landfill by 2030.

The Environment Act 2021 specifies requirements for improved recycling collections, with the introduction of statutory food waste collections from every household and business, collection of a core set of materials for recycling, including plastic film by 2027 and separated paper and cardboard, unless separate collections are technically, environmentally or economically unpracticable. This act also introduced the legal framework for:

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging, which makes businesses responsible for the full cost of dealing with the packaging they produce or import once it becomes waste, shifting the financial burden from councils, encouraging better packaging design and more sustainable material use. Councils need to demonstrate they are providing 'efficient and effective' waste services to receive funding.
- Deposit return scheme (DRS) where to reduce litter and boost recycling, from October 2027, a small deposit will be paid for a plastic drinks bottle or can, which is refunded when the container is returned to a shop or return point. This scheme may substantially reduce the number of plastic bottles and cans recycled by residents in our kerbside recycling bins.

There is an increasing momentum to ban types of waste from landfill, such as biodegradable waste, upholstered domestic seating due to chemicals used historically in their manufacture and potentially carpet.

The government is committed to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042, with a plastic tax introduced in 2022, single use plastic ban from 2023 and the inclusion of energy from waste facilities in the emissions trading scheme in 2028, which will have substantial financial implications for councils unless we can reduce high carbon materials such as plastics, textiles and sanitary waste in our rubbish bins.

By the end of 2025, the government plan to establish a comprehensive Circular Economy Strategy for England, supported by the Circular Economy Taskforce, which aims to shift from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a circular economy that maximises product and material lifespan through repair, reuse, and recycling. The taskforce will initially focus on the five priority sectors which are textiles, transport, construction, agri-food, chemicals and plastics.

As a result of these government policies, we will need to build in flexibility to contracts, demonstrate effective and efficient collections to receive EPR payments and adapt our waste and recycling services to accommodate legislative requirements and changes in the type and amount of waste we are required to collect and dispose.

Aligning with our corporate strategies

This Waste Strategy aligns with and supports our Corporate Strategy—A Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The corporate vision aims to connect people, nature, coast and towns to build sustainable, safe, and healthy communities.

The Waste Strategy is linked to the council's strategic priorities, which are built on values of openness, transparency, and accountability. Our approach ensures that people remain central to our services and decisions, guided by clear principles focused on place, environment, and community wellbeing. Highlighted as a specific focus area in our Corporate Strategy and rooted in this Waste Strategy is to *Ensure the BCP area has sufficient fit-for purpose waste infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.*

In July 2019, we declared a climate and ecological emergency. This significant step demonstrates our commitment to addressing climate change and mobilising resources and community efforts towards a sustainable future. We are committed to making our operations carbon neutral by 2030 and for the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole area to be net zero by 2045, 5 years ahead of the national target.

Waste disposal contracts

We need to retender some of our major waste disposal contracts as our current contracts end in August 2027. Retendering currently is risky and challenging as market conditions are changing and there is uncertainty around the impact of the government's new waste reforms on the type and amount of waste we need to collect. New government policy changes may substantially increase waste collection and treatment costs. This waste strategy will provide a framework to support compliance and contract procurement.

Planning and development

The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019) outlines strategies for waste facility development through 2033, focusing on the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency, and environmental protection. Local planning policies specify that waste storage guidelines should be considered in new developments.

Enhance our service performance

From the waste analysis we can divert 51% of our waste from the rubbish bin for recycling or composting. This will action resource efficiency and deliver financial benefits in disposal costs. Reducing our waste and recycling as much as we can is right thing to do to help preserve our global natural resources for generations to come.

Consultation

A public consultation on this Waste Strategy was held in June 2025 to better understand the needs of residents and to seek their views on our proposed ambitions. This consultation was hosted online with the option for residents to request a paper copy and a total of 312 responses were received.

There was broad support from respondents for the ambitions. Residents were looking for recycling to be as straightforward and accessible as possible with clear instructions to minimise confusion regarding harder to recycle items. Residents were in favour of improving initiatives and schemes to facilitate the repair, reuse and rehoming of items but felt they needed further support to do this.

There was a strong view that services should be consistent across BCP and for better education and communication to help both residents and businesses understand how to recycle items correctly.

Our ambitions and supporting actions

Considering where we are now, the future factors that will likely impact waste in the BCP area and what residents have said in the consultation, seven ambitions and supporting actions have been developed, prioritising waste prevention and service improvements.

1. Engage and enable residents and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more

Our ambition is to support our communities to reduce their waste and encourage reuse and repair through education, engagement and services.



You told us:

- You strongly support education and communication to understand waste reduction and recycling.
- You would welcome more information on campaigns that support zero waste projects to assist with reuse and repair
- You would like to receive information of this type via email or on our website.
- You support the introduction of community-based reuse and repair initiatives to help reduce waste.
- You would like to see targeted campaigns focused at specific groups such as landlords, businesses and young people.

We plan to do this by:

- 1.1 Clearly communicating updates on the different materials that can and cannot be recycled in the kerbside recycling bin and at recycling centres
- 1.2 Promoting our comprehensive, flexible and bespoke commercial waste, recycling and food waste collections offered to businesses across the BCP area
- 1.3 Embedding the Reuse and Repair Declaration to support repair and reuse initiatives like the Repair Cafés and other organisations promoting repair and reuse across the BCP area through access to networks and space, and funds where available.
- 1.4 Relocating new to you reuse shop to a more accessible centralised location and considering opportunities to enhance the offer such as opening on additional days or running reuse or repair workshops.
- 1.5 Relaunching the School Environment Award for all schools, supporting them raising awareness about local and global environmental issues and empowering pupils to take charge of their future through environmental projects.
- 1.6 Exploring incentives for the use of reusable products such as sanitary products.

2. Use circular economy and waste hierarchy principles

The circular economy keeps items in use for as long as possible, a cycle of reuse, repair, and recycling to minimise waste and lengthen the lifecycle of products instead of a linear system where items are made, used and then thrown away. We will look for opportunities to support these practices in our own waste services and across the wider organisation.

We want to use the waste hierarchy across the board, not just when we have a legal obligation to follow it.

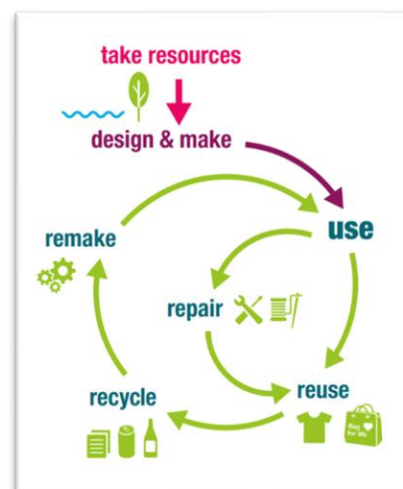


You told us:

- You would like more opportunities and support to repair, rehome and repurpose items.
- You would like to see more community- based reuse and repair initiatives.

We plan to do this by:

- 2.1 Embed the circular economy and waste hierarchy into strategy, policy, and service design across the council.
- 2.2 Prioritise reducing waste, reusing materials, recycling, and recovering energy from non-recyclable waste, while using landfills only when other options are not feasible.
- 2.3 Develop waste services to boost closed-loop recycling and keep materials in use instead of sending them to landfill.



3. Achieve waste and carbon targets

Our ambition is to meet waste targets set by government to recycle 65% of waste and send less than 10% to landfill by 2035. Contributing towards the council's commitment to carbon neutrality from our operations by 2030 and the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole area by 2045, ahead of the UK's 2050 target.

You told us:

- You support the ambition to have sustainable waste targets.
- You would like to see challenging but achievable waste targets for household and businesses.

We aim to:

- 3.1 Achieve waste targets for landfill diversion (>90%) and recycling targets (>65%) by 2035
- 3.2 Contribute to our carbon targets by reducing vehicle and disposal emissions associated with waste and recycling.

We plan to achieve these targets through the supporting actions set out in this Waste Strategy.



4. Deliver effective and efficient waste collections

Our ambition is to deliver waste collection services that efficiently manage available resources and provide reliable and comprehensive collections for residents and commercial organisations.

You told us:

- Having a consistent food waste service across BCP was a priority.
- You would like to be able to recycle more items at home such as plastic bags and wrappers, small electricals and textiles.
- Your rubbish bins are not usually full by collection day, but your recycling bins are more often.
- You would be happy to further separate your recyclable items further at home
- Clearer instructions from us to make it easier to recycle at home.



We plan to do this by:

- 4.1 Delivering food waste collections to all in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Food waste collections will be introduced to Poole residents and flats in Bournemouth from April 2026. Bournemouth and Christchurch households without a food waste container can request one for free.
- 4.2 Relaunching food waste collections for Bournemouth and Christchurch residents, using targeted communications and service updates to improve ongoing participation in food waste recycling.
- 4.3 Reviewing the frequency of rubbish collections. Initial modelling suggests by collecting your rubbish less often (three or four weekly), we would increase our recycling rate by between 6-8% while reducing our carbon impact and costs.
- 4.4 Banning items in kerbside rubbish bins that can be recycled in other bins such as food waste, garden waste and recycling (where collections are available) Using a sticker on the rubbish bin or embossed into new rubbish bin lids as an educational tool.
- 4.5 Considering a twin stream recycling service, a system where your recycling is collected in two separate containers - one for paper and card (fibres) and one for glass, cans and plastic (bottles and containers). Right now, our modelling suggests separate collections would cost a lot more to operate and increase our carbon impact as more collection vehicles would be needed. We will continue to review twin stream recycling as this is the government's preferred option for recycling collections.
- 4.6 Expanding our kerbside recycling collections to include more materials, such as other types of plastics. Plastic bags and film will be collected for recycling from 2027.

- 4.7 Communicating updates on the different materials that can and cannot be recycled in the kerbside recycling bin and at recycling centres.
- 4.8 Reviewing recycling collection options for textiles, small electricals and batteries. Batteries will not be collected with other kerbside recycling due to the fire risk.
- 4.9 Align communal bin collections from flats with standard households where possible. When extra collections are required due to space restrictions, additional bins and collections will be charged for to recover collection costs.

5. Dispose of waste sustainably

Our ambition is to use waste disposal and recycling methods that reduce our environmental impact, conserve resources for future use, and where possible use the most modern waste management technologies.

You told us:

- You strongly supported this ambition
- You supported waste being treated within 100 miles of BCP



We plan to do this by:

- 5.1 Tendering waste disposal contracts that embed the waste hierarchy and minimise the use of landfill.
- 5.2 Using technologies that make us more efficient subject to market conditions and cost.
- 5.3 Prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as it needs to and reduces the significant carbon impact of transporting waste.
- 5.4 Compliance with government policies so we meet our legal requirements and redesigning services if needed to meet that compliance.
- 5.5 Considering environmental impact of available facilities.
- 5.6 Responding to market conditions and providing value for money for BCP Council and national taxpayer.

6. Use modern waste infrastructure

Our ambition is to improve our waste sites and infrastructure by using industry advancements and technological innovations, ensuring continued efficiency in our waste collection and disposal operations.

You told us:

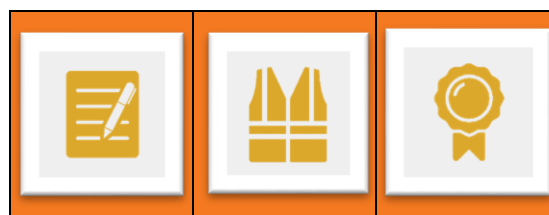
- You would like to see more items accepted at our recycling centres such as hard plastics.
- To have easy access to recycling centres without restrictive policies or booking systems.
- Provide more local reuse facilities.
- More educational opportunities and information at our recycling centres.

We plan to do this by:

- 6.1 Reviewing our recycling centre policies and van permit scheme to manage commercial waste abuse more effectively.
- 6.2 Setting up 'sort it' areas at recycling centres to help residents to separate their waste for reuse and recycling and making it easier to leave suitable items for the BCP re-use shop new to you.
- 6.3 Considering opportunities to reuse and recycle additional items at recycling centres such as paint, plastics, carpet.
- 6.4 Mapping out our requirements for long-term sustainable waste facilities and infrastructure in the BCP area for the next generation, which will include fit for purpose depot facilities, appropriate waste transfer capacity and a review of recycling centre locations.
- 6.5 Considering the use of underground bins in public areas and in locations where standard collection methods are not effective or efficient to overcome issues with space, bin blight, and offer collection efficiency. Work with planning teams to guide developers and identify opportunities for service growth.

7. Deliver futureproof and safe services

Our ambition is to ensure our services adapt with our legal requirements while safely operating our collection services and waste sites in compliance with our operational waste permits.



We plan to do this by:

- 7.1 Horizon scanning for future government policy and collaborating with other councils, industry networks and businesses to adapt.
- 7.2 Reviewing our bin replacement charging policy to ensure collections can operate safely
- 7.3 Banning items in kerbside bins that may cause fire such as vapes, batteries, small electricals. These can be taken to recycling centres for recycling.
- 7.4 Reviewing our site permits issued by the Environment Agency to ensure permit compliance and opportunities for service and site improvements.

Next steps

This Waste Strategy for BCP Council sets out a pathway for the next 10 years. We will embed the ambitions and supporting actions outlined in this strategy into our service and team plans for progression and delivery.

We will monitor success using the waste and carbon targets of Ambition 3 to:

- Achieve our waste targets of landfill diversion (>90%) by 2035
- Achieve our recycling targets (>65%) by 2035
- Contributing towards the council's commitment carbon neutrality from our operations by 2030 by reducing vehicle and disposal emissions associated with waste and recycling

It is likely within these timeframes that there will be huge changes in national policy and legislation, shifts in waste composition and tonnages, emerging technologies and evolving public attitudes towards waste, all of which will influence how we manage our waste services in the BCP area. For this purpose, this strategy must be flexible and adaptable with a review at least every five years or in the case of any substantial change in legislation.

Glossary

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) – A process that breaks down organic waste such as food waste to produce biogas - a renewable energy which can be used to generate heat and electricity and by products known as digestate which can be used as fertiliser and compost.

Bring banks – small recycling points located in public areas for items such as textiles which are not collected at kerbside.

Carbon Impact Assessment – Evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions from waste services.

Circular Economy – An economic model focused on reuse, repair, and recycling to minimise waste with the intention that maximum use is extracted from resources and minimum waste is generated for disposal.

Contamination – Non-recyclable or incorrectly sorted materials in recycling bins.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – A system where consumers pay a deposit on plastic and aluminium drinks containers which is refunded upon return.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) – A government-led system designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It sets a limit (or "cap") on the total emissions allowed from certain sectors.

Energy from Waste (EfW) – Facilities that generate energy by incinerating waste.

Energy recovery - a waste treatment process used to recover energy and new raw materials from the waste. Recovery waste treatment processes include anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW).

Environment Act 2021 – UK legislation introducing reforms such as Simpler Recycling, Deposit Return Scheme, and Extended Producer Responsibility.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – A policy approach where producers are responsible for the cost of dealing with the packing waste they produce. This means producers must help pay for recycling and disposal, encouraging them to design packaging that is easier to recycle and less harmful to the environment.

Kerbside Collection – Waste and recycling collected directly from households.

Landfill Diversion – The proportion of waste not sent to landfill.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) – A plant where mixed recyclables are sorted into separate material streams.

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) – A process that mechanically and biologically treats residual waste.

Municipal recycling - Recycling of waste collected by or on behalf of a local authority. It includes household waste and some commercial or public sector waste (like from schools or offices) that is similar in nature and composition to household waste.

Organic Waste – Biodegradable waste including food and garden waste.

Procurement - The process of buying goods, works and services from third parties and in-house providers.

Recyclables – Materials that can be processed and reused, such as paper, glass, metals, and certain plastics.

Recycling rate – The percentage of total waste that is recycled or composted.

Residual waste – Waste that is not reused, recycled, composted or anaerobically digested.

Sharps collection – A service for collecting medical sharps waste from residents.

Simpler recycling - A government initiative introduced through the Environment Act 2021 to make recycling easier and more consistent across England. It requires all councils to collect a standard set of recyclable materials from households and businesses, including food waste and plastic film, by 2027. The aim is to reduce confusion, improve recycling rates, and support a circular economy.

Unitary authority - A type of local government that is responsible for all local services in its area. Unlike areas with separate county and district councils, a unitary authority handles everything from waste collection and housing to education and transport. BCP Council is a unitary authority.

Waste composition analysis – A study of the types and quantities of waste in bins.

Waste hierarchy - The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact.

Waste infrastructure - The buildings, equipment, and systems used to manage waste such as recycling centres, waste transfer stations, collection vehicles and bins.

Background Reports

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole kerbside waste and recycling compositional analysis:
M.E.L. Waste Insights Alfred H. Knight Group 2022

BCP Council's Residents Survey 2023

WRAP (2022) & (2025) Waste and Recycling Technical Support to BCP Council

Waste Strategy Consultation Report 2025

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Waste Strategy Consultation Report

July 2025

Methodology

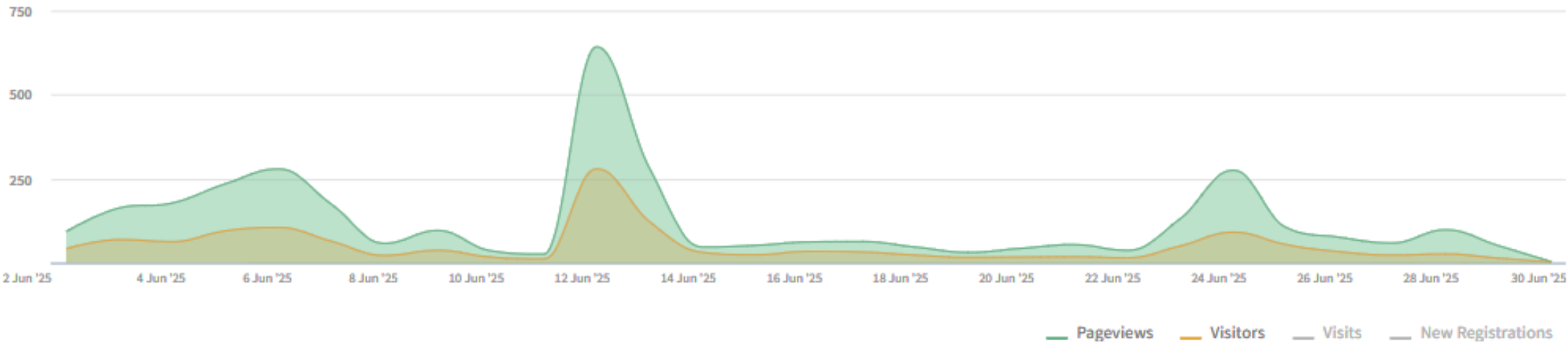
- The consultation ran from 2 June 2025 to 29 June 2025
- It was available at haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Waste-strategy
- Paper copies were available in libraries
- The consultation was also promoted at Council Recycling Centres
- The following formats were available:
 - online survey
 - paper surveys

Consultation webpage visits



Visitors Summary

Have Your Say Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole from 02 Jun'25 to 30 Jun'25



Aware Visitors (viewed EHQ page)	Informed Visitors (Interacted with EHQ page)	Engaged Visitors (Completed survey online)
1288	770	303

Social Media Activity

5 posts were published on our social media channels during the consultation

89

Channel	Reach	Impressions	Engagement
Facebook	9.1k	9.7k	628
Instagram	1.6k	2.6k	14
X	-	-	-
LinkedIn	-	1.2	32
Total	10,706	13,521	674

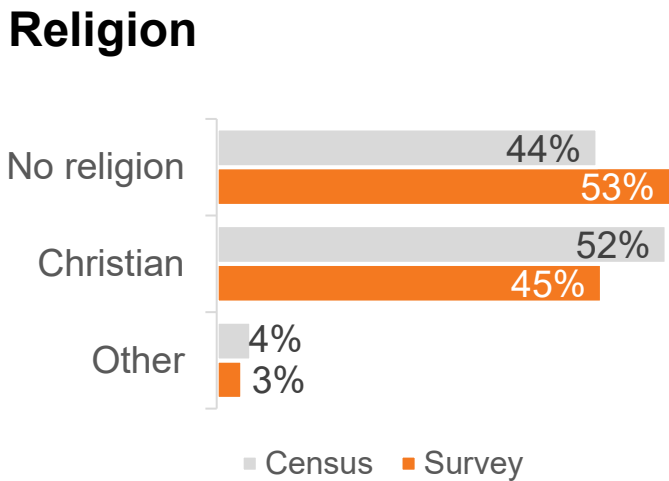
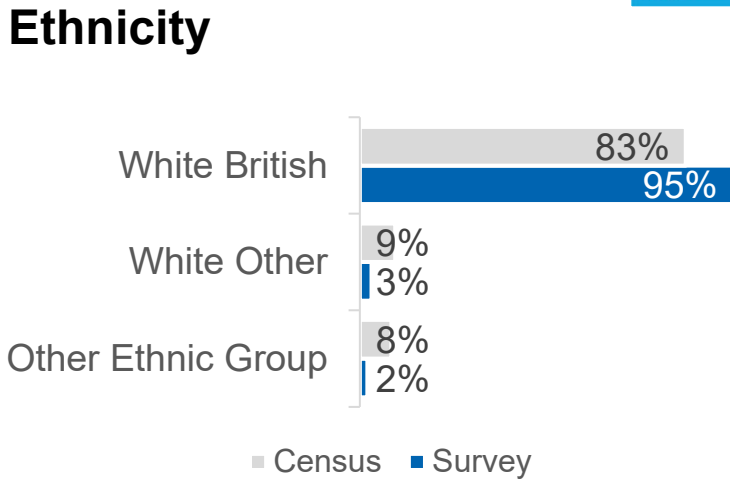
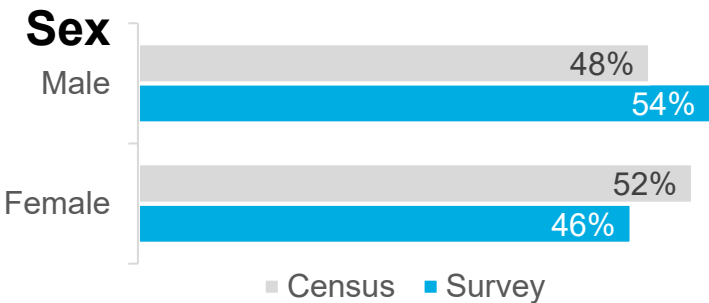
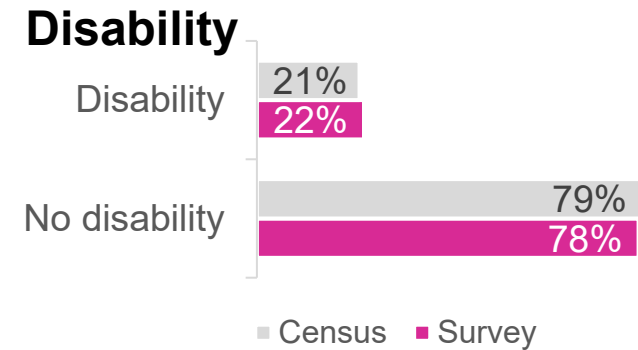
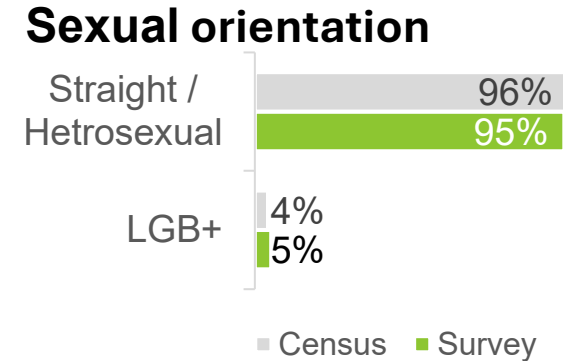
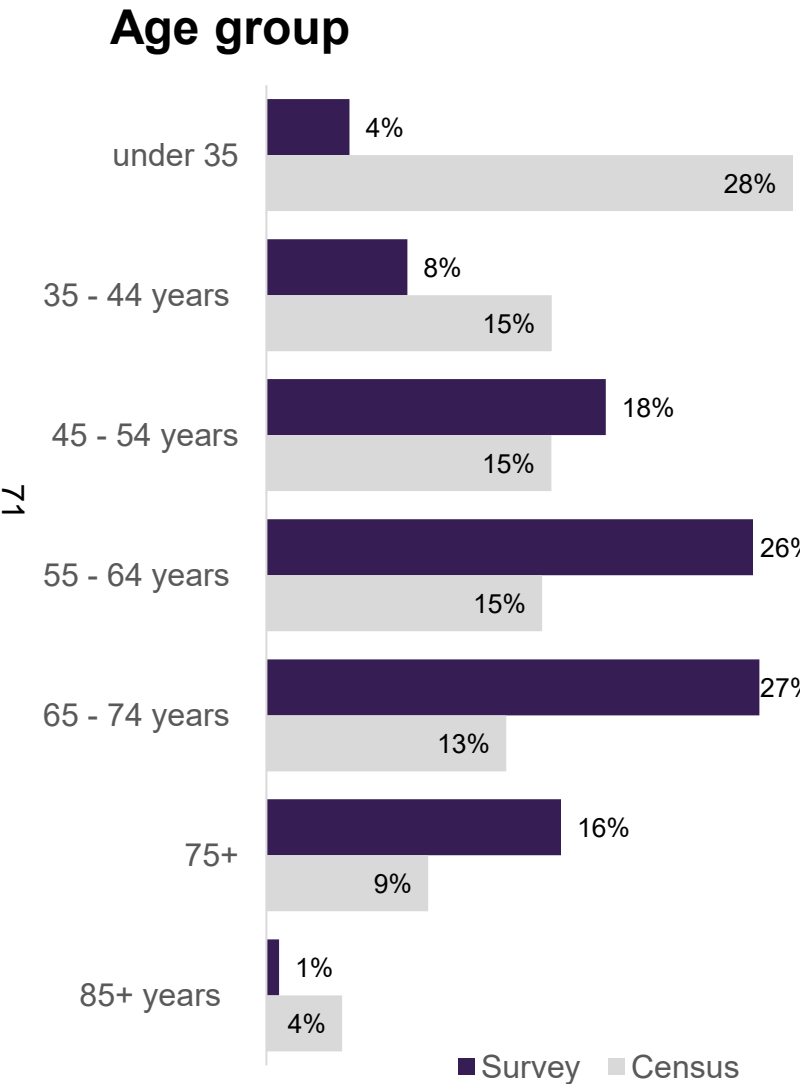
Survey Findings

Response

Total number of surveys completed	Number completed on-line	Number of paper surveys completed
312	303	9

- 303 respondents said they were responding as an individual
- 2 respondents said they were responding as a business and an individual
- 7 did not answer

Respondent profile



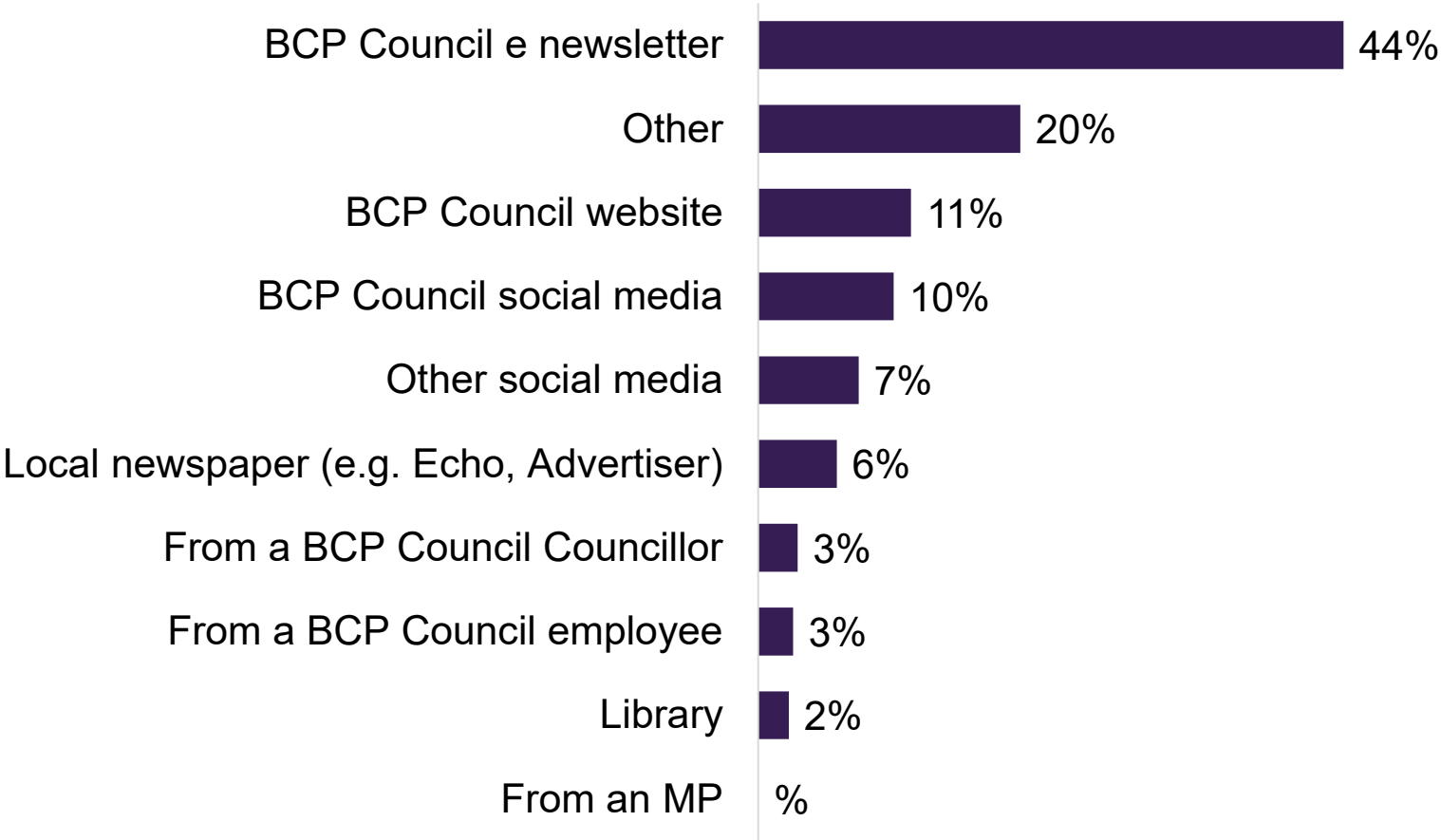
How did you find out about the consultation?



By BCP Council e newsletter was the most popular way of finding out about the consultation at 44%

Other responses included:

- Residents Association
- Facebook
- A friend
- Neighbour
- Someone from household
- Residents' magazine
- Repair Café
- BCP Staff intranet
- Have your say home page



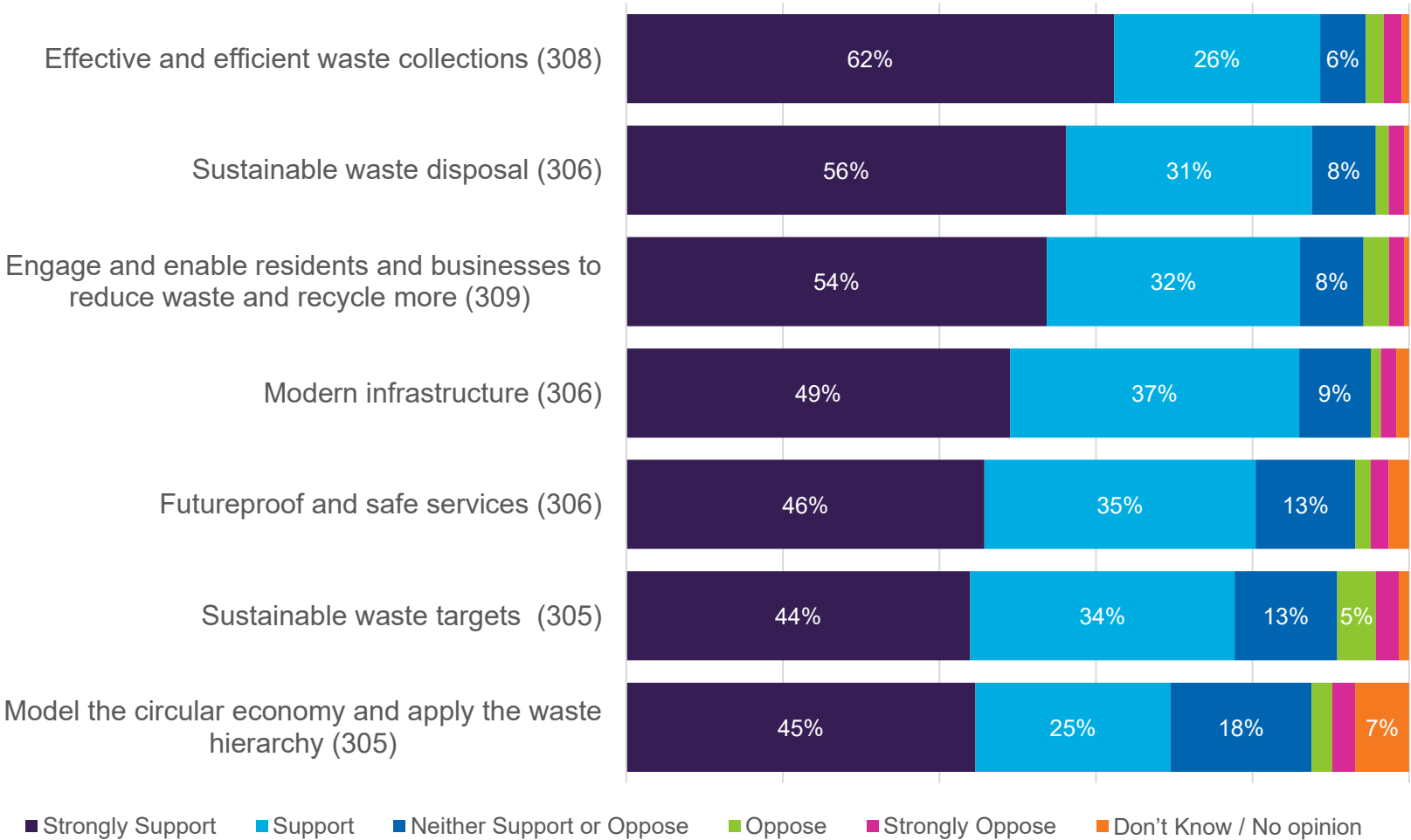
Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?



Effective and efficient waste collections had **the most support** (273)

Sustainable waste targets has **the most opposed** responses (24)

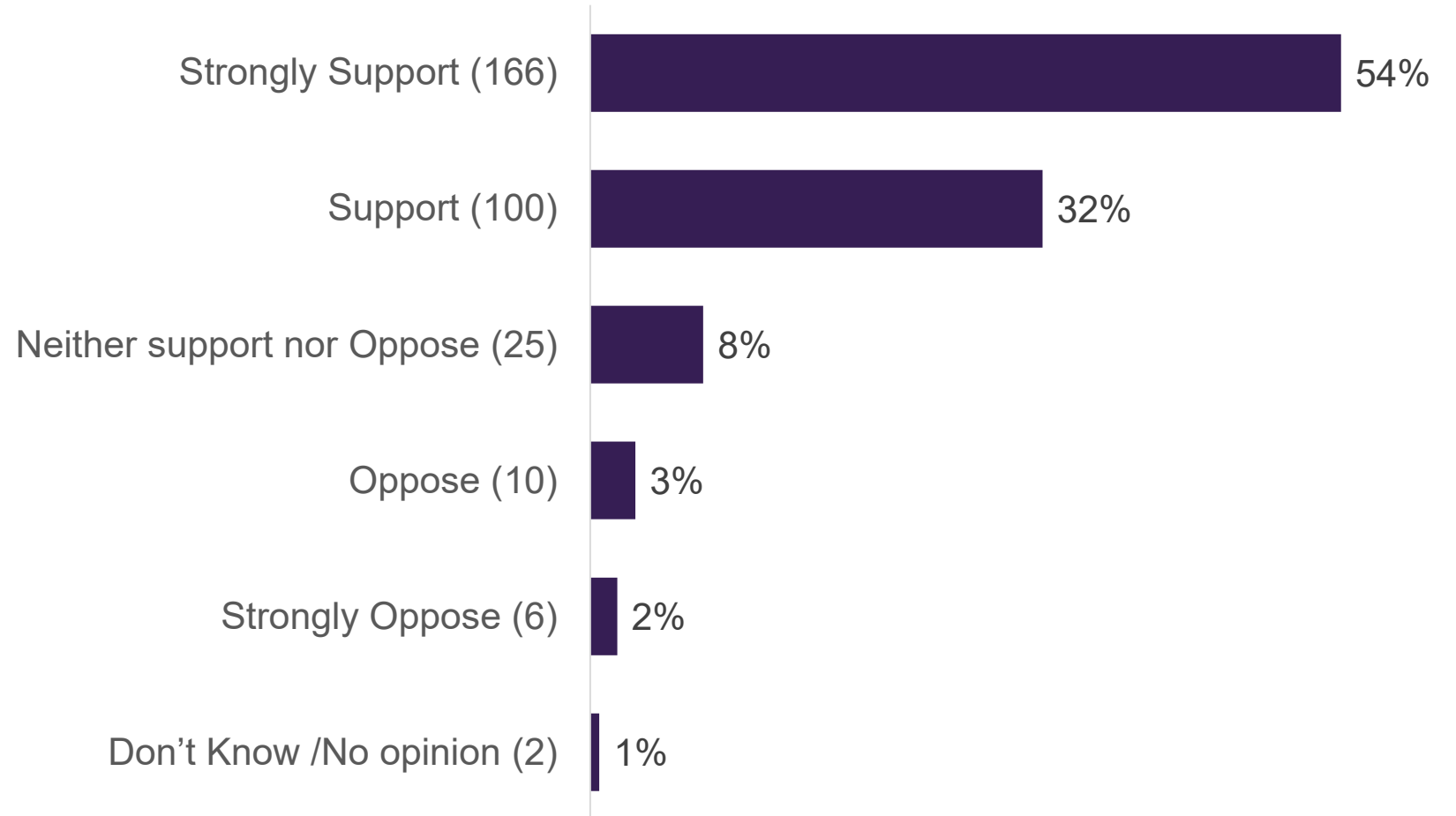
Model the circular economy and apply the waste hierarchy had the **most don't knows** (21)



Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?

Engage and enable residents and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more

74 86% of those who responded supported the ambition

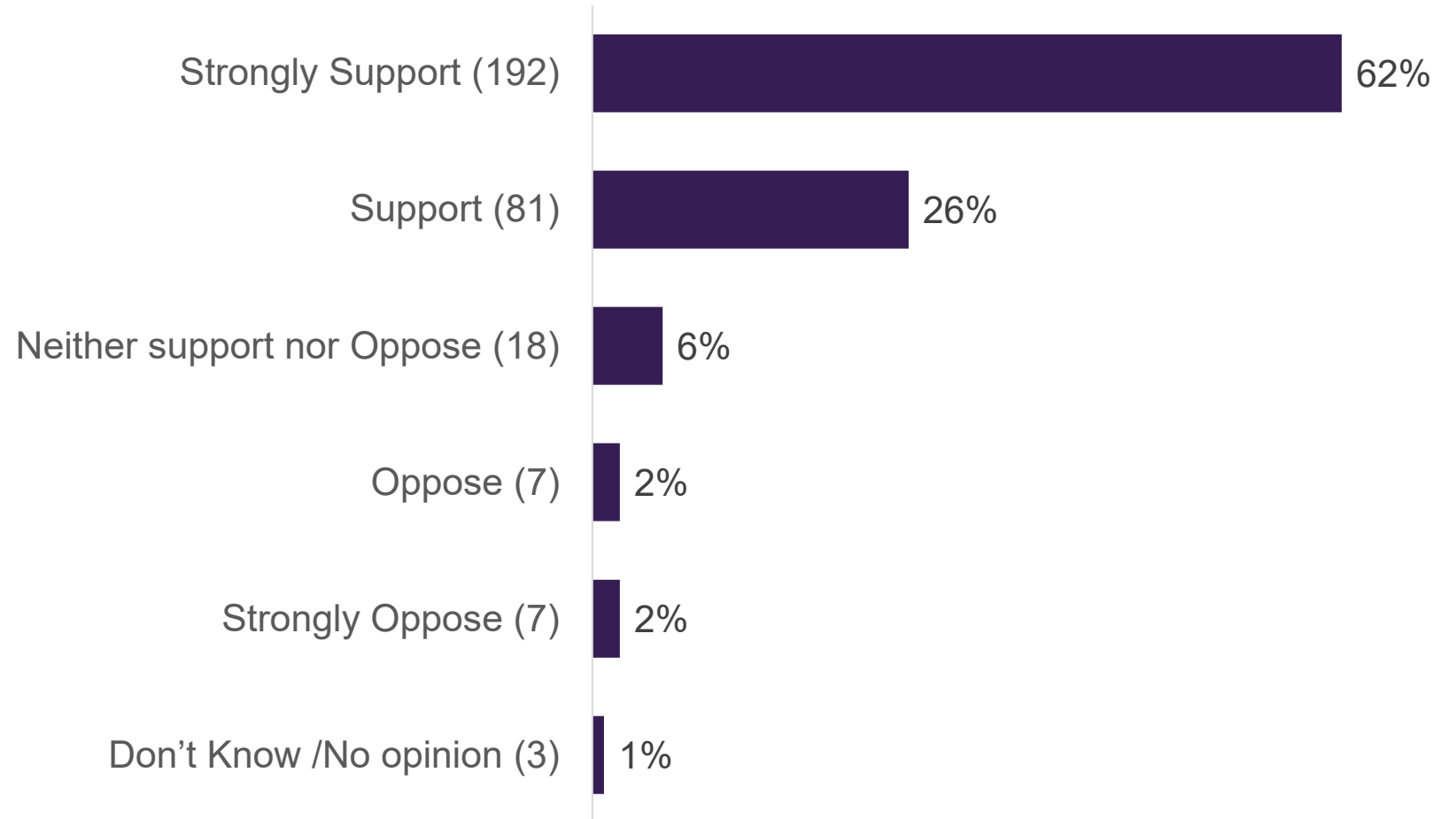


Base 309

Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?

Effective and efficient waste collections

75 88% of those who responded supported the ambition



Base 308

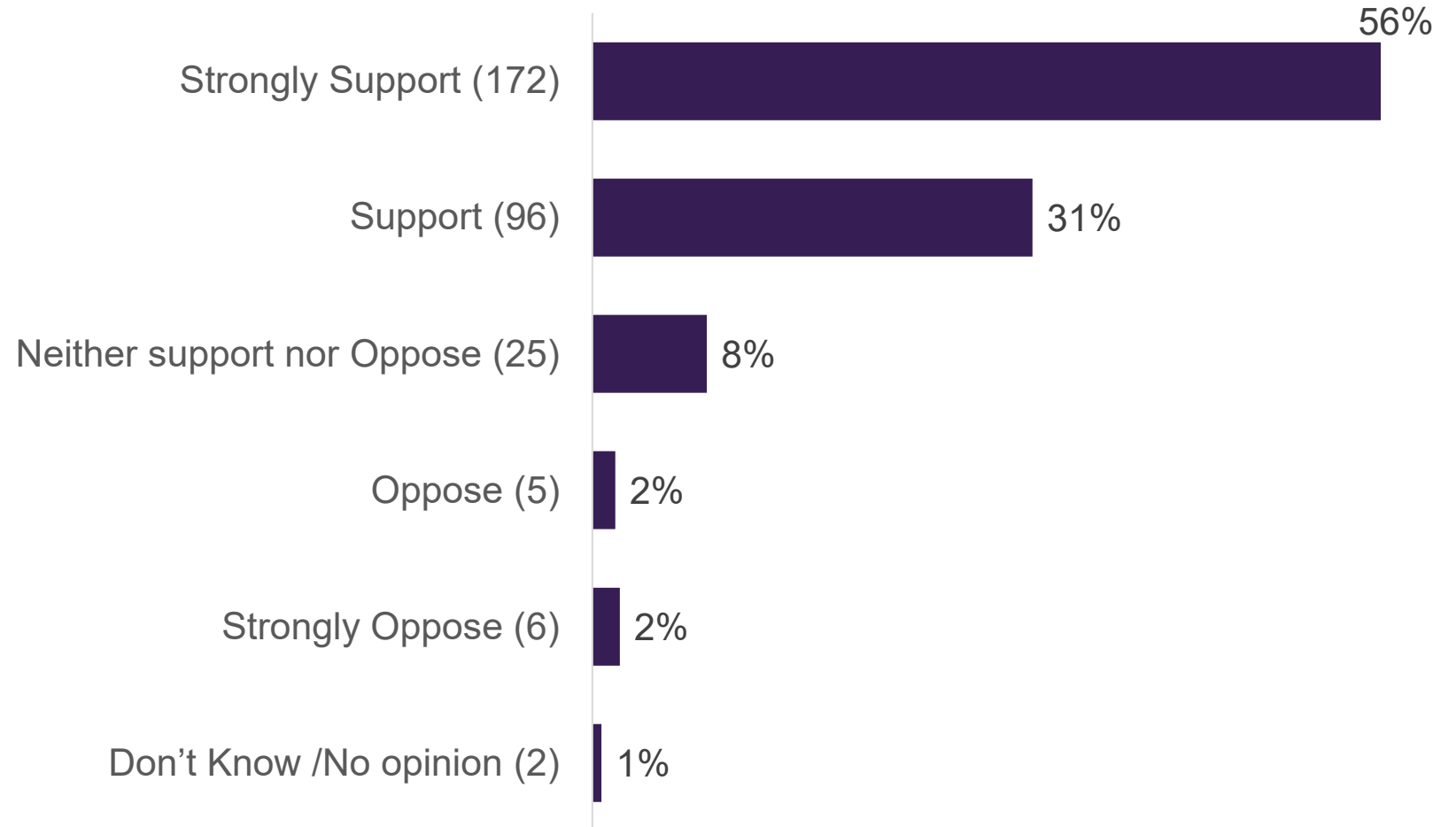
Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?



Sustainable waste disposal

76

87% of those who responded supported the ambition

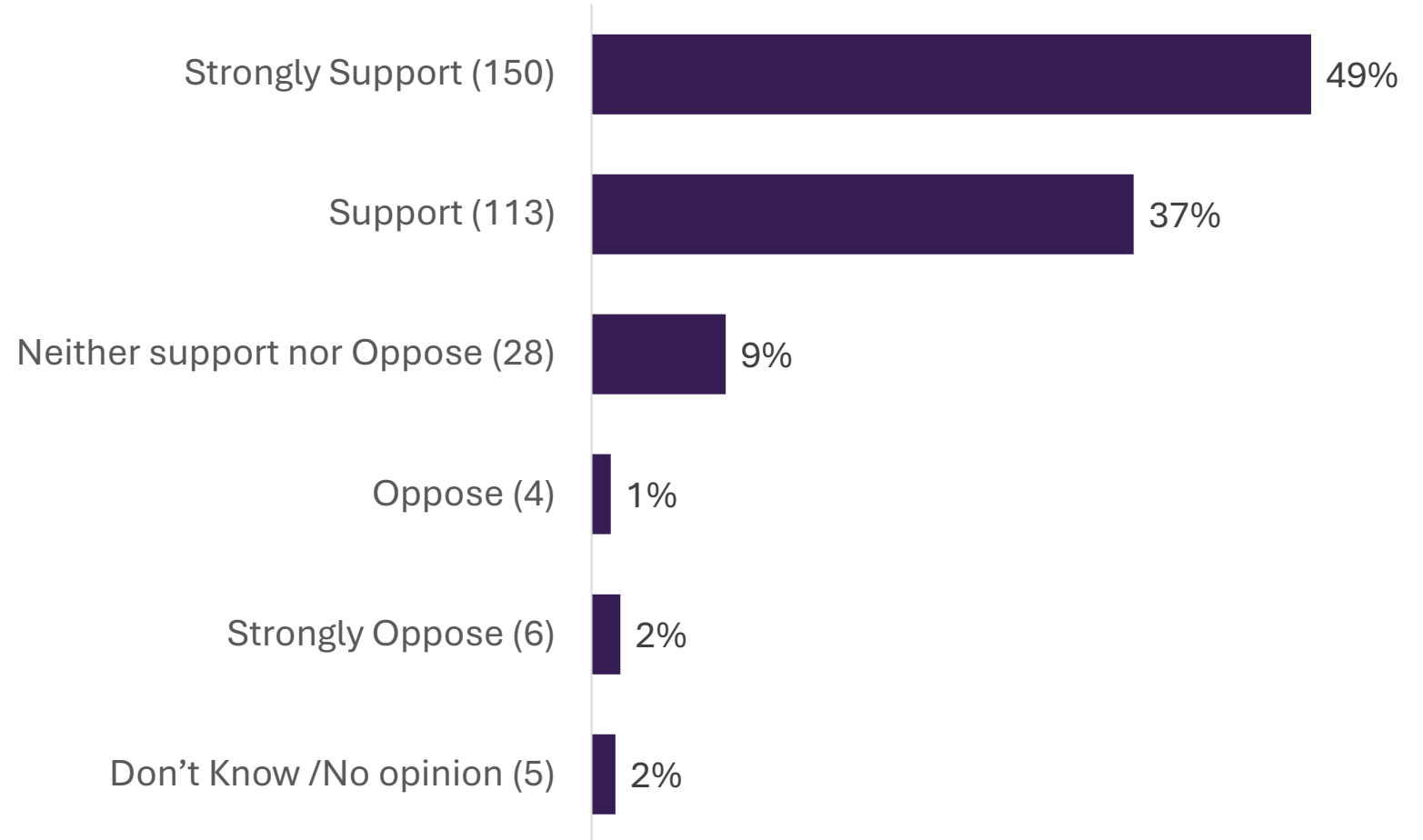


Base 306

Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?

Modern infrastructure

77 86% of those who responded supported the ambition

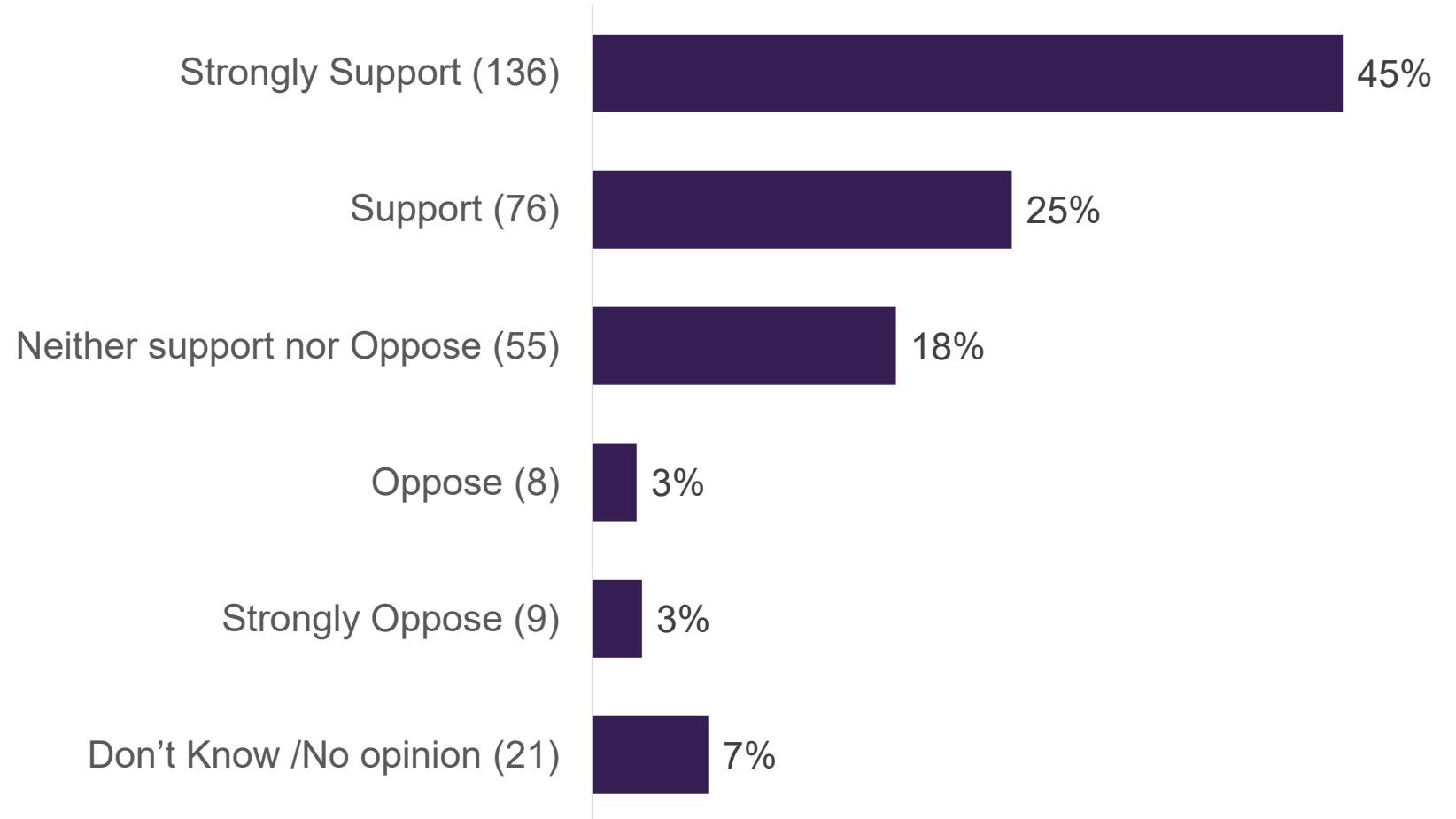


Base 306

Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?

Model the circular economy and apply the waste hierarchy

82 70% of those who responded supported the ambition

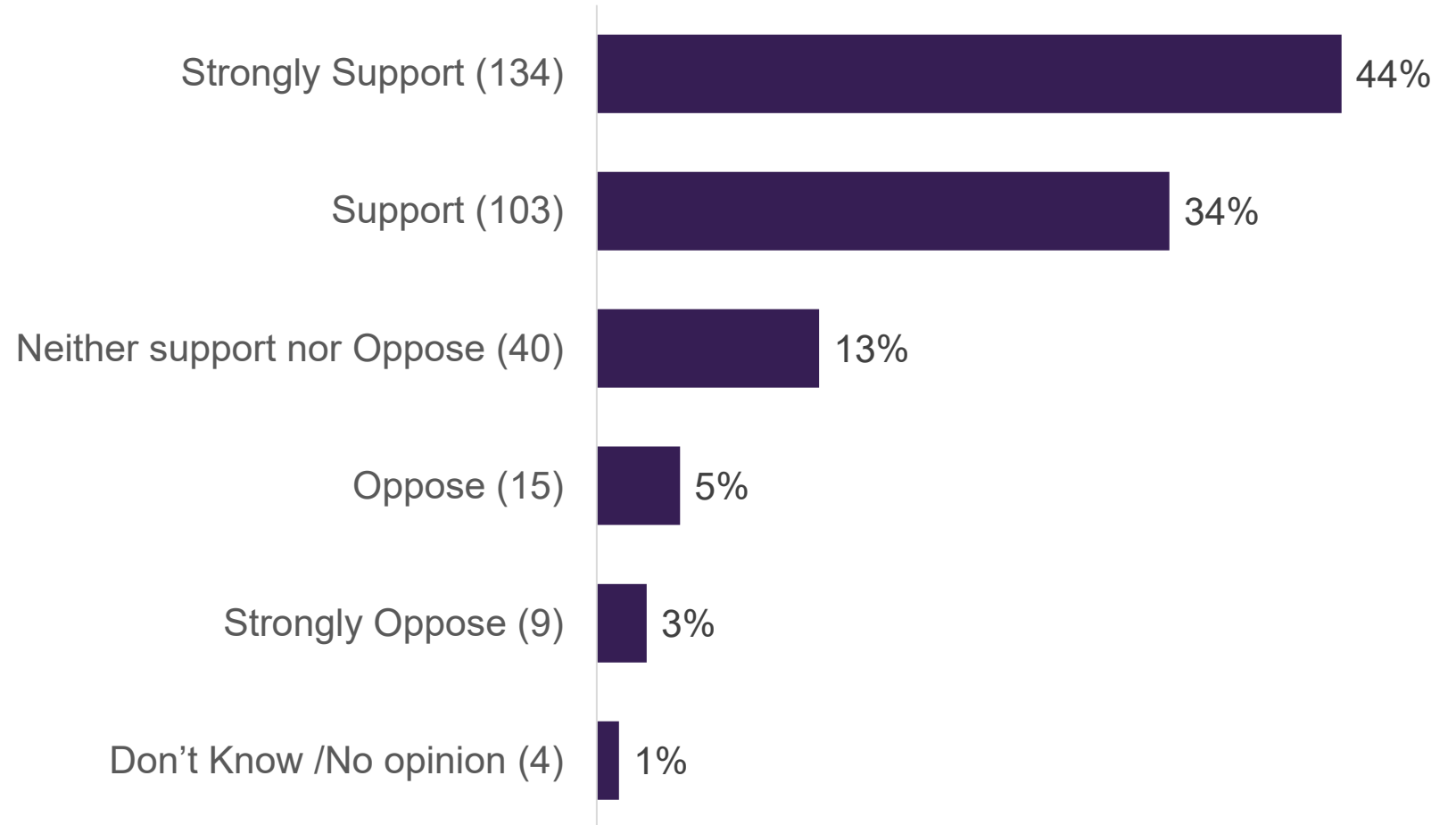


Base 305

Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?

Sustainable waste targets

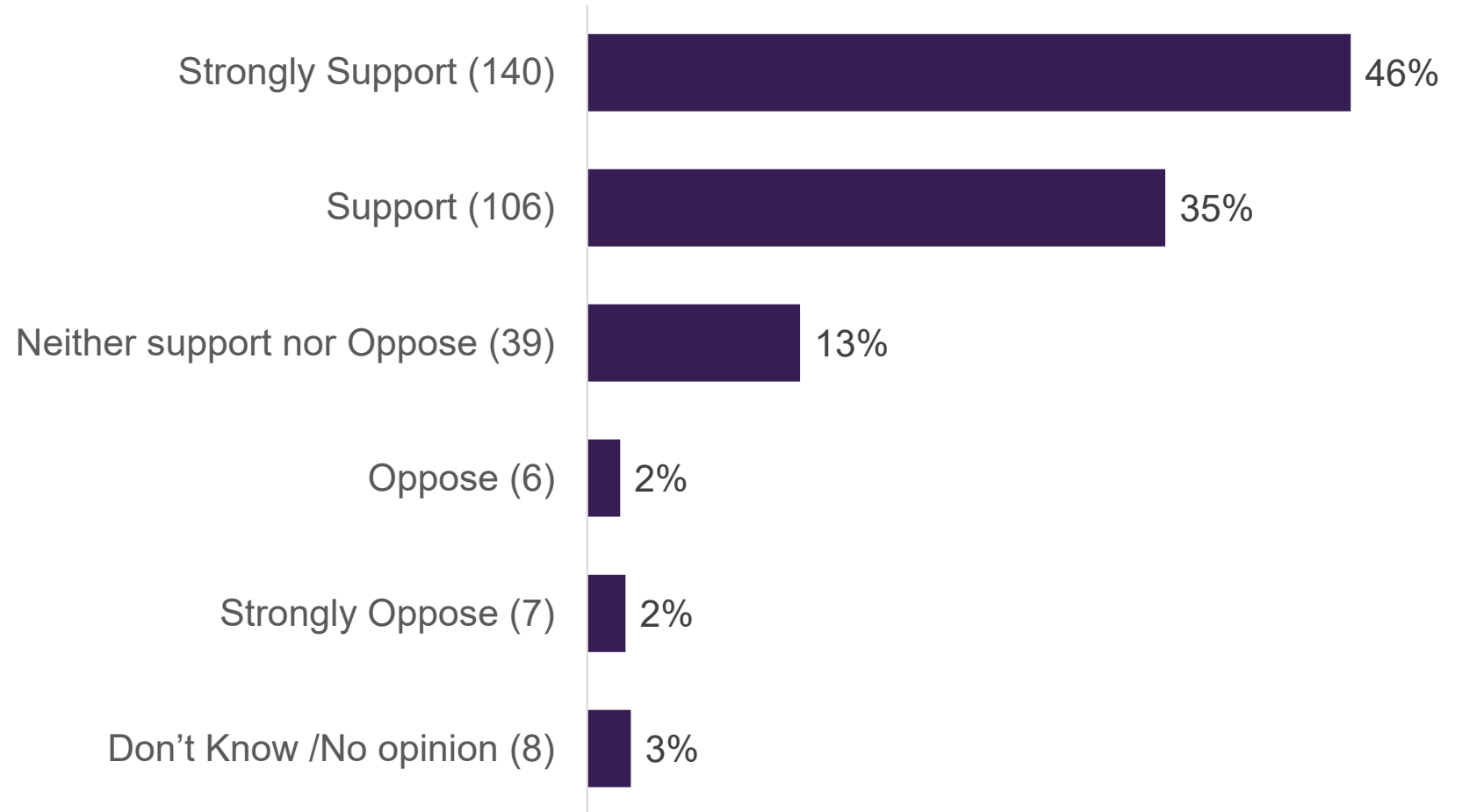
69 77% of those who responded supported the ambition



Do you support the proposed waste strategy ambitions?

Futureproof and safe services

81% of those who responded supported the ambition



Base 306

Ambitions – Comment themes

81

Theme	Comment
General Support for ambitions	Respondents broadly agreed with the ambitions - such as improving recycling, reducing waste, and promoting sustainability. However, this support was often conditional.
Simple and accessible recycling	Respondents want recycling to be straightforward and accessible , with clear systems that minimize confusion. There are concerns that the proposed ambitions might complicate processes or reduce services - especially bin collections - making recycling harder, particularly for vulnerable groups.
Desire to rehome, repair and repurpose	There is frustration over the removal of local reuse facilities , as respondents wanted better support to repair, rehome, and repurpose items.
Education and communication	There's strong support for better education and communication to help residents and businesses understand what can be recycled and how to do it properly.
Business accountability	Some respondents felt businesses must be held more accountable for waste reduction, with better enforcement and clearer expectations.
Opposition	There is opposition to the use of incineration for disposing of waste.
Calls for Stronger Action	Some felt the ambitions were not ambitious enough , particularly around recycling and reuse.
Equity and Fairness	There were concerns about inconsistency of the food waste service across the BCP area.
Trust and Communication	Some respondents questioned the consultation's authenticity and clarity, expressing a need for more information and concern over how the objectives would be delivered .

155 comments received

Ambitions – Example quotes from respondents

88

“The availability of items taken to the tip that could be resold is not acceptable. There needs to be local points where items can be found. For example a shop in Poole is not helpful for someone in Christchurch who doesn't/ can't drive. This would allow more items to be reused.”

“Effective and efficient waste collections - difficult to know what you mean by this, the devil is in the detail with these sorts of statements. If that means a reduction in black bin waste collection I would not support. Similarly modern infrastructure - if that means huge lorries and resulting development dominated by bins I would not support. More details on the implications are needed to fully understand the ambitions.”

“I support all the above as statements, but I am very wary/suspicious of these statements/desires being used as an excuse to cut services down to unrealistic levels.”

“Whilst I support the council waste ‘ambitions’ in theory, I would like to know what strategies will be put in place, extra costs for residents, etc. to achieve these goals/ambitions. Or a realistic and achievable action plan with costs. Also, how you would go about changing people’s mindsets into being more responsible to follow more sustainable habits?. I appreciate you have to write these strategies to satisfy a number of parties, but let them be more than just words”

“Ensure the future of Christchurch recycling centre with improved opening hours. To bring back the for sale items as this allows discarded items to be reused instead of just dumped into a skip.”

“Can try to achieve this without increasing council tax further, please.”

“These are all meaningful words - but I see no costs. Hopefully this means you will achieve all these splendid targets from your own existing resources.”

“The system should be simple to use and follow the waste hierarchy”

“Keep it simple and as cost effective as possible. Maintain existing waste collection cycles.”

Ambitions – Example quotes from respondents

83

“Co-mingled bins recycling is best... Keep recycling for residents simple and straight forward. No point making it complicated to squeeze another 1% residents can’t understand what is/isn’t recyclable even now. Don’t clutter the streets with more bins and don’t have bags or open boxes that attract vermin and gulls.

Do more checks to see businesses are using approved waste handlers and more checks businesses are using commercial and not residential or street litter bins”

“I would like focus on recycling, rat control and stronger focus on landlords and their responsibilities”

“Need to encourage recycling among our businesses, and in communal blocks of flats.”

“I believe statistically, businesses cause more landfill and do not recycle anywhere near as much as residents. Focus should be on those.”

“If a council tax payer takes a item to the waste centre i.e. say a two buckets of soil, or a toilet pan please scrap the charges for small amounts if you scrapped charges on some items people would less inclined to fly tip, You need to charge it one takes a van load with items. so just make it easier to get ride of items without large charges”

“Encouragement to reduce and reuse is important factor that all should consider and ‘chucking it in bin’ should be last option rather than some peoples first. So education/information needs to improve”

“Anything to make recycling/ waste easier for today’s modern world. “

“Better education in how we can better recycle. Have better and more options on recycling plastic bags and packaging”.

“Incineration is NOT the way to go forward, even as an interim measure.”

“To clarify I am against burning of waste materials. The focus should be on recycling more. BCP has a lot of houses that have recycling bins, make the most of them.”

“Waste incinerators are not a sustainable way to dispose of non-recyclable rubbish.”

Ambitions – Example quotes from respondents

“Sustainable waste targets should be more challenging than they are.”

“The need for an overhaul of the current waste system is desperately needed, so I strongly support these ambitions. Need to set challenging ambitions to drive change.”

“A bit woolly does not say how this will be done. Suspect it will not actually help residents”

“I have marked 'Support' on infrastructure as not certain what 'Improving our waste sites' comprises - the environment should be considered at all times. My concerns are to NOT install new incinerators at huge cost to nature and our green belt. Sustainable waste targets - 2045 is a long way off, is this ambitious enough? Doesn't sound it, but without knowing the details its hard to comment. Also wording 'We also need to meet the Government's waste targets to recycle 65% of our waste and send less than 10% to landfill by 2035' doesn't state that you WILL meet it. You're stating a need rather than an intention to meet this.”

“I think this is really important. However an immediate thing that could be changed is to start food waste collections in Poole. I find it extremely unfair that you collect in Bournemouth and Christchurch but not Poole when it is the same council. I have lived here for nearly 6 years and have asked about this multiple times & have never had a clear explanation as to why you can't just apply the same scheme here.”

“It all looks like waffle. What does it actually mean in practice?”

“There isn't much information here. I don't really know what I'm voting on.”

“In principle, I support the above aims but I cannot give a categoric response without sight of the methods and costs proposed to achieve these aims.”

“No, but getting good waste bins out to Poole Residents should be on the list”.

“I suspect you have already decided what your policy will be and this is purely a tick box exercise.”

Are there any other ambitions you think should be considered?

Theme	Comment
Expand and Simplify Recycling	Respondents want easier accessible recycling options that include hard-to-recycle items, They would like clearer guidance on what can be recycled, where it goes, and how much is reused
Equal Access to Services	There's demand for consistent waste services across all areas , especially Poole.
Reduce Plastic and Packaging Waste	Respondents want action to reduce packaging at the source, eliminating unnecessary plastics and to promote reusable alternatives to businesses.
Improve Waste Infrastructure	Suggestions focus on more frequent collections , better bin placement , and reliable services .
Tackle Fly-Tipping and Litter	Respondents want tougher enforcement and easier legal disposal to prevent illegal dumping.
Promote Repair and Reuse	There's support for community-based reuse and repair initiatives to reduce waste.
Education and Awareness	Respondents want better public education on recycling , especially for younger generations.
Oppose Incineration	Many respondents are firmly against incineration and want sustainable alternatives.
Make Recycling Centres More Accessible	People want easier access to tips without booking systems or restrictive policies.
Incentivise Sustainable Behaviour	Ideas include financial rewards and policy changes to encourage greener habits.

Ideas for other Ambitions – Example quotes from respondents

"I would like to see more information made publicly available about how to manage items that can not be put in current recycling - e.g. pringle cans, aerosols, deodorants etc"

"Local council tips should be easily accessible near to local residents and free to use. The Christchurch tip provides an example of an excellent facility which is tides well run and easily accessed. This service should be replicated across the area. Better waste management and ease of use would meet most criteria. Don't make it difficult for residents."

"Please please please do not bring in any crazy booking schemes for our community waste sites. All you need to do is change the contract so they are open longer!

"As a Bransgore resident we have been excluded from using our local recycling centre at Somerford. We now have to drive 10 miles to use the Lymington or Somerley sites. We shop in Somerford and have always used our local site at Somerford. An additional employee is now required to reject those that do not reside in the BCP area and similar measures have been taken to exclude Verwood residents from Somerley. This is incredibly petty and requires many extra miles to be driven. Is a bit of give and take too much to ask?"

"When will we be able to recycle food waste in Poole and hard plastics again?"

"Food waste should be introduced to households as soon as possible."

"Feedback data back regularly to residents on how much is recycled, improve clarity on what can be recycled and where, increase the number of items that can be recycled...make it more transparent...what happens to the things that can't be recycled. Where do they go? Recycling here is very important but the bigger picture too and I think people will engage more if they know."

"I urge the council to advocate local businesses as well as global businesses who operate in this area to look at packaging. As well as raising consumers awareness about what packaging is used on the goods they buy."

"... lobby retailers to use packaging materials, both for food and goods, that is easier to recycle."

Ideas for other Ambitions – Example quotes from respondents

“...central government should insist that all packaging is recyclable and that all authorities should recycle the same materials. This would have standardised the packing and made recycling so much easier.”

“...reduce the amounts of packaging at source. Then there will be less waste to deal with.”

“An idea would be to make supermarkets more responsible for recycling their packaging. So, when you go shopping you take your plastic cartons/trays and deposit them in a place designated by the supermarket.”

“Ensure that any residential waste collection is efficient and done regularly to encourage proper recycling and waste management”

“I have heard we may be going to 3 weekly bin collections as opposed to 2 weekly and I strongly oppose this”

“Not reducing the number of bin collections as it makes fly tipping worse”

“Don't overcomplicate matters, keep waste selection simple so residents understand it. To most people, waste is just waste, they won't devote time to worrying about in which bin they should place rubbish. Also avoid the law of unintended consequences: fly tipping will increase if residents feel collection is too infrequent, or too expensive.”

“... pursue fly-tippers who are spoiling the countryside”

“Seriously punish fly tippers.”

“Think about how we collect waste around the area and how bins overflow quickly. In Spain they have bins where there is a significantly larger collection area beneath the bin to stop it overflowing. This would significantly help reduce rubbish and recyclable items being discarded next to an overflowing bin.”

“... bins can come with signage to say what can be recycled...”

“Cleaner streets need to be implemented through fines. More cameras set up to catch fly tipping in common areas.”

“Ensure waste recycling sites are available to residents without the need for booked appointments. Enforce rigorously only tipping - more cameras more prosecutions. Can we charge fly-tippers full cleanup costs?”

Ideas for other Ambitions – Example quotes from respondents

88

“Create legislation that outlaws built in obsolescence and ensures that every attempt is made to make products repairable.”

“Educating people and children via schools the imperativeness of this for the future. I believe a lot of recycling is “spoilt””

“Repair Shop type council run. To allow items to be brought in and repaired.”

“More awareness [among] young people. More encouragement to reuse and repair. Discourage people from throwing away items away and buying new ones. Stop littering”

“...do all of this without the use of incinerators.”

“Rewards systems; can we find a way to make people financially better off if they recycle more? Reductions on council tax, credits to use on the buses. I've seen similar systems in Europe where returning bottles and cans to drop off points can earn a little extra cash.”

“Reminders re litter, keep areas clean & tidy, encourage and promote”

“More recycling collections, less waste collections would mean people would need to think about recycling more.”

“Actively encourage use of reusable items through surcharges or bans on disposable items or e.g. reduced rates on premises for businesses who are making genuine efforts in this area.”

“Ambition for more information and educational opportunities, particularly at our recycling centres.”

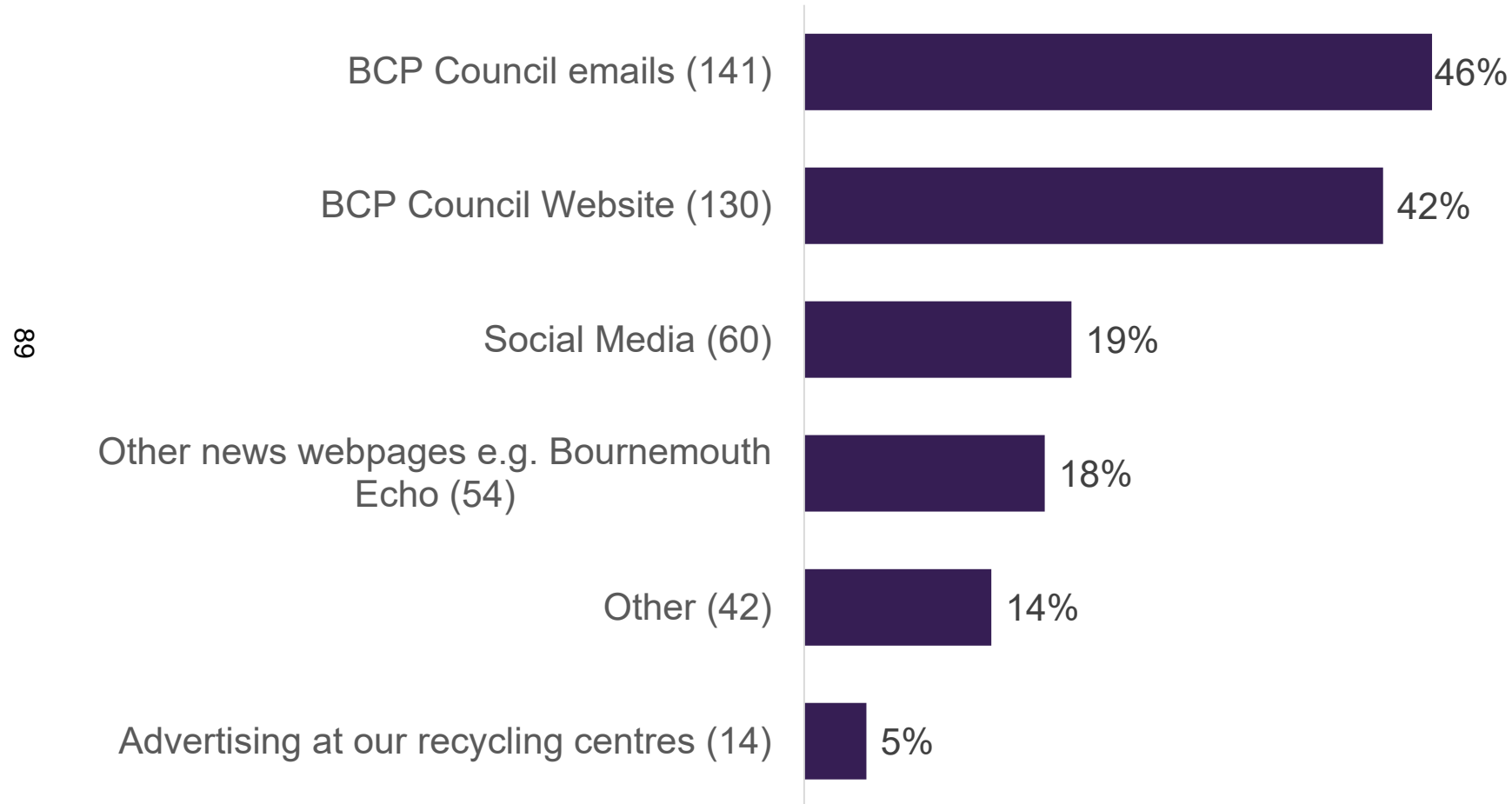
“More rehoming & repurposing. Free sites for people to deliver & collect items with use left.”

“Encouraging home composting with provision of discounted compost bins? Encouraging rainwater retention with discounted water butts and fitting kits where suitable?”

“Ease of access; to achieve a target you need to ensure whatever people need to do is feasible and accessible.”

“Increased recycling opportunities. le great range of material collected from households”

How do you hear about your council recycling and waste services?

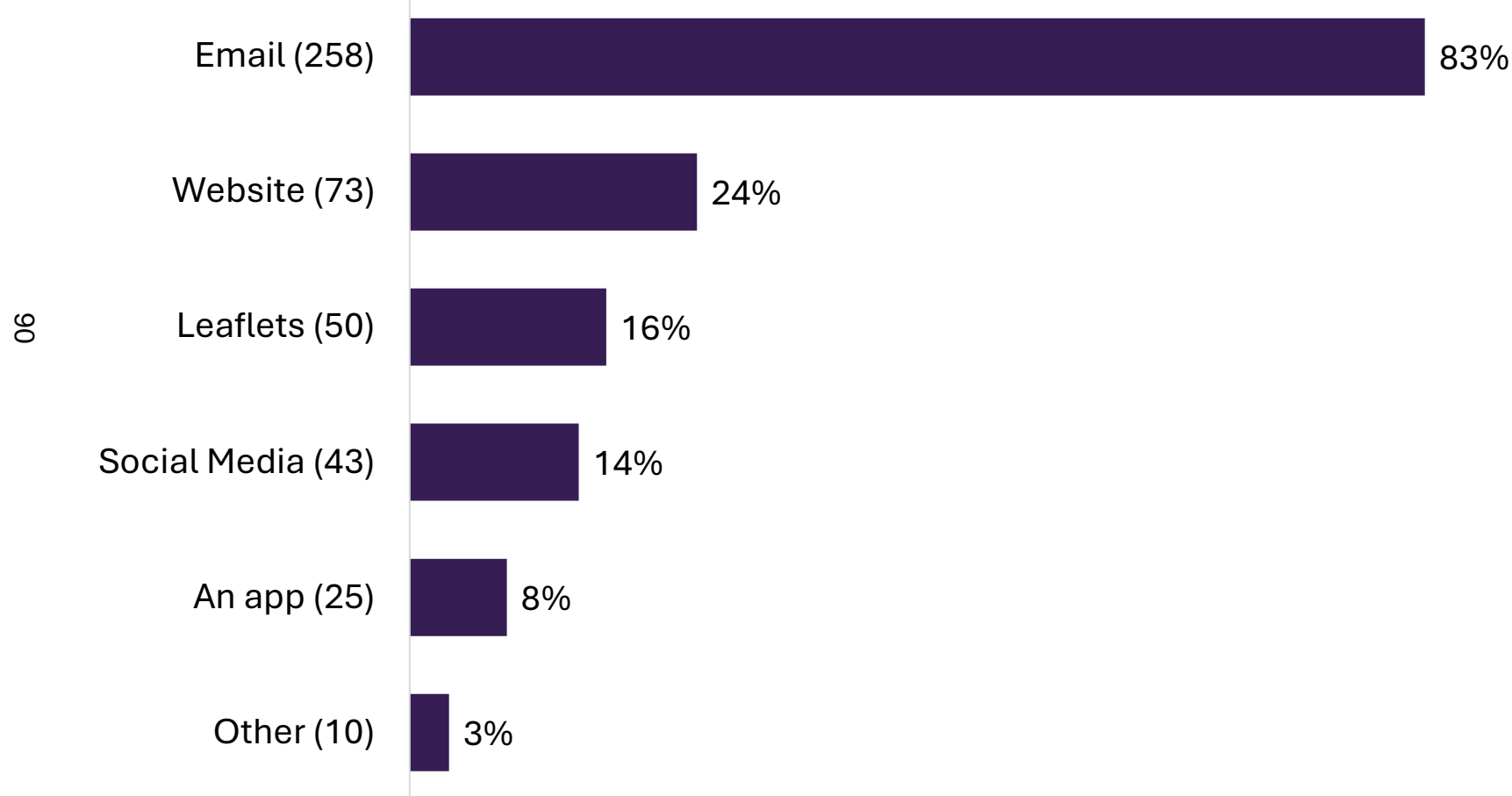


Other sources include:

- Residents Associations
- Email
- BCP Council / Official Channels
- Flyers / Mail / Posters
- Word of Mouth / Personal Contacts
- Library / Public Spaces
- Self-Initiated / No Clear Source
- Political / Leadership Mentions

Base 308

What are your preferred methods of communication when hearing from BCP Council about recycling and waste services?



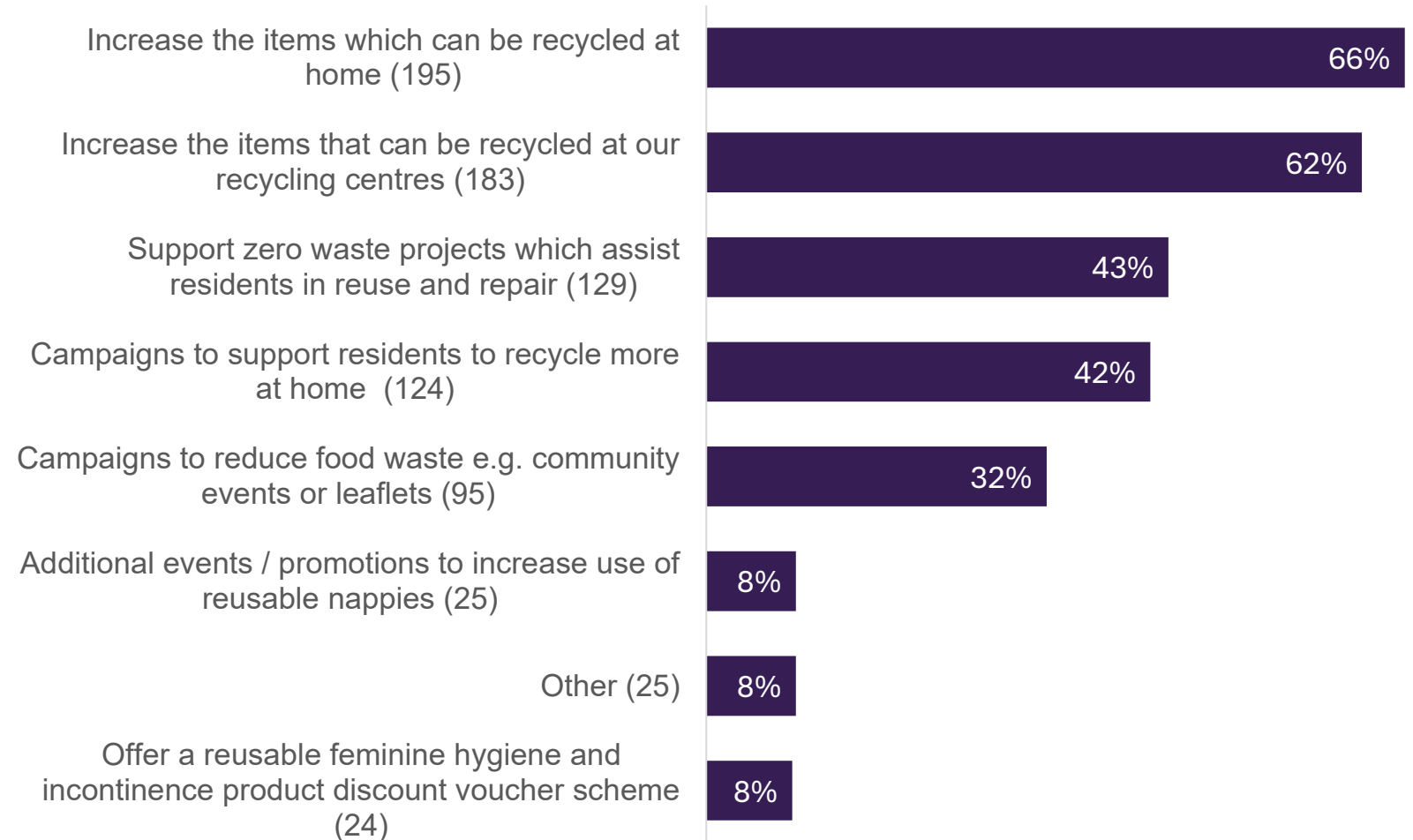
Other methods included

- Post
- Leaflets
- Posters
- Sticker on bin
- Local Councillors
- TV
- School newsletters
- Prefer no contact

There are education campaigns and smaller service improvements we could consider

The top three selected by respondents

1. Increase the items which can be recycled at home
2. Increase the items that can be recycled at our recycling centres
3. Support zero waste projects which assist residents in reuse and repair

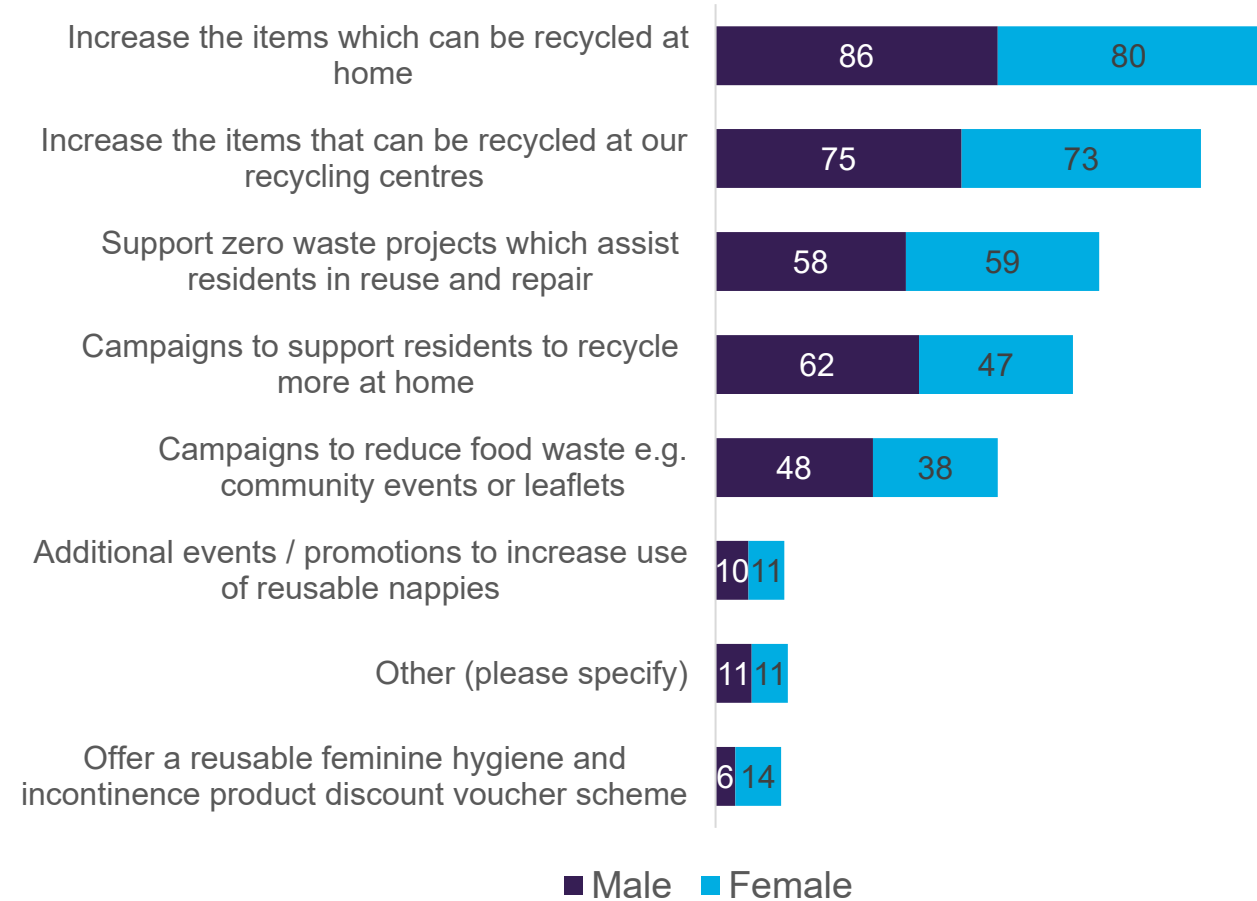


Base 297

There are education campaigns and smaller service improvements we could consider by sex

Male and female responses were largely similar, except for a few differences: **men were more likely to select** 'campaigns to support residents to recycle more at home' and 'campaigns to reduce food waste e.g. community events or leaflets', while **women were more likely to select** 'offer a reusable feminine hygiene and incontinence product discount voucher scheme'

28



Education campaigns and smaller service improvements.

Other

Theme	Comment
Make Recycling Easier and Broader	Respondents want simpler, clearer, more affordable recycling systems and more items accepted at kerbside and centres.
Improve Access for All Residents	There's concern that people without cars or in certain areas are excluded from services.
Promote Reuse and Circular Economy	There is support for rehoming, composting, and community-based reuse schemes/events.
Targeted Campaigns and Education	A few respondents want smarter, more focused campaigns – especially for landlords, businesses, and young people.
Hold Businesses Accountable	Some respondents feel businesses and hospitality venues should do more to reduce and manage waste.
Encourage Behaviour Change	Ideas include incentives like deposit return schemes and disincentives for littering.
Criticism of Council and Strategy	Some comments reflect frustration with council decisions and perceived inefficiencies .

Education campaigns – Example quotes from respondents

94

“...Something that always frustrates me is (as someone getting older and thinking about giving up a car) what do you do when you are older, with not a lot of money and you have no car to get to the recycling centre? (I would be prepared to get a bus and walk in, but we're not allowed to do that.) It's almost like poorer/people without transport are penalised. ...And no, I don't have relatives or friends with cars that could do it for me”

“Reduce cost to residents and reduce hassle disposing of waste”

“Recycle batteries and electricals at kerbside e.g. old kettles, keyboards, vape pods, old hoovers, irons, children's high chairs. Bring back Rag and Bone man open top vans but rename to reflect 21st century.”

“Simple clear signs on leaflets, bin lorries what can be recycled. Increase what can be recycled from home small electrical, hard plastics etc”

“Re-instate the kerbside collection of small electrical items that operated in Bournemouth before the creation of BCP.”

“Give and take days with PAT tester and H&S advisor on site”

“Much plastic waste comes from supermarkets. So I would like to see a campaign targeting supermarkets to reduce the amount of packaging.”

“Direct campaigns effectively targeted at landlords who can commonly hinder recycling and waste collection.”

“I feel you really should target restaurants/bars/hotels/sports venues, etc. because of the vast amount of waste they produce which isn't recycled but could be”

“Campaigns and vouchers are not cost effective. A smaller service improvement I would like to see is a system like in Germany. Return your bottle to the beach cafe stall you bought it from and get 20p back.”

“None of your suggestions get to the heart of the problem...”

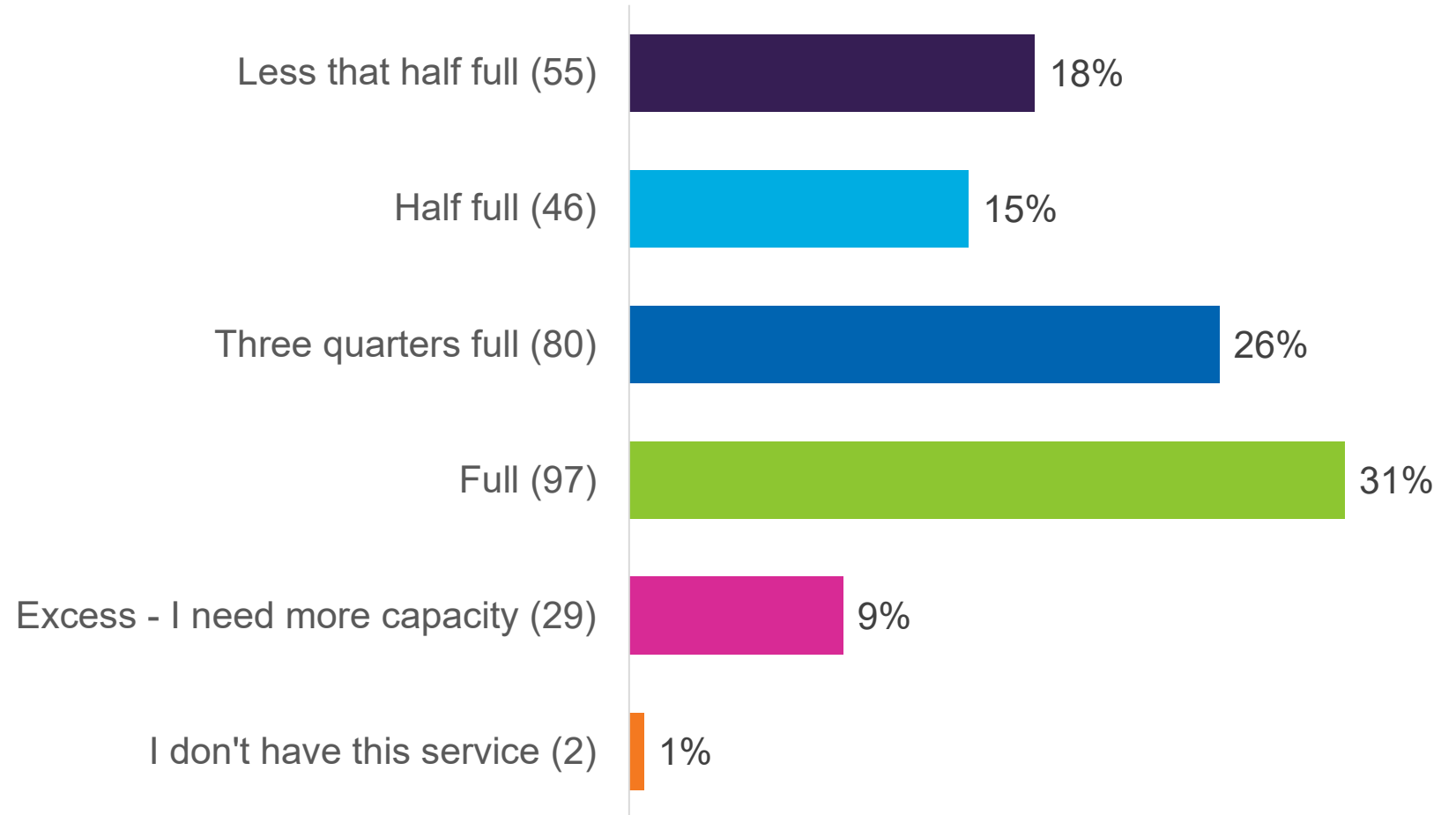
“We recycle everything we possibly can already - stop squeezing people to do more so that you can all do less!”

On average how full are your bins on collection day?

Rubbish

31% of those who responded said that their rubbish bin was full on the day of collection

50



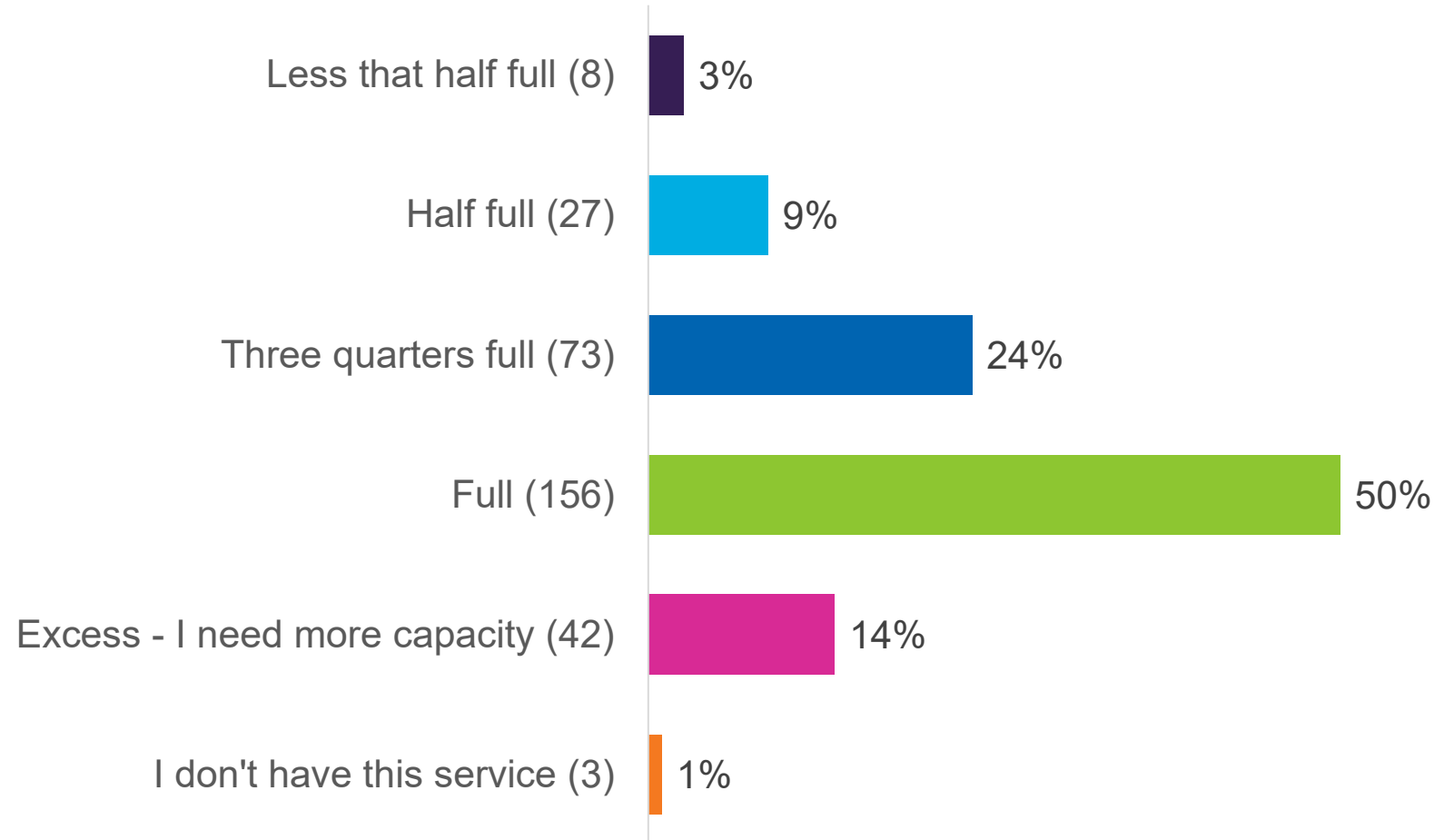
Base 309

On average how full are your bins on collection day?

Recycling

50% of those who responded said that their recycling bin was full on the day of collection

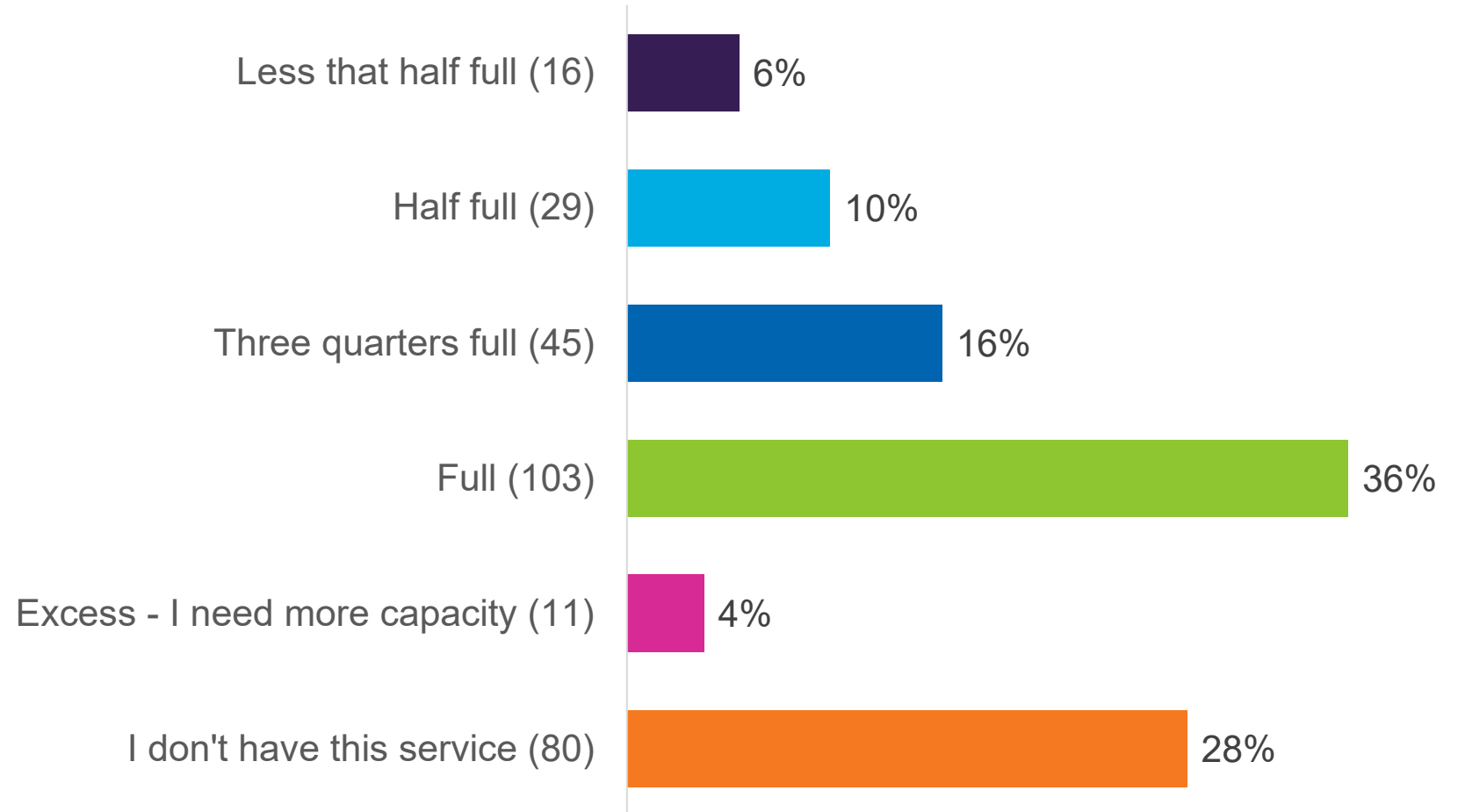
96



On average how full are your bins on collection day?

Garden Waste

36% of those who responded said that their garden waste bin was full on the day of collection

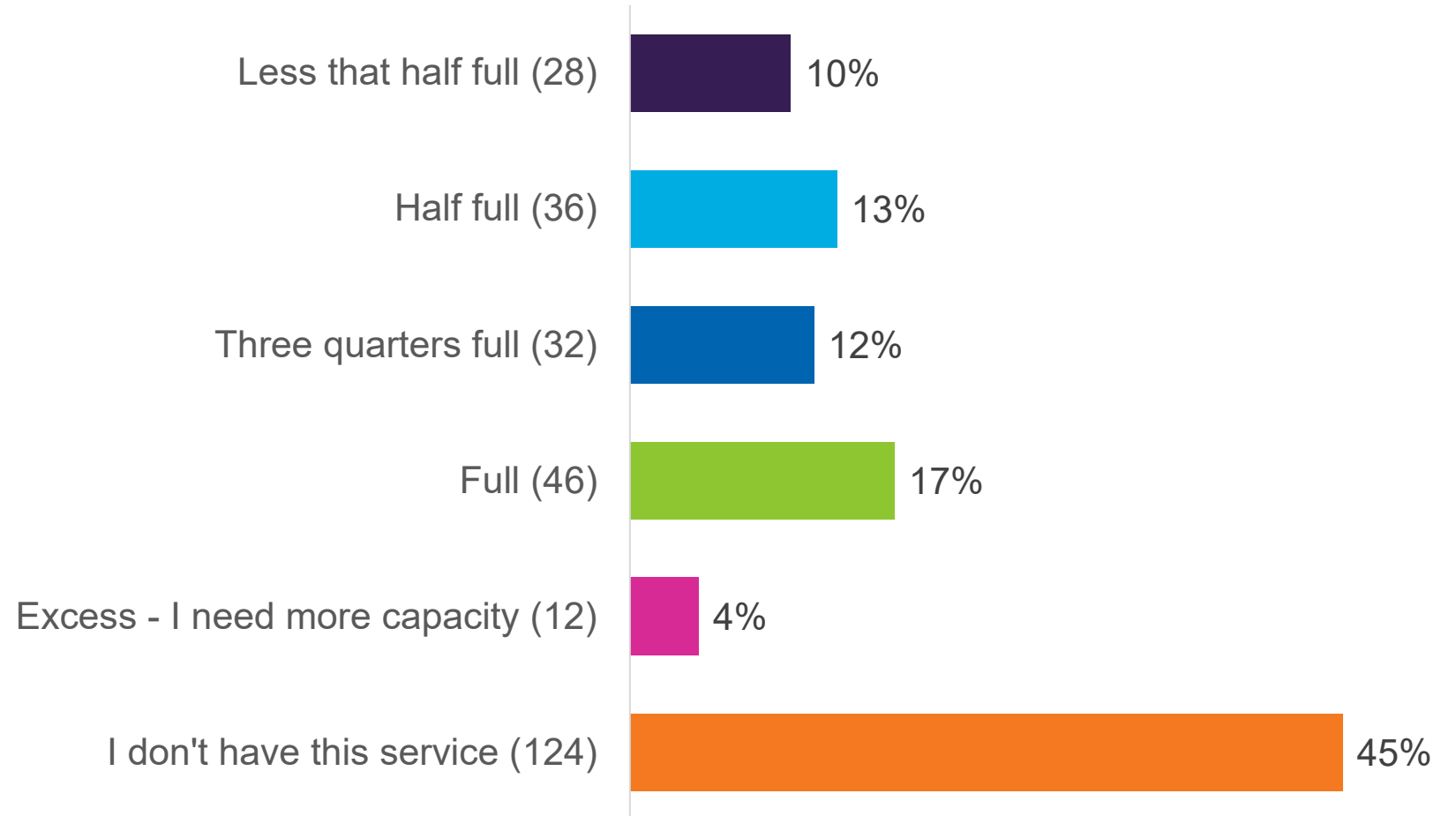


Base 284

On average how full are your bins on collection day?

Food Waste

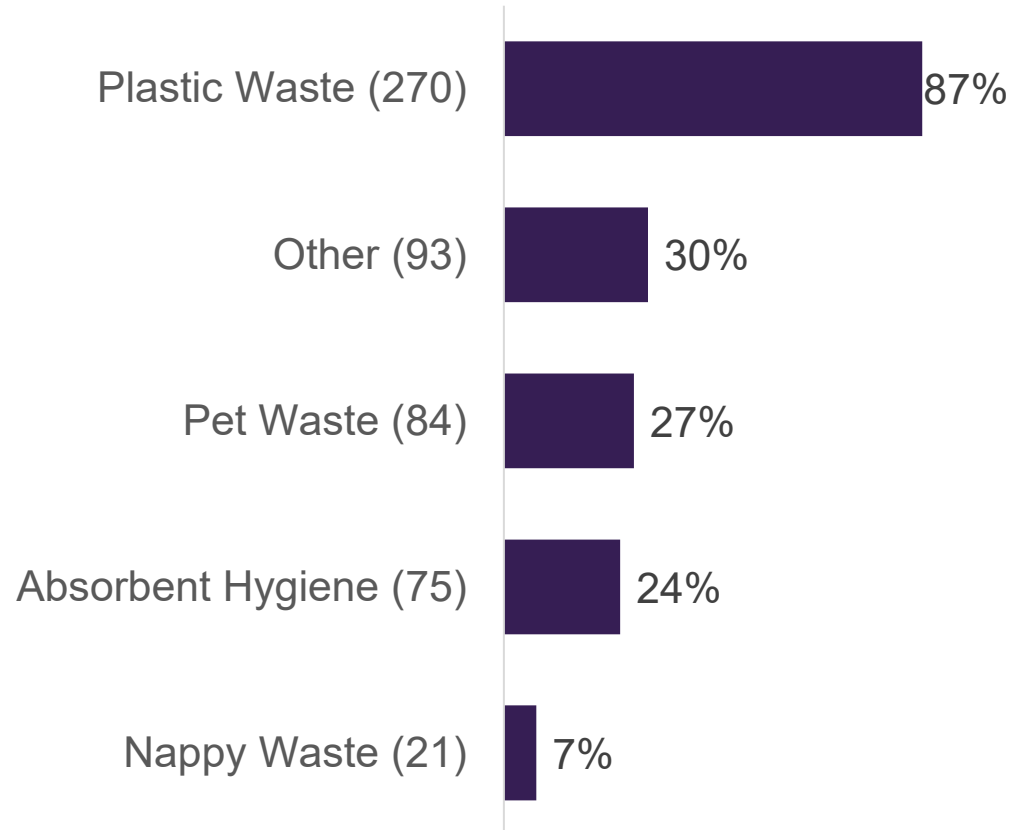
17% of those who responded said that their food waste bin was full on the day of collection



Base 278

What non-recyclable items are in your rubbish bin?

69



Plastic waste was the most selected option from the choices provided

Food waste was the most common answer given in the “other” category

What non-recyclable items are in your rubbish bin? Other

Food & Organic Waste

Food waste (general, cooked, uncooked, pet)
Meat (not compostable)
Egg shells
Orange peel
Coffee grounds
Tea bags
Food contaminated cardboard & waste
Spoiled food packaging
Food that could be collected in a food waste service

Metal, Glass & Other Materials

Rusty metal / Bits of metal
Metal food wrappers e.g. sweet wrappers
Tins
Tin foil
Small electrical items

Paper & Cardboard

Cardboard (too dirty/greasy to recycle)
Soiled / wet paper/cardboard
Paper tissues
Used paper towels / kitchen roll
Shredded paper
Biscuit wrappers
Wrappers from grocery/consumables

Cleaning & Hygiene Items

Antibacterial wipes
Bio-degradable wipes
Disposable dish cloths / sponges
Hoover dust
Floor sweeping debris
Toothpaste tubes
Dental floss
Nitrile gloves

Plastic & Packaging

Plastic wrapping/ film
Soft plastic
Polystyrene
Styrene
Bubble wrap
Plastic bags and packaging
Non-recyclable plastic bottles
Dirty plastic food containers
Multi-material packaging (e.g. foil/plastic with food)
Non-recyclable packaging
Block butter wrappers

Textiles & Clothing

Worn out clothes
Worn out shoes
Old clothes not suitable for charity
Worn out non-repairable household textile items

Hard-to-Recycle Household Items

Broken items (hard plastic)
Broken crockery / Pyrex dishes
Old Tupperware
Empty and partially filled paint tins
Items made of more than one material
Little things not worth taking to the dump
Black bag landfill stuff
Duvets
Pillows

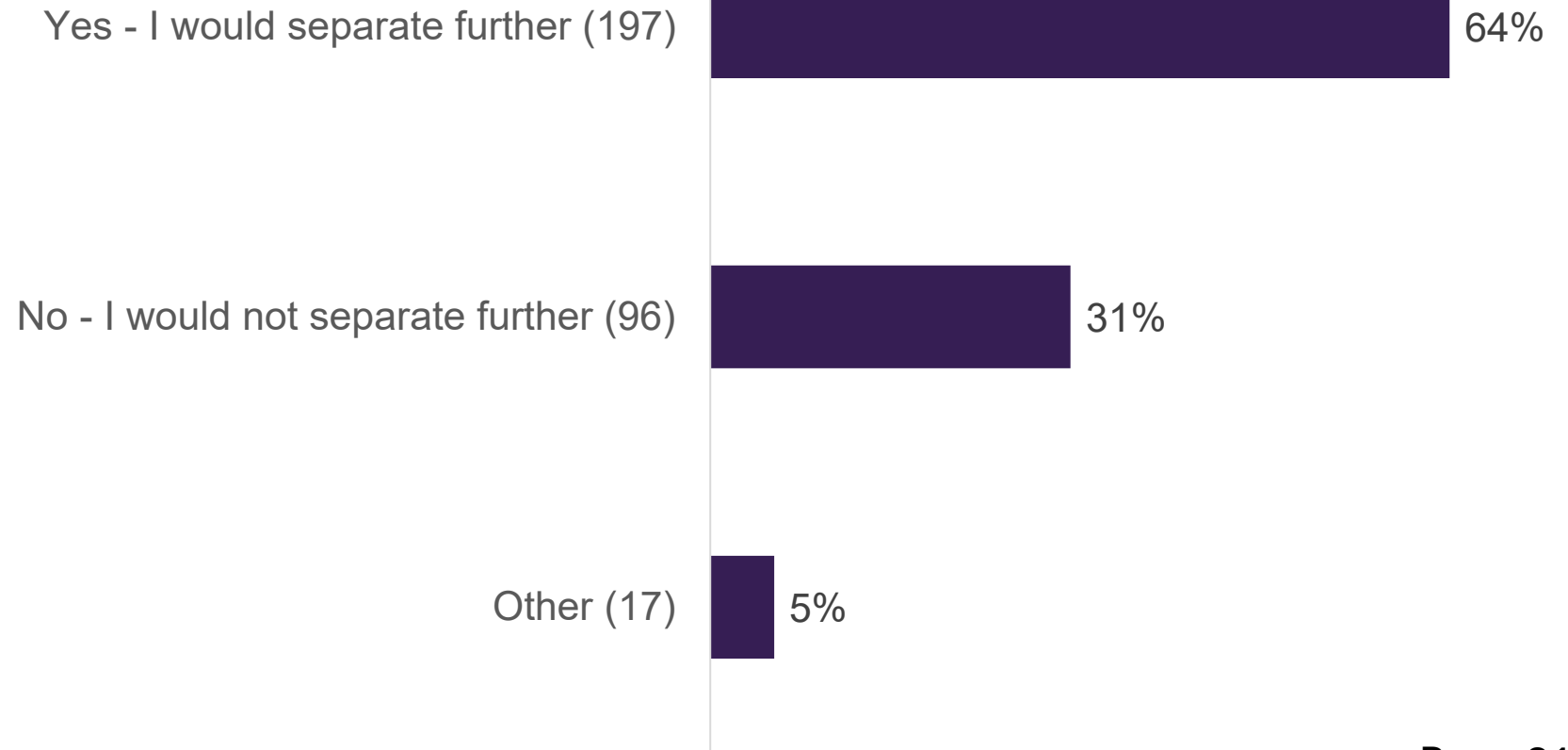
Garden & Outdoor Waste

Garden waste
Garden pots and trays (broken)
Ash from the fire
Door mats
Scooters

The government's preferred method of recycling is that we separate card and paper from other recycling. Would you separate your recycling further at home?

101

64% of those who responded said that they would separate their recycling further.



The government's preferred method of recycling is that we separate card and paper from other recycling. Would you separate your recycling further at home? Other comment themes

Theme	Comment
Comments show mixed views on separating further	Some respondents are happy to separate more waste if they get the right bins and support, but others don't want to do it at all .
Sorting at recycling centres	Some think it's better for recycling centres to do the sorting instead of asking people to do more at home.
Shared bins make it harder	Some respondents living in flats with shared bins say it's difficult to recycle properly because not everyone follows the rules.
Space and capacity	Many say they don't have room for extra bins , especially in flats. Too many bins could block pavements and make collection days more difficult.

Further separation of recycling – Example quotes from respondents

“Yes but I would need another receptacle provided for the purpose”

“I would try but I don’t have a wheelie bin and have to buy purple bags. Separating would cause me to have more than two sacks (my allowance)”

“I already do. impossible to go further.”

“I live in a large apartment block, with multiple hoppers for both waste and recycling. Separating further would be a difficulty.”

“I’d prefer not to”

“To work this would need the co-operation and agreement of all 8 flats.”

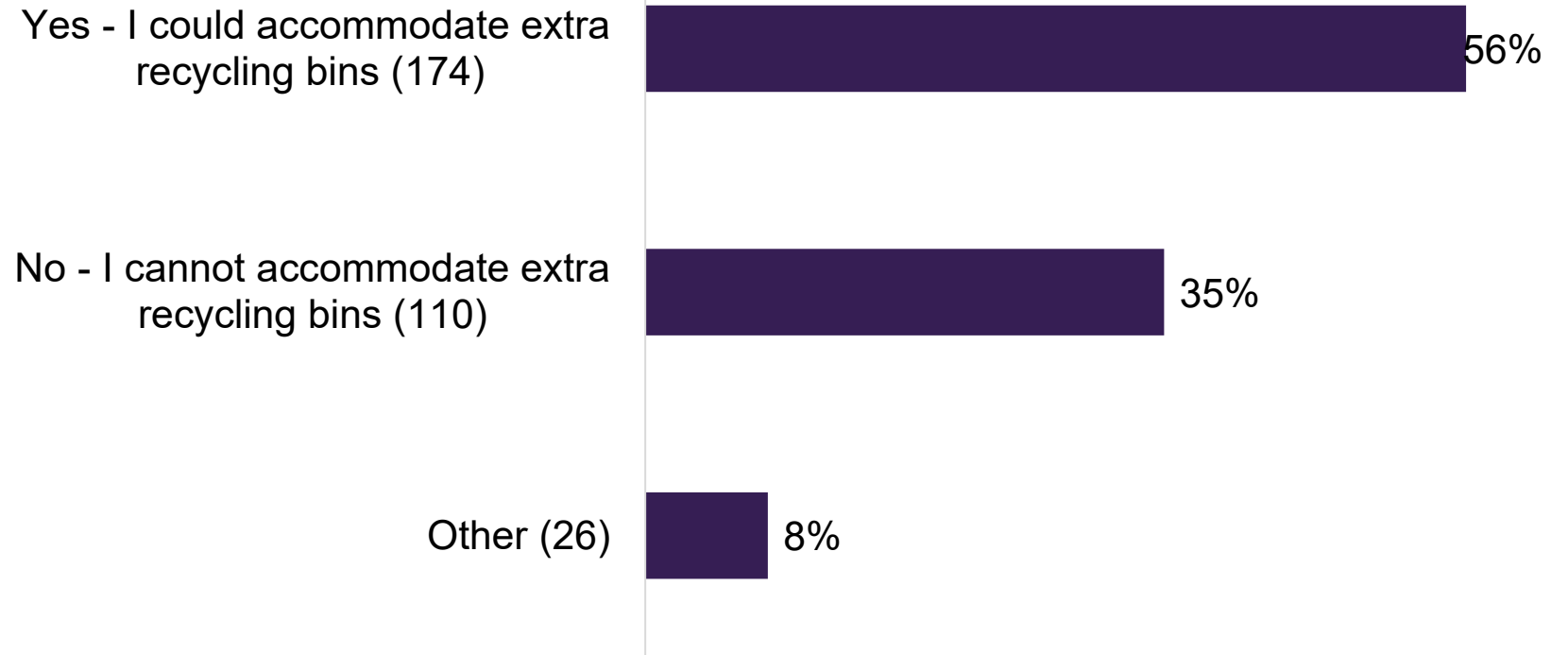
“I would - but don't we have a selection machine that separates them? I'm in a flat with bulk bins. It's not impossible to address this but would require a fence coming down to access other bins.”

“If you want wastes separated, you'll need to provide a means of storage or collection, but then looking at emissions probably best separating at recycling centres”

“Yes, personally I would separate BUT I have noticed other councils provide open plastic boxes for different materials and these get wet and dirty and unpleasant. I would prefer wheelie bins which keep their contents clean and dry, or boxes with lids like the food waste boxes.”

Could you accommodate extra recycling bins at your home?

56% of those who responded said that they could accommodate extra recycling bins.



Could you accommodate extra recycling bins at your home? Other comments

105

Theme	Comment
Comments show mixed support over willingness to separate	Some respondents are open to separating waste further, but only if the right containers and support are provided . Others do not want to.
Concerns About Bin Proliferation	There's concern that more separation means more bins . Whilst there is a preference for this to be outside there are concerns about cluttering streets and pavements.
Barriers in Flats and Shared Housing	People living in flats or shared buildings face practical challenges with space, access, and cooperation.
Concerns about bin size and space to accommodate them	Some respondents lack indoor or communal space for more bins , and larger bins could be impractical or create safety and access issues.

Accommodate more bins– Example quotes from respondents

“Probably could, but it's bad enough getting my family to do two bins”.

“I could outside but not inside”

“Yes - but would be better if the bins were scaled accordingly (i.e. smaller where separating paper and card)”

“If it was a small container.”

“I would prefer not to”

“Great more bins and less collections to accommodate them.”

“...Eventually the bins themselves will become as much of an eyesore as the litter itself.”

“I am in a block of flats, so mass collection is very difficult beyond general and recycled waste without being a H&S issue for our caretaker who collects all our rubbish”

“We may need help to build additional communal facilities (block of flats)”

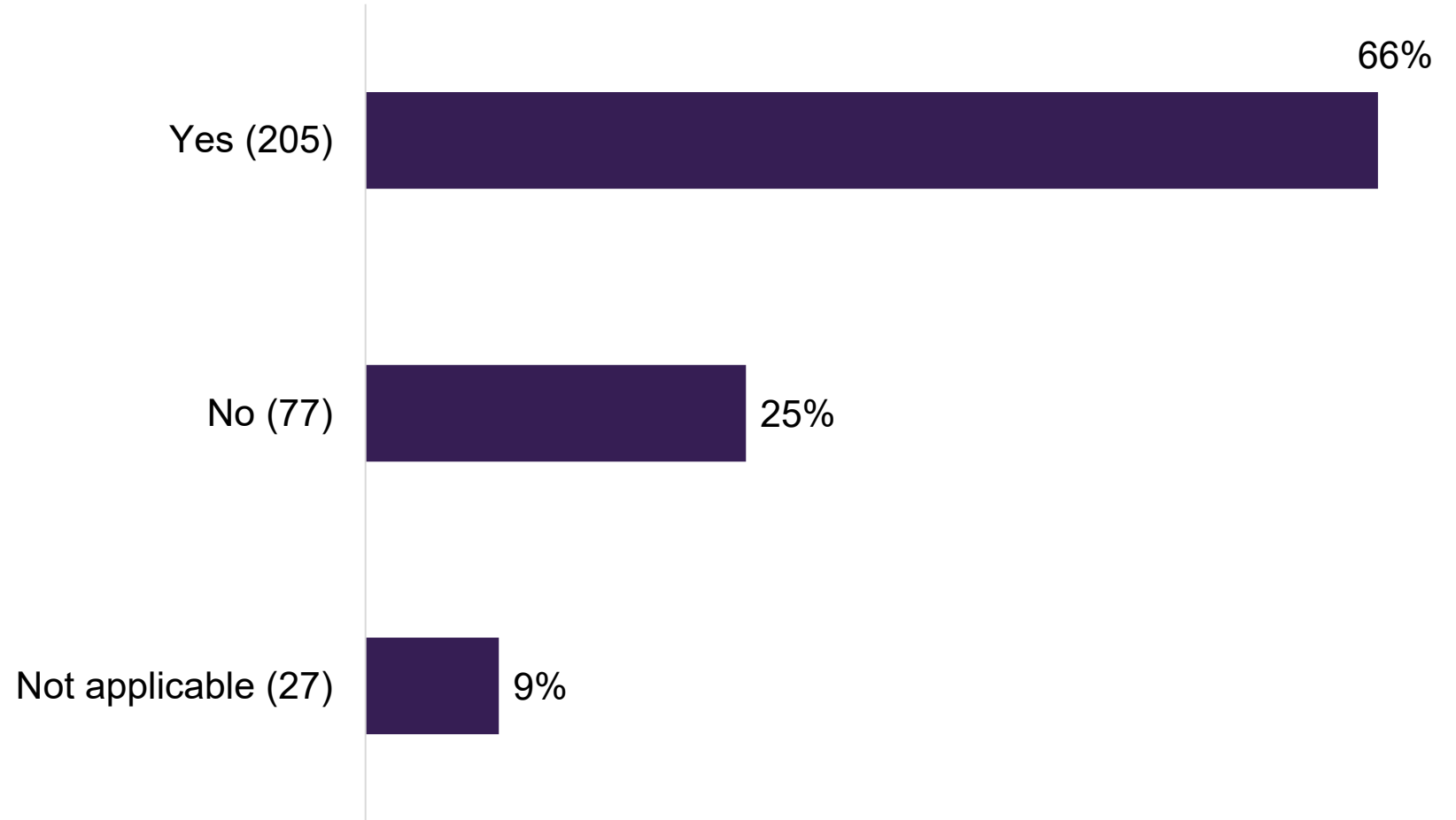
“Our current communal bin store could accommodate 1 more 240 litre bin. The bin store has brick sides, expanding it would take time and incur expense. We do not currently have a food waste collection service here in Poole. Don't know how big a bin that would require.”

“Communal bins..... with more accessible lids, too heavy to lift at the moment.”

Do you / would you use a food waste collection service?

107

66% of those who responded said that they do or would use a food waste collection service.

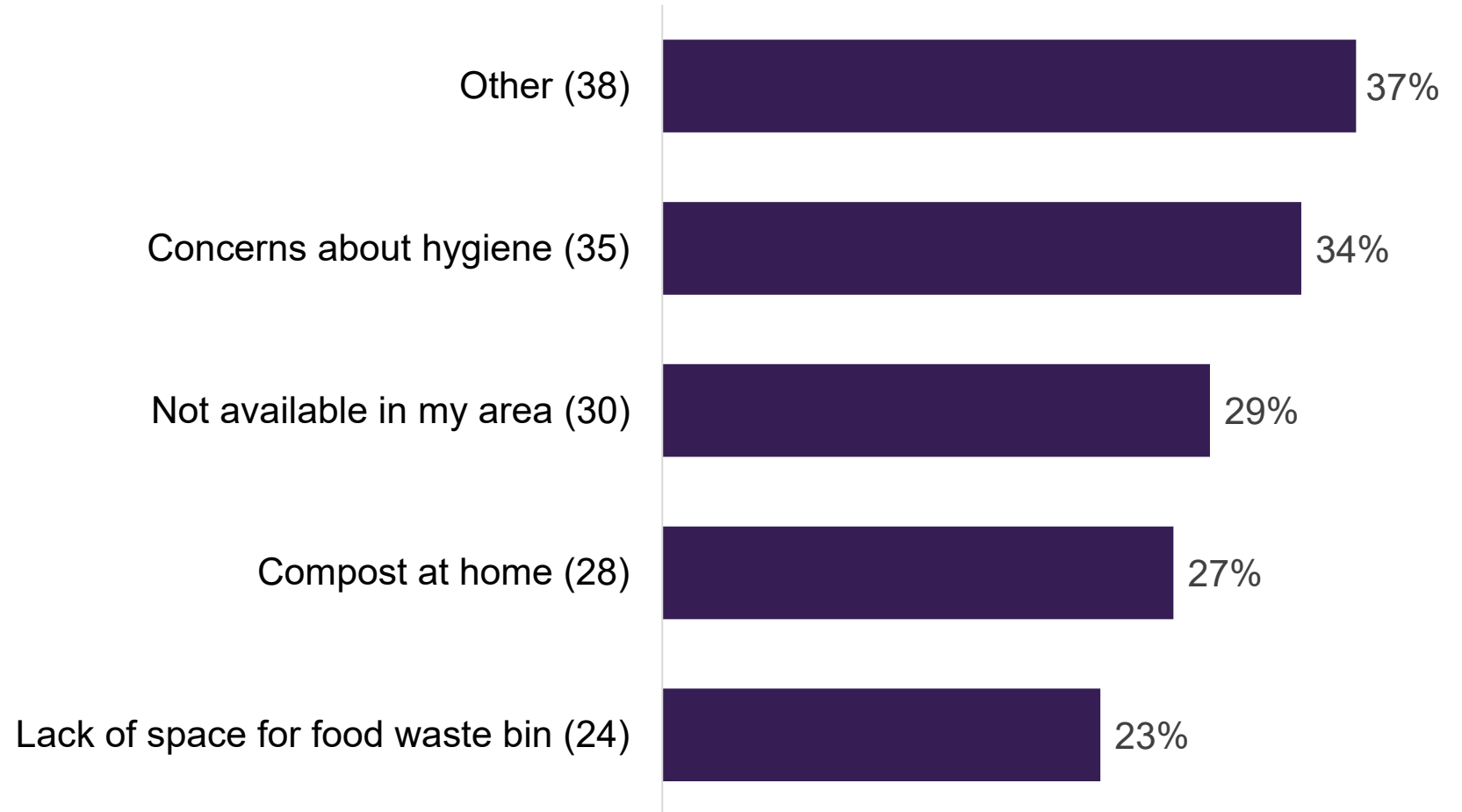


Base 309

If you do not or would not use the food waste service, please can you help us understand the reason for this?

37% of those who responded cited “other” reasons for not using the food waste service (detailed on the next slide).

108



Base 104

If you do not or would not use the food waste service, please can you help us understand the reason for this?

Other comments

109

Theme	Comment
Minimal or No Food Waste	A number of those who commented say they produce very little food waste or compost it themselves.
Concerns About Hygiene and Pests	There are strong concerns about smells, flies, maggots, and animals (foxes/rats) accessing bins.
Issues in Flats and Communal Living	Residents in flats cite lack of space , shared bins, and hygiene risks as major barriers.
Service Not Available or Unknown	Some respondents say food waste collection isn't offered in their area or they weren't aware of it.
Preference for Alternatives	Some prefer other methods like composting , wormeries, or sink disposal systems.

Food waste – Example quotes from respondents

“Have wormery for peelings and very rarely have other food waste”

“I live on my own. I have very little food waste. What I do have I put on my compost heap.”

“Domestic food waste is very, very minimal & does NOT justify a separate service”

“Access by vermin, foxes even, to closed containers left on the street”

“Had problems with foxes”

“Isn't this a costed service? I have very little food waste, occasional potato peelings. Certainly not enough to fill a bucket up each week, and monthly it would go mouldy or attract flies.”

“I live in a flat with communal bins. Bin stores already full. Bins would probably be disgusting very quickly.”

“I live in a large block of flats where waste is stored in a communal bin cupboard. Unless the food could be contained in non-decomposing bags, the smell would be unacceptable and would likely worsen our problem with rats.”

Insinkerator at home for food waste

We eat our food, it's just potato peel, onion skins etc which we compost.

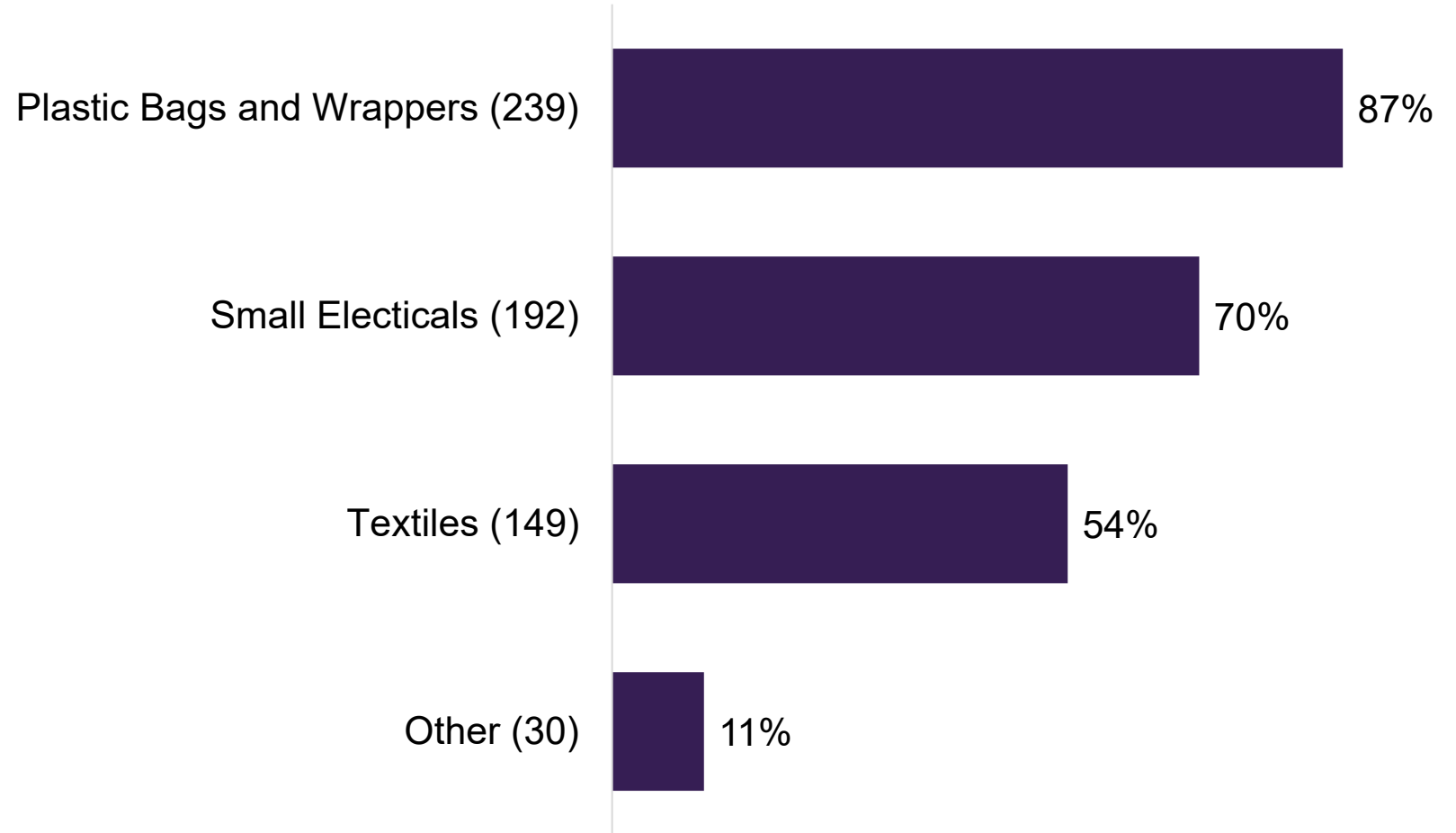
I deliver my food waste to the natural environment at intervals.

As far as I know it is not available to private residences in my area

Are there any other materials you would like to be able to recycle at home?

111

87% of those who responded would like to be able to recycle plastic bags and wrappers at home.



Base 276

Are there any other materials you would like to be able to recycle at home? Other comments

Food & Organic Waste

- Food waste
- Garden and food waste together

Batteries & Electricals

- Batteries (multiple mentions)
- Vapes / vape pod products (contain lithium batteries)
- Small electricals (e.g. microwaves)
- Inkjet cartridges
- Light bulbs
- Spray and pump bottles (if electrical or pressurized)

Plastics

- Hard plastics
- Plastic packaging including polystyrene
- Garden plastic pots, trays, compost bags
- Spray and pump bottles
- Toothbrushes
- Pens
- Pringles cans (mixed materials, often with plastic lining)
- Water filter cartridges

Household Chemicals & Hazardous Waste

- Oils
- Paint
- Chemicals (e.g. weedkillers, fertilisers, mortar plasticiser)

Bulky Waste & DIY Materials

- Rubble, soil, sand
- Wood
- Larger metal items
- Beds and furniture

Textiles & Reusables

- Shoes
- Textiles (via charity donations)

Metals & Mixed Materials

- Metals (general)
- Deodorants, aerosols
- Pringles cans (again, mixed materials)

Paper, Card & Packaging

- Cardboard
- Aluminium foil containers

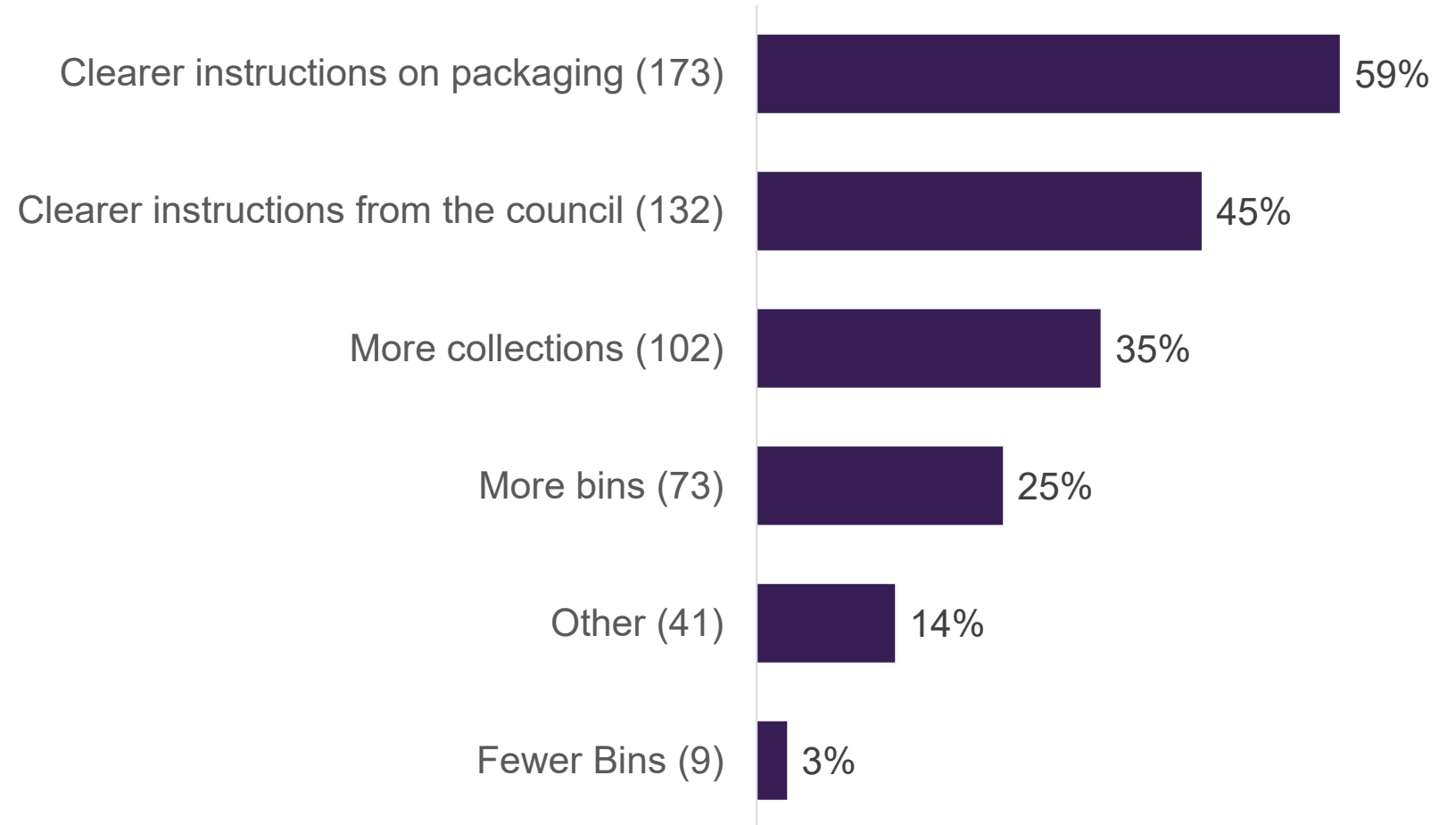
Other comment

- “What do you mean by recycle at home?”

What would make it easier for you to recycle more?

113

59% of those who responded would like clearer instructions on packaging.



Base 292

What would make it easier for you to recycle more? Other comments

Theme	Comment
Already Doing Enough	Several respondents feel they're already recycling as much as possible .
Broaden What Can Be Recycled	Many want to recycle more types of materials - especially plastics, textiles, and small electricals from home or kerbside. Suggestions include doorstep collection (e.g. Rag and Bone) for bulky or unusual items.
Improve Convenience and Access	Suggestions include more frequent collections , more local drop-off points, and fewer restrictions such as cost.
Clearer Guidance and Labelling	People want better/clearer instructions on what can be recycled from business and how to recycle from Council.
Better Public Facilities	There's a call for more public recycling bins .
Smarter Packaging and Retailer Responsibility	Respondents want laws and incentives for businesses to use recyclable or biodegradable packaging.
Education and Awareness	Some feel better public education and targeted campaigns would help.

Easier to recycle – Example quotes from respondents

115

“Nothing. I am already recycling as much as possible”

“nothing. I find it easy enough”

“Combine food and garden waste”

“To be able to put greater range of materials for recycling in the blue bin”

“More items collected at home; textiles that cannot be accepted by charity shops”

“Don't make it so restrictive”

“More items recycled at the kerb side”

“Definitely NOT more bins; wider range of items accommodated for recycling”

“More collection points as there were in the past”

“More recycling collected more locally so don't have to drive around the conurbation with different things e.g. to recycling centres/ supermarkets/ charity shops/ scrap metal all in different places”

“Ideally more public bins but I understand that they get abused so it's not an easy thing to provide”

“Public recycling containers (not just clothes) e.g. cardboard”

“Clear instructions on what can be included - ideally stickers which we can put on the bin”

“Businesses and chemists provide their bit to use recyclable items, chemists still use non-recyclable plastic bags for their medical prescriptions to their customers, and these will go to the landfill”

“Clearer recycling symbols on products and more effort on behalf of retailers to only sell items in recyclable packaging”

“All residents informed about proper recycling”

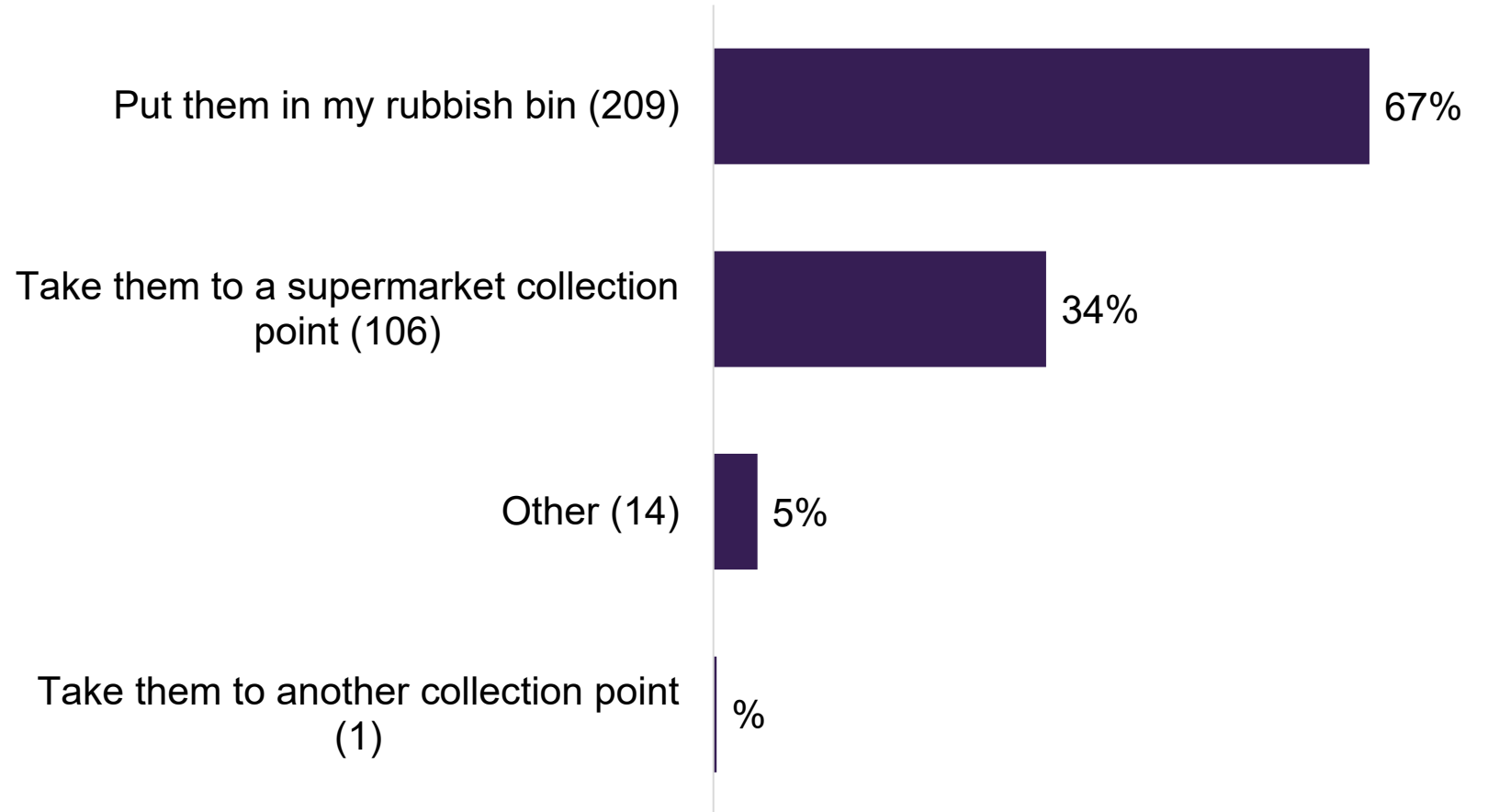
“Council depots take more items for free. Charging just leads to use of bins and fly tipping.

Obviously better fly tipping checks and huge fines for abuse. But target abusers not the ordinary person”

What do you currently do with plastic bags and wrappers that cannot be recycled in your recycling bin? e.g. bread bags

67% of those who responded put plastic bags and wrappers in their recycling bin

116



What do you currently do with plastic bags and wrappers that cannot be recycled in your recycling bin? e.g. bread bags – Other comments

Theme	Comment
Reuse Before Disposal	Many respondents reuse plastic bags and wrappers for household tasks before discarding them.
Attempt to Recycle	Some place plastic wrappers in recycling bins , even if they are unsure about their recyclability.
Use for Contaminated Waste	Plastic wrappers are often used to contain non-recyclable or dirty waste .
Supermarket Drop-Offs	A few respondents take plastic wrappers to specific supermarket recycling points .

Recycling plastic bags – Example quotes from respondents

“Use them”

“Some items I re-use around the garden. e.g. bottles for creating water feeder systems or various plastic items that can act like an 'incubator' for small plants. There is only *so* much stuff I can recycle until I really don't need any more, then sadly excess has to be disposed of”

“Reuse for waste”

“reuse once before going in big bin”

“I reuse them a number of times before putting them into the rubbish bin”

“Reuse the plastic bags”

“Reuse them to put rubbish in”

“Put them in the recycle bin”

“Recycle them ourselves, then if needs be, place remainder in blue bin”

“Possibly put them in recycling bin. Packaging that says "recycled in some areas" I'll take a punt and put it in recycling. If you get lots of stuff you could recycle and throw away at the recycling centre, that's YOUR problem. I've done my bit at that point”

“There is only one supermarket who takes recycling”

“Sometimes go to supermarket for recycling. Sometimes go in black bin”

“Use them for contaminated rubbish that goes in the rubbish bin”

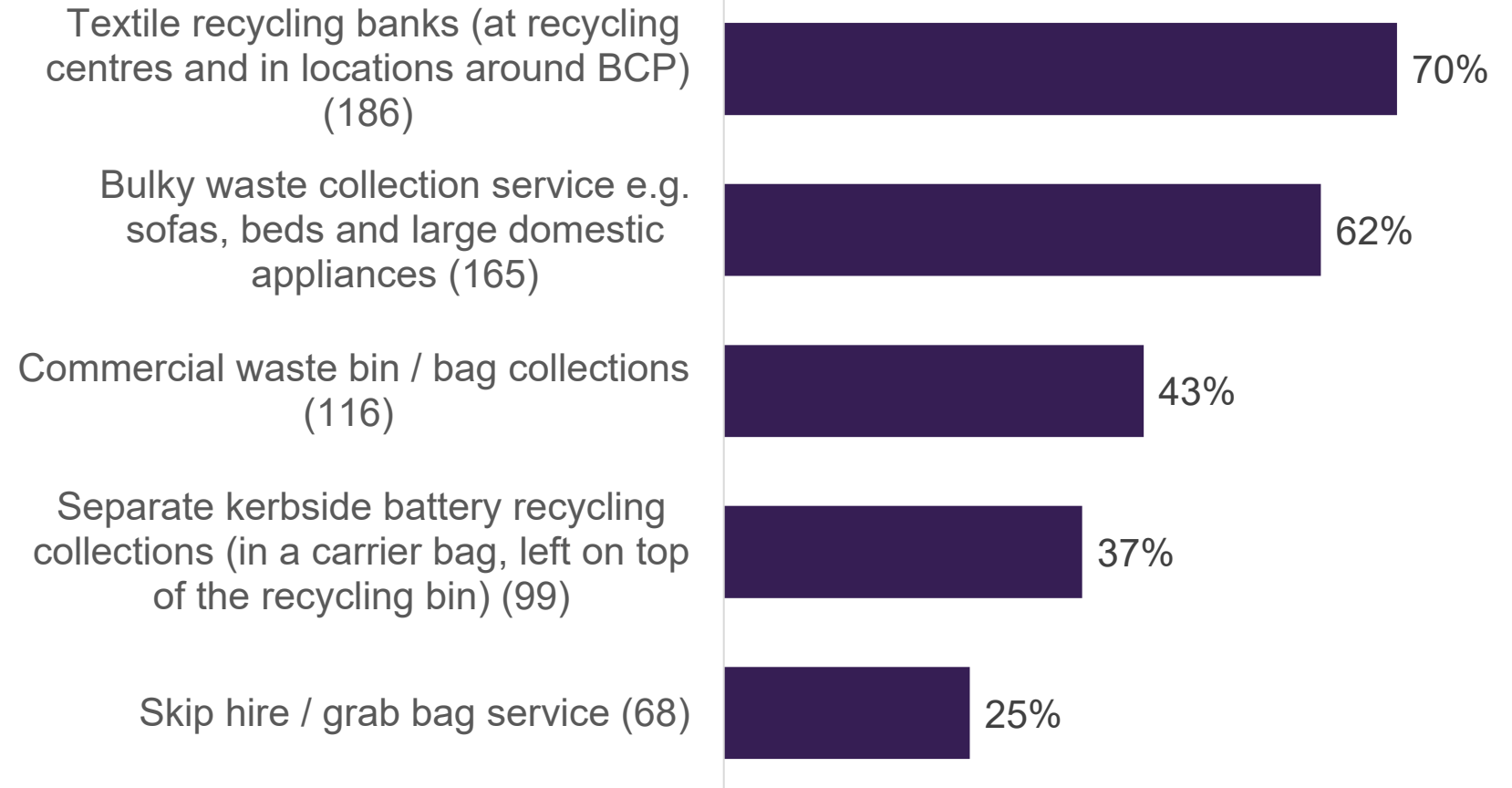
“Use my non recyclable black bin”

Which of the following Council Services are you aware of?



70% of those who responded were aware of textile recycling banks

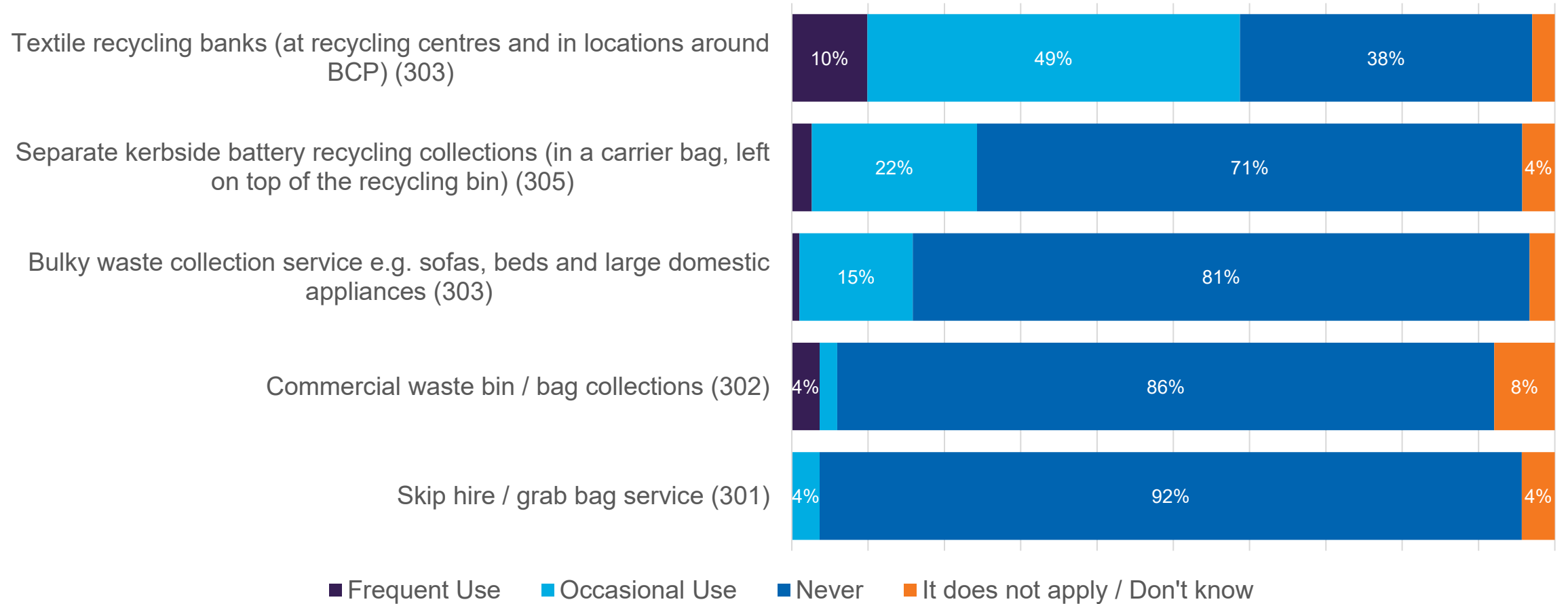
119



Base 267

Which of the following Council services do you use or have you used?

120



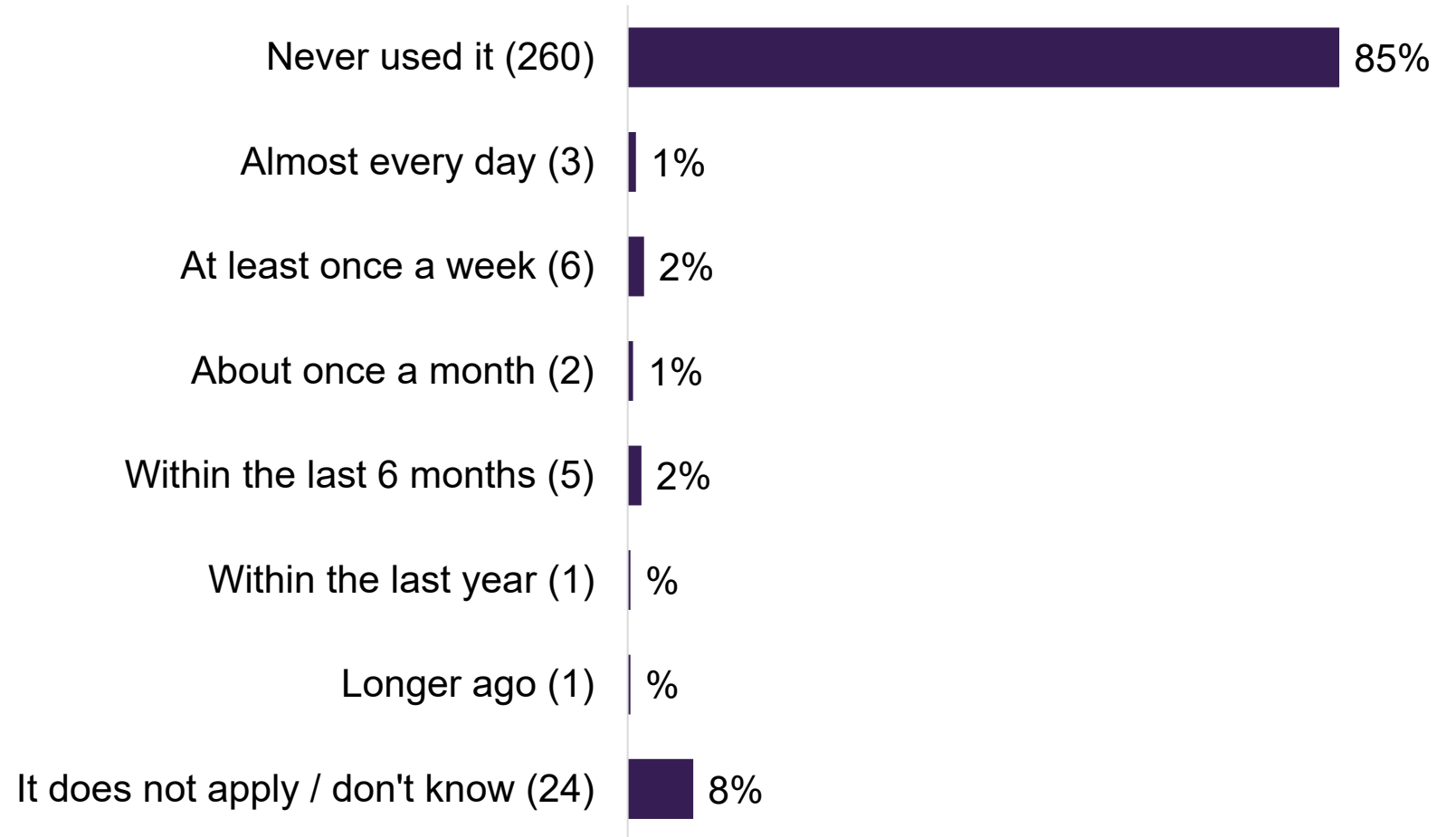
Which of the following Council services do you use or have you used?



Commercial waste bin / bag collections

121

85% of those who responded have never used the commercial waste bin / bag service



Base 302

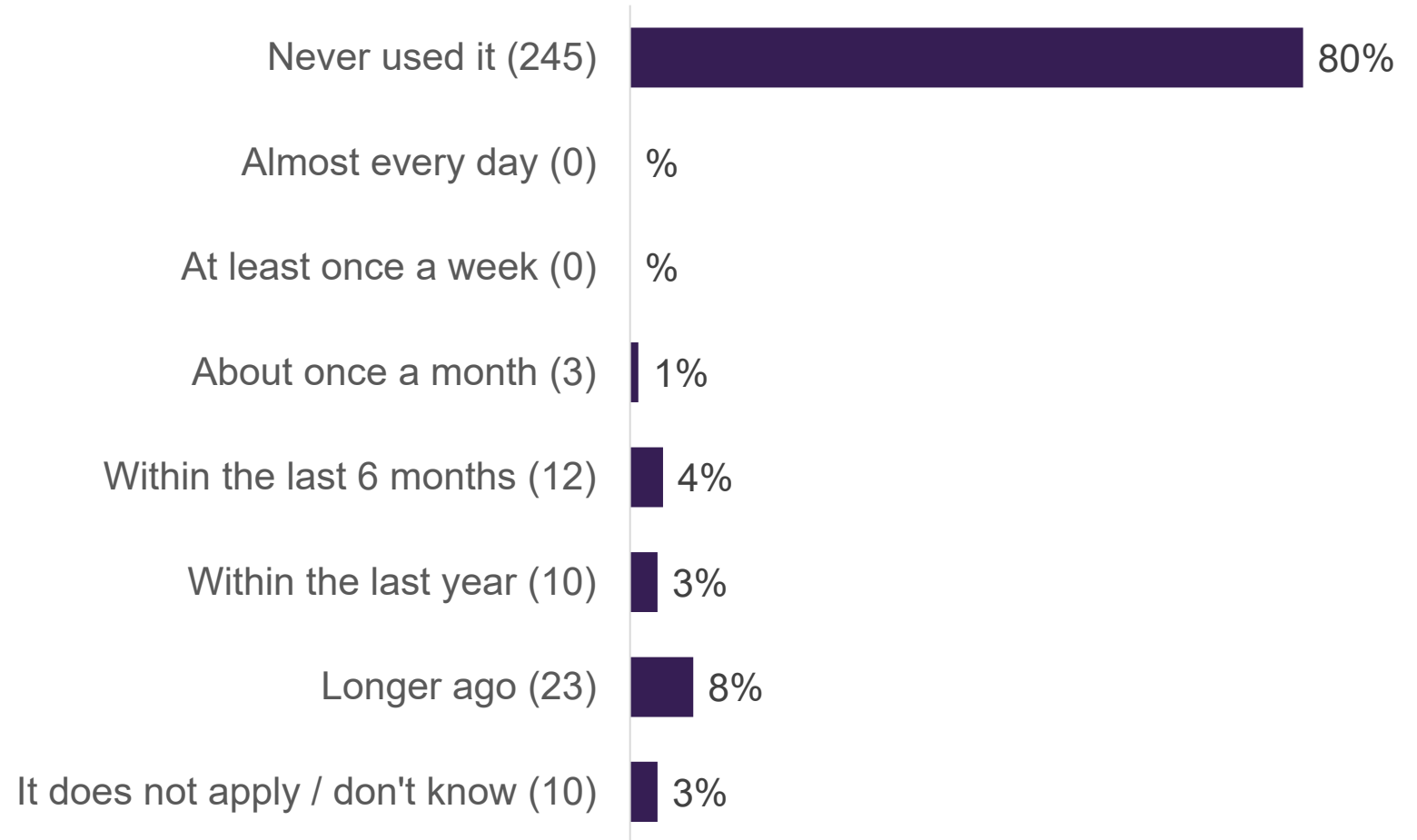
Which of the following Council services do you use or have you used?



Bulky waste collection service e.g. sofas, beds and large domestic appliances

122

80% of those who responded have never used the bulky waste collection service



Base 303

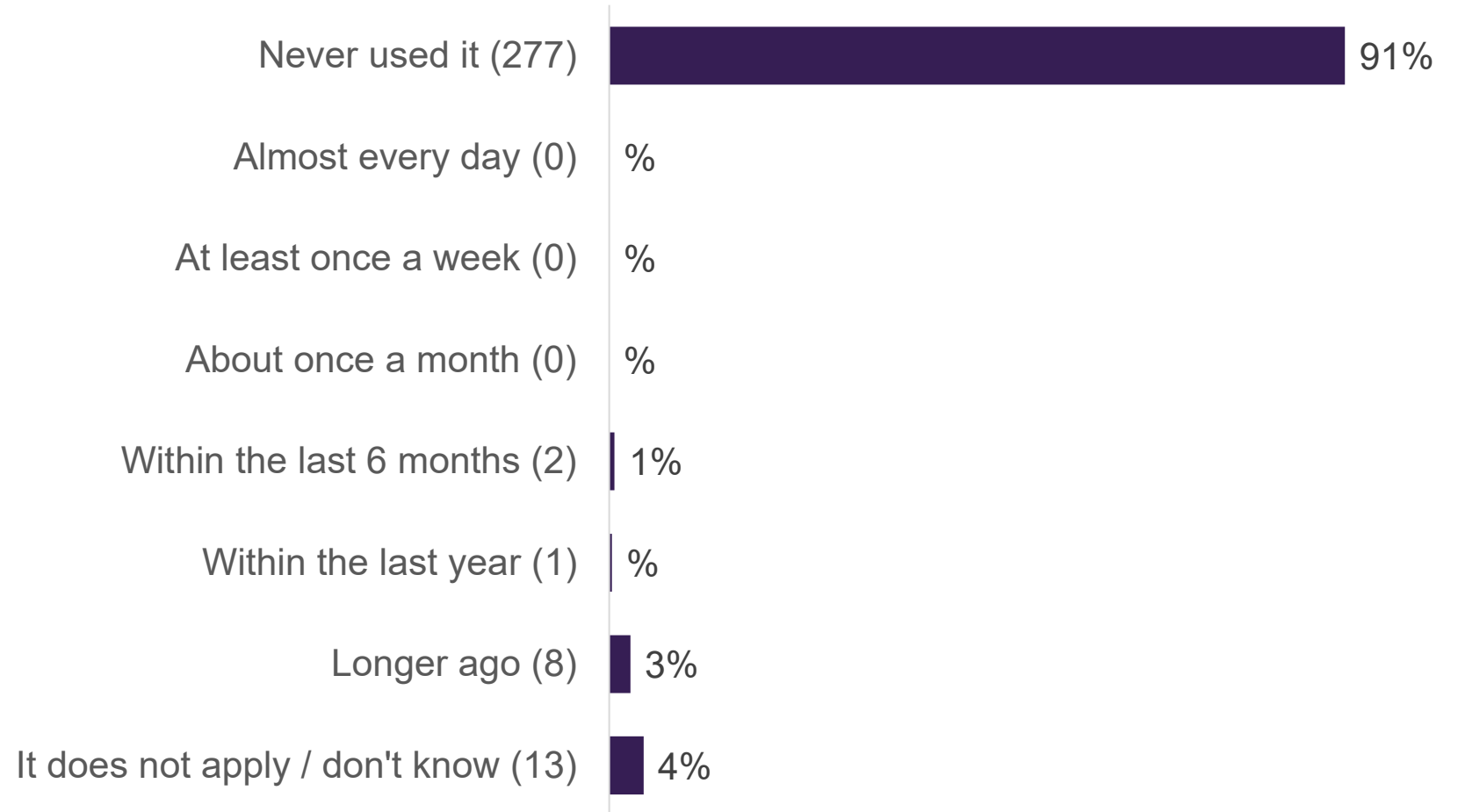
Which of the following Council services do you use or have you used?



Skip hire / grab bag service

123

91% of those who responded have never used the commercial waste bin / bag service



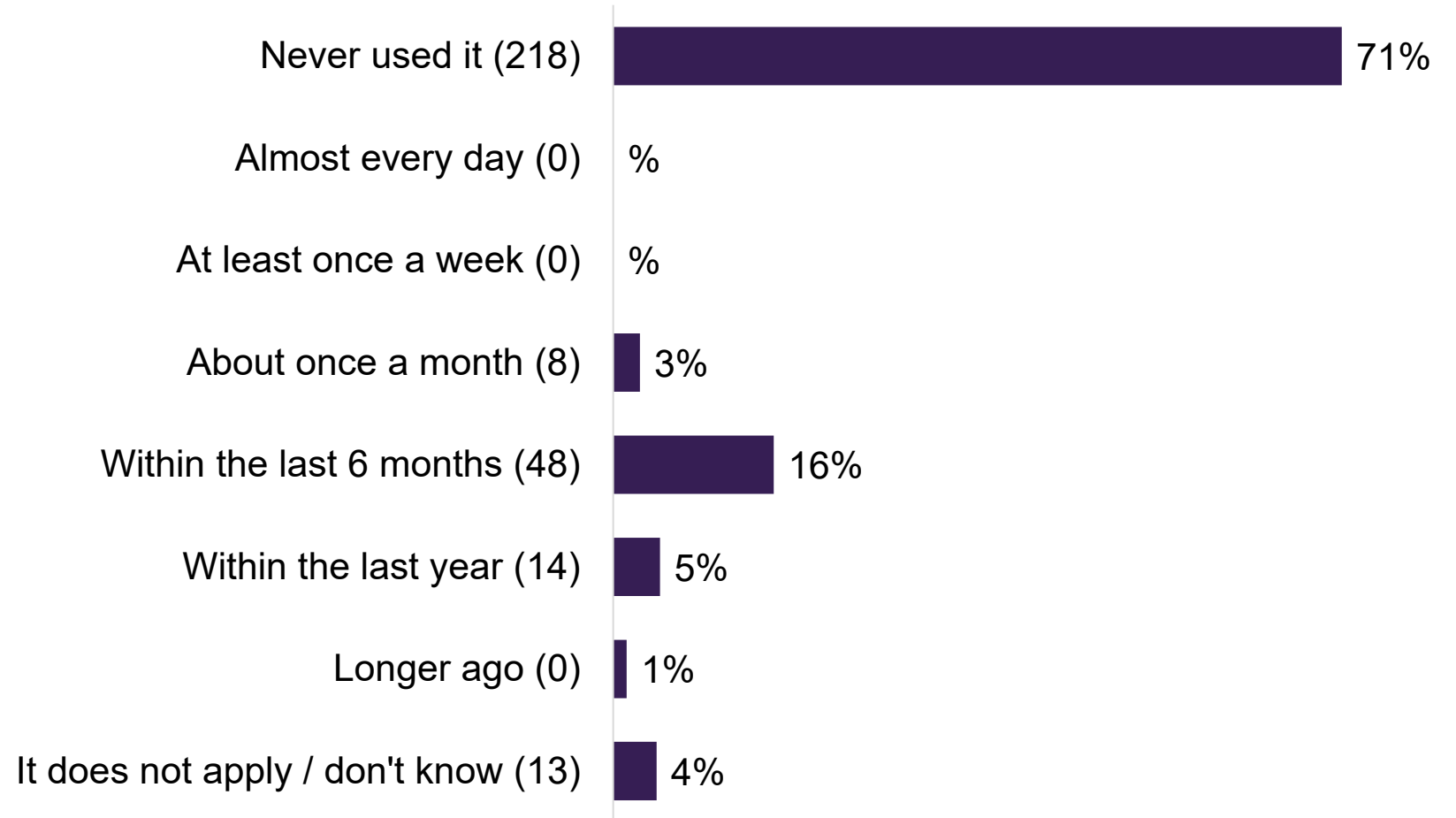
Base 301

Which of the following Council services do you use or have you used?



Separate kerbside battery recycling collections (in a carrier bag, left on top of the recycling bin)

71% of those who responded have never used the battery recycling collection service



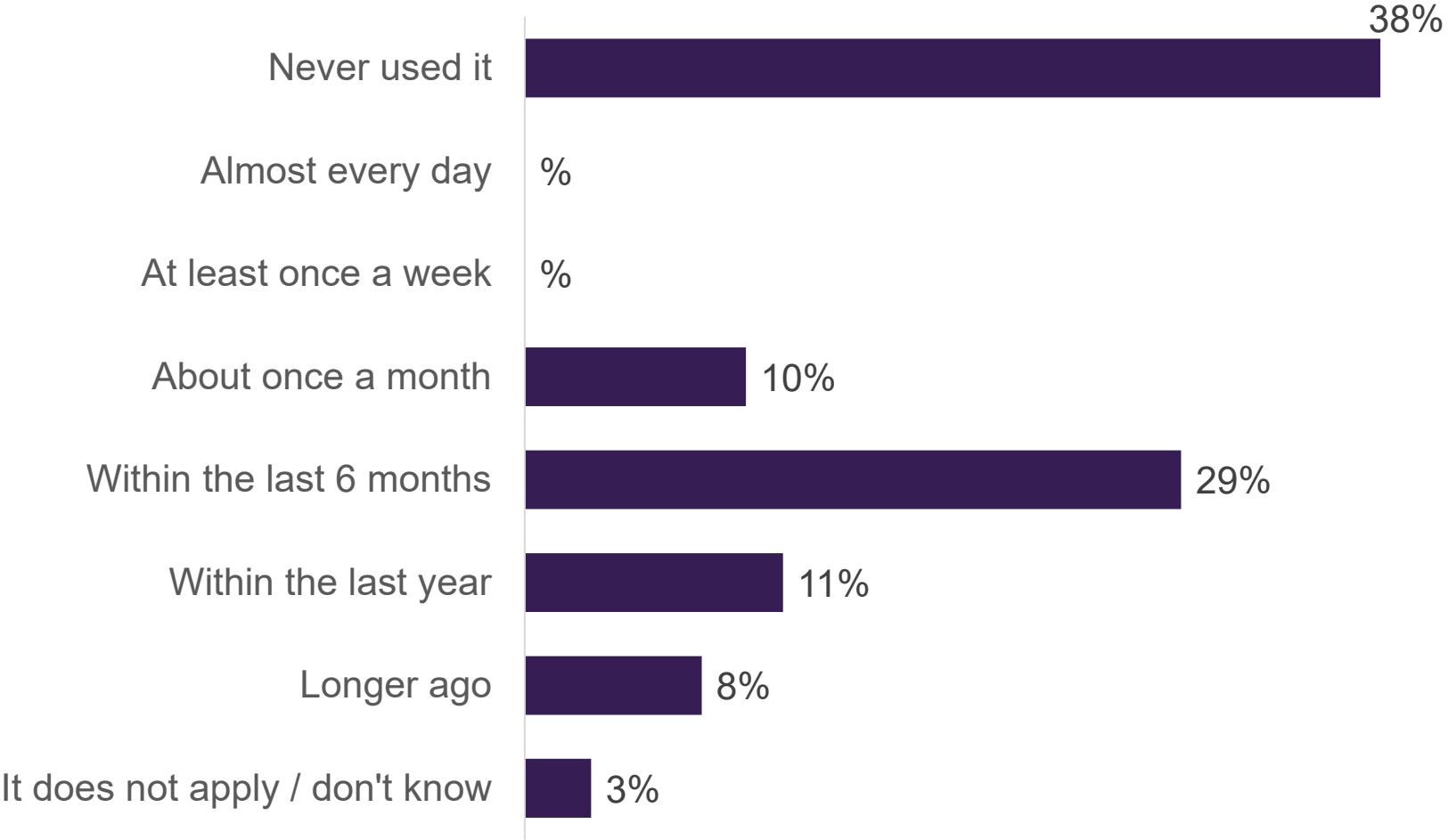
Base 305

Which of the following Council services do you use or have you used?



Textile recycling banks (at recycling centres and in locations around BCP)

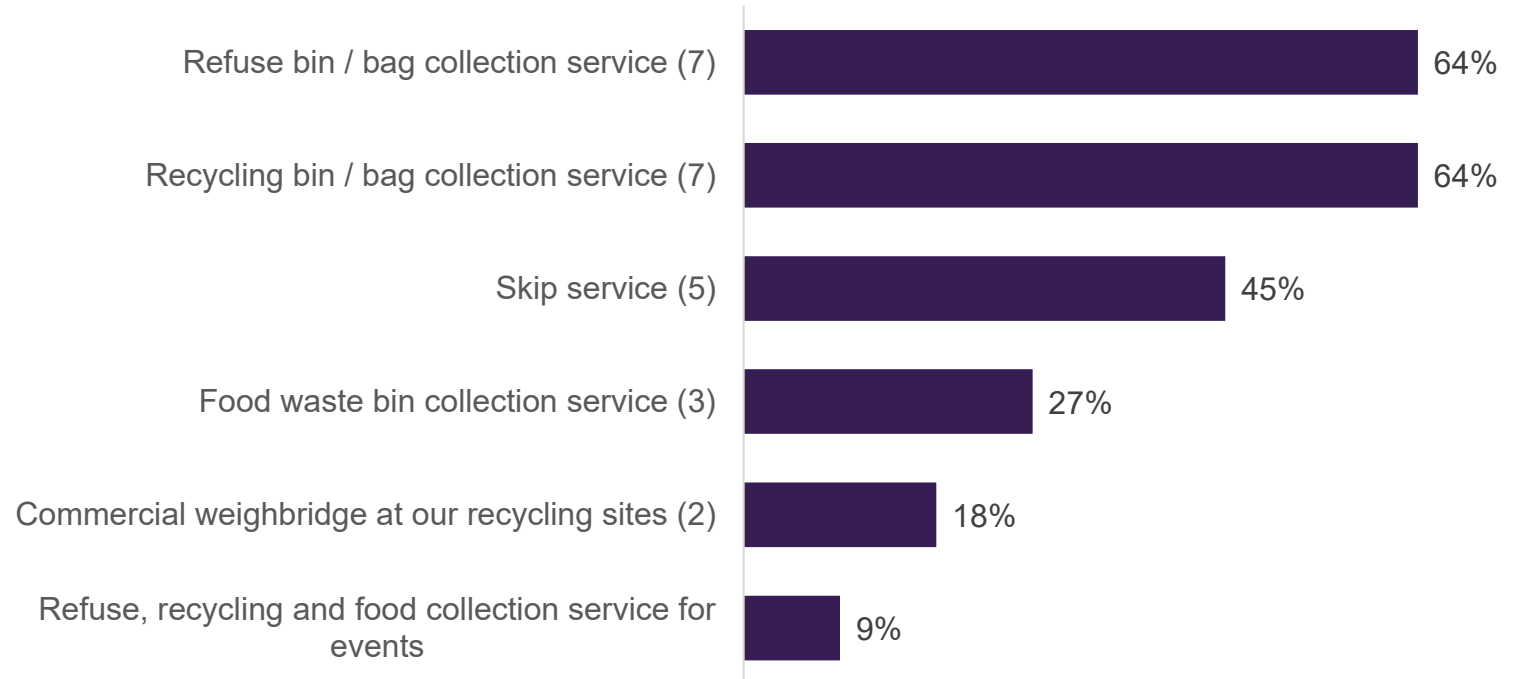
125 38% of those who responded have never the textile recycling banks



If you run a business in the BCP area do you use our Commercial Waste services or another provider?

- 97% of those who responded don't use the service
- 2% responded that they use BCP for commercial waste
- 2% responded that they use another provider

126 Although only 2 respondents said they were replying on behalf of a business, 11 answered the question.

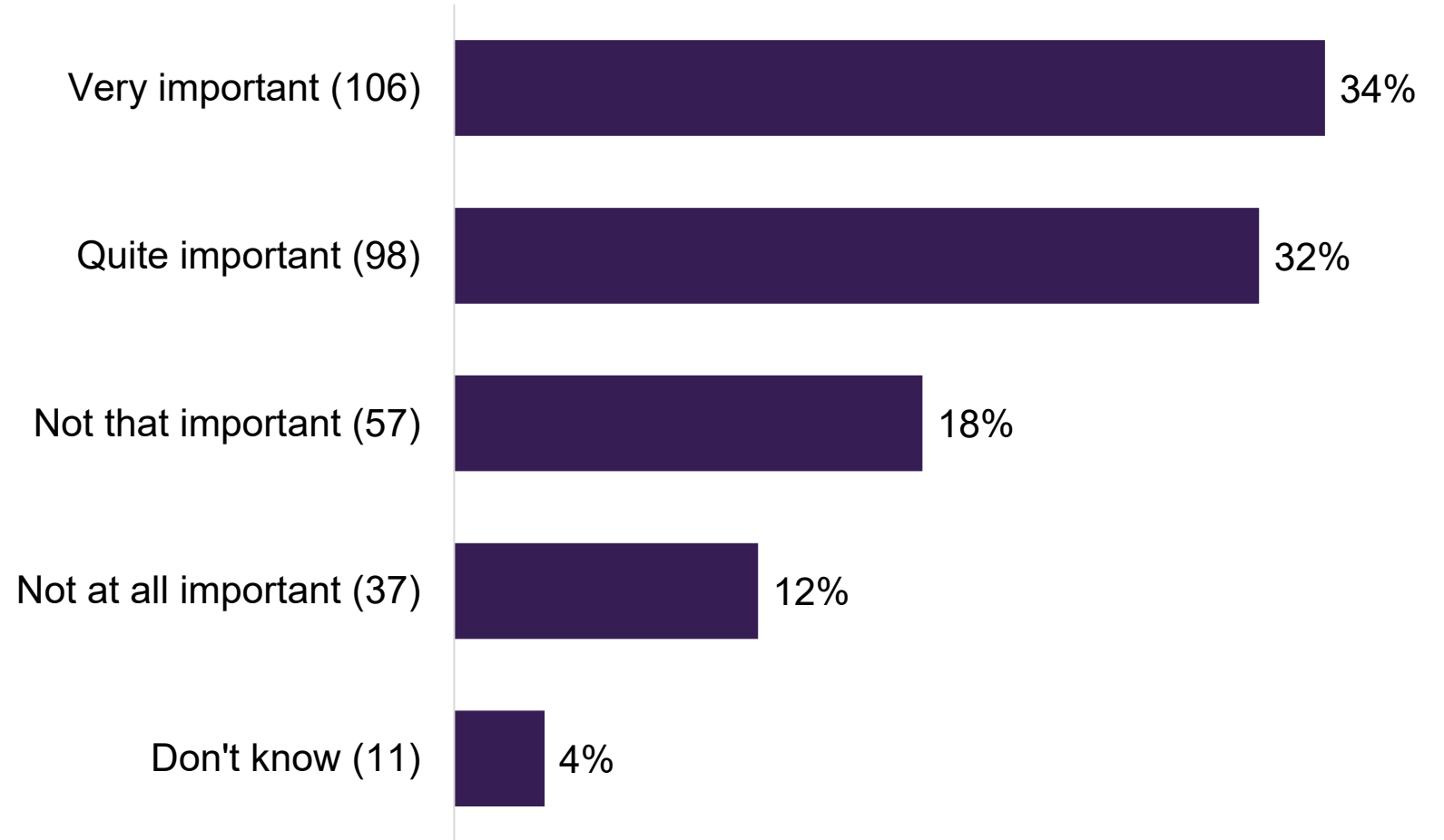


How important to you is it that your waste is treated within 100 miles of BCP?



66% of those who responded felt it was important and 30% felt it wasn't important

127

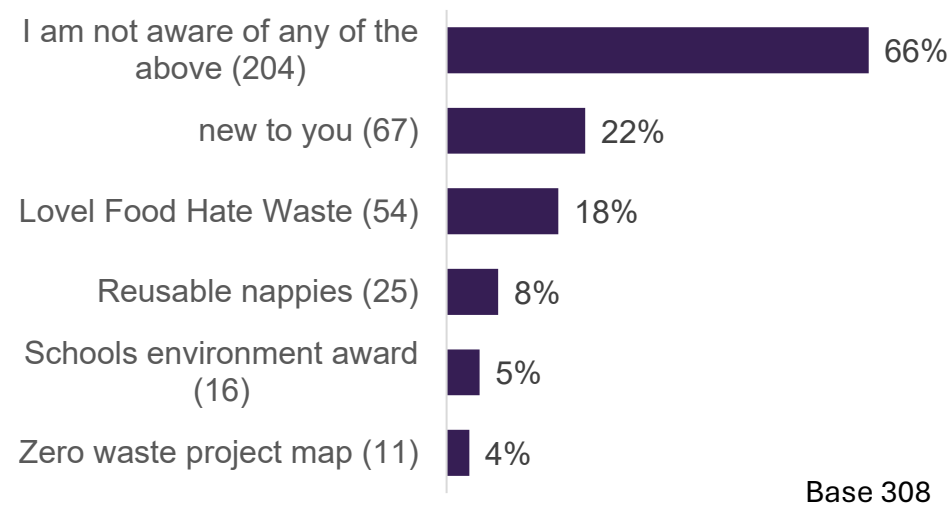


Base 309

BCP Council reuse initiatives

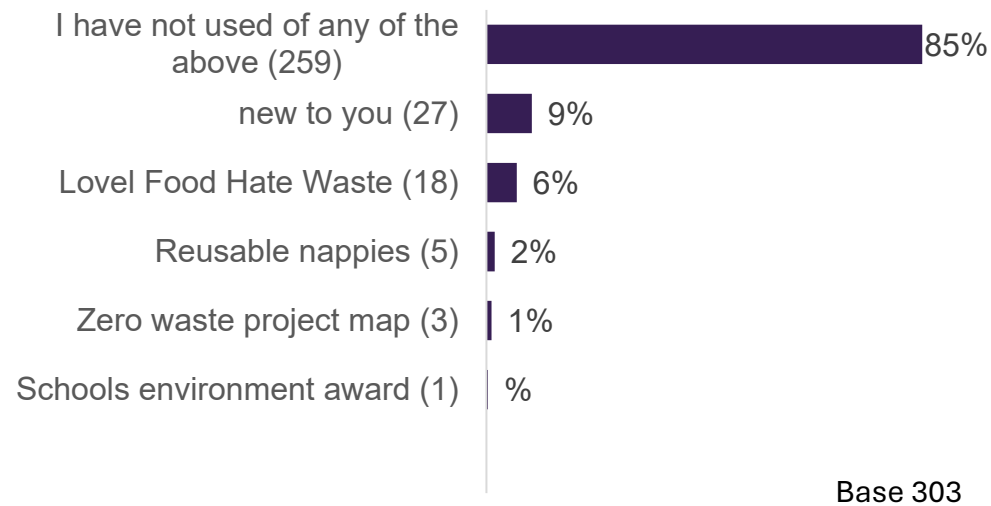


Which of the following BCP Council reuse initiatives are you aware of?



22% of those who responded were most aware of new to you compared to other reuse initiatives

Which of the following BCP Council reuse initiatives have you used?



9% of those who responded had used new to you the most compared to other reuse initiatives

Are you aware that reducing and recycling plastic, food waste and garden waste is an important way to reduce the emissions causing climate change?

- 95% of those who responded **were aware** that reducing and recycling plastic, food waste and garden waste is an important way to reduce the emission causing climate change.

Comments included:

Theme	Comment
Business Waste Responsibility	Some respondents believe businesses should lead on waste management , noting their greater contribution to climate change compared to households.
Plastic recycling challenges	Respondents want better home recycling options , especially for soft plastics, and call for reduced packaging and clearer council-led waste systems.
Awareness / Personal Action	Many respondents are aware and already taking steps to reduce and recycle waste .
Service Gaps	Poole respondents expressed frustration over the lack of food waste collection, feeling disadvantaged compared to other areas
Climate Change Scepticism	Some respondents questioned the link between waste and climate change , viewing recycling as practical or ethical rather than environmental.
Storage and affordability	Issues raised include confusion over bin rules, infrequent collections, cost barriers, and lack of space for multiple bins .

110 comments received

Recycling plastic bags – Example quotes from respondents

“Could we have recycling targets for our businesses as well as for household waste”

“It’s laughable to even attempt to equate an individuals impact with the scale of commercial impact”

“There needs to be pressure on the supermarkets, particularly, to go back to paper bags for fruit and veg and not smother everything in clingfilm and plastic wrapping”

“Focus on suppliers to reduce packaging. Especially supermarkets with the amount of plastic packaging they use”

“You don’t recycle a lot of plastics”

“I take all my non recyclable plastic bags etc. to the local supermarket collection points. However, I am not at all confident that these are reused. I recently read that the majority of these are sent for incineration as no contracts are available for reuse and recycle. It must be a priority to have these contracts in place and assure encourage the public that if they use these collection points that their efforts and belief in the system is justified”

“I’d like to be able to recycle plastic waste at home as this is the majority of my waste. I try to take it to the collection points but I don’t really have anywhere to store it. If plastic wrap was able to be recycled too, my main waste bin would have barely anything in it”

“Poole residents should have had the service implemented by now”

“What we do in Britain is irrelevant to any effects on global warming”

“Make it easy to recycle fewer bins more regular collections”

“Please, as I said earlier - no additional bins and no additional cost”

“Recycling plastic needs to be much better, allowing full reuse/recycling rather than finding ways to just “use it up”

“I compost 90pc of my food waste, Often use card and paper as ground cover and mulch. Plastic bottles as plant covers and seed starters. so, I think at my age I do my share of waste management”

Are there any other items you would like to be able to recycle at the household waste recycling centres?

131

79% of those who responded would like to be able to recycle hard plastics at waste recycling centres



Base 257

Are there any other items you would like to be able to recycle at the household waste recycling centres? Other

132

Items for recycling

- Duvets, pillows, cushions
- Textiles (including those not suitable for charity shops)
- Food waste
- Polystyrene
- Pringles cans, aerosols, deodorants
- Paint
- Large electricals (e.g. refrigerators)
- Small electricals and batteries
- Hard plastics (e.g. washing-up bowls)
- Plastic bags and food wrappers
- DIY waste (e.g. rubble, tiles, plasterboard)
- Gas canisters
- Car-related waste (tyres, fluids, upholstery, batteries, bodywork)
- Obsolete sports equipment (e.g. windsurfer board)
- Furniture for reuse
- Terracycle items (e.g. crisp packets, dental products)

Theme
There should be a way to recycle or dispose of all items responsibly and locally.
Charges at recycling centres may discourage proper disposal and may lead to fly-tipping.
Access to recycling centres is difficult for those without cars or with limited mobility.
Kerbside collection is preferred over travelling to recycling points.
The council should accept more types of waste and remove barriers to responsible disposal .
There's confusion about what is accepted at recycling centres.
People want to recycle more but feel unsupported by current infrastructure .
Better communication and signage are needed.
There's a desire for free or subsidised disposal of bulky or unusual items .
Some believe all recyclable items should be accepted without charge or restriction .

To reduce waiting times would you use a booking system to book a slot on the day and up to a week in advance to visit your recycling centre?

- 17% said they would use a booking system to book on the day
- 23% said they would use a booking system to book up to a week in advance
- 65% said they did not want to do either

Comments included:

Theme	Comment	Base 307
Strong Opposition to Booking	Many respondents feel booking systems are inconvenient , and likely to discourage recycling and encourage fly-tipping.	
Concerns About Accessibility and Inclusion	Respondents worry that booking systems exclude older people , those without internet access, or with disabilities.	
Preference for Flexibility	Many users value the ability to visit recycling centres spontaneously	
Support for Booking in Limited Circumstances	Some respondents support booking systems for peak times (weekends and bank holidays) or specific vehicle types.	
Suggestions for Alternatives	Proposals included better signage, live queue/video cam updates , or apps to manage traffic without booking.	
Satisfaction with Current System	Some respondents feel the current system works well , doesn't need changing and a booking system is unnecessary	

Booking systems – Example quotes from respondents

134

“Creation of recycled rubbish is not governed by time, as it can occur at any time, ... prebooking will make dumping a bigger problem. Good access to the recycling plant without long queues is one way to ensure an efficient system, when you consider the amount of fuel used and exhaust gases created waiting for access to the recycling point”

“This is a deterrent to use it - why are you making it harder to recycle??? This will just encourage fly tipping”

“Booking system = more fly tipping”

“It would put me off using the tip. The traffic is often bad on my journey there so it would be stressful to try and get there at a specific time”

“Quite happy with just going to the tip on the spur of the moment do not want the hassle of booking a slot. Also, I think older people would struggle who do not have technology”

“My Dad has a booking system where he is. He struggles a bit online ... but has the ability to phone to book a slot. This should be an important consideration to include the older council tax payers”

“I said no because it would automatically exclude many groups of people who do not have access to a computer”

“Most people do not plan far enough ahead for a booking system and it is just a waste of money and unnecessary administration”

“A visit is not always pre-planned”

“The service should be provided at the customers convenience, not the providers”

“I've not had any issues with the first come/first served process at the recycling centre. However, maybe a booking system is needed for weekends only?”

“Being able to check how busy a centre is can be useful”

“I used to use the app advising how busy the centre was”

“Current system at my local site works well no need to change”

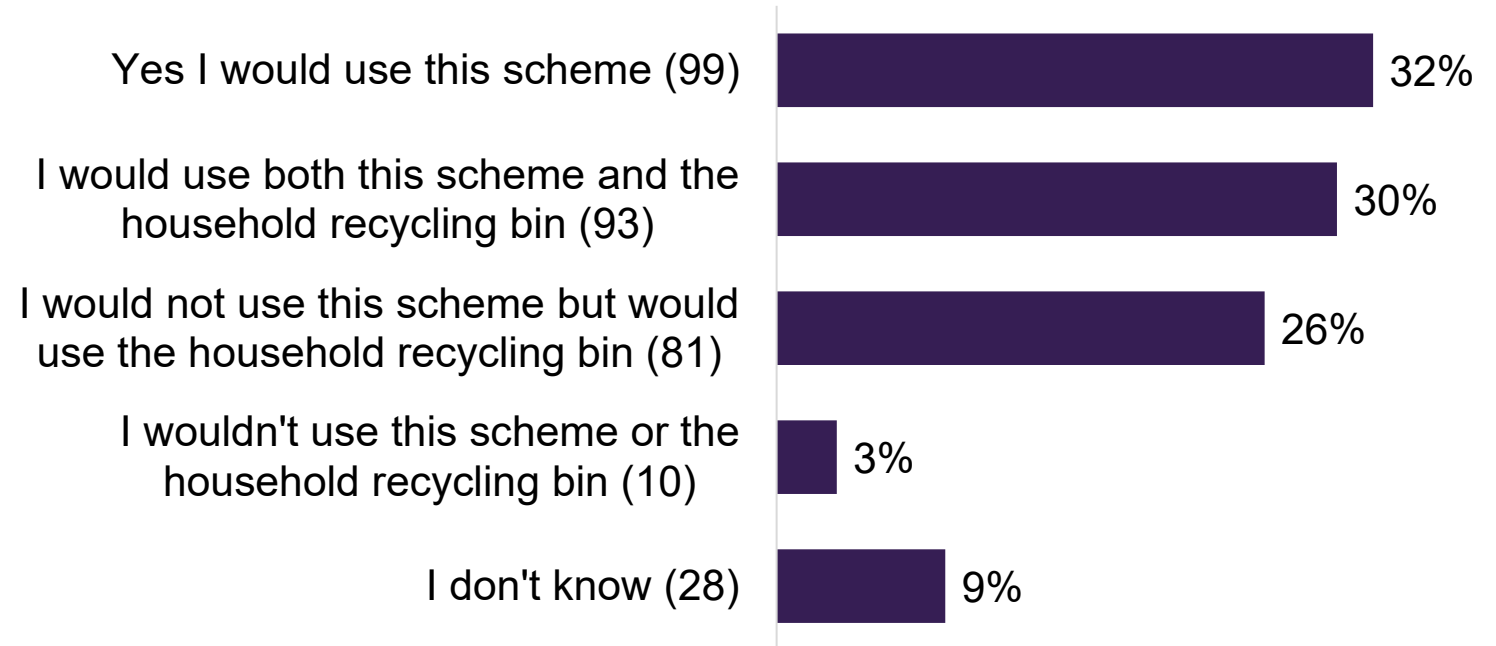
“Happy with current service - which is excellent”

Deposit return scheme

The Government is proposing to introduce a deposit return scheme where a small deposit will be charged on single use drinks containers (plastic bottles and cans) and this deposit would be returned when the containers are deposited at a collection point, would you use this scheme or continue to use your household recycling bin for these items?

135

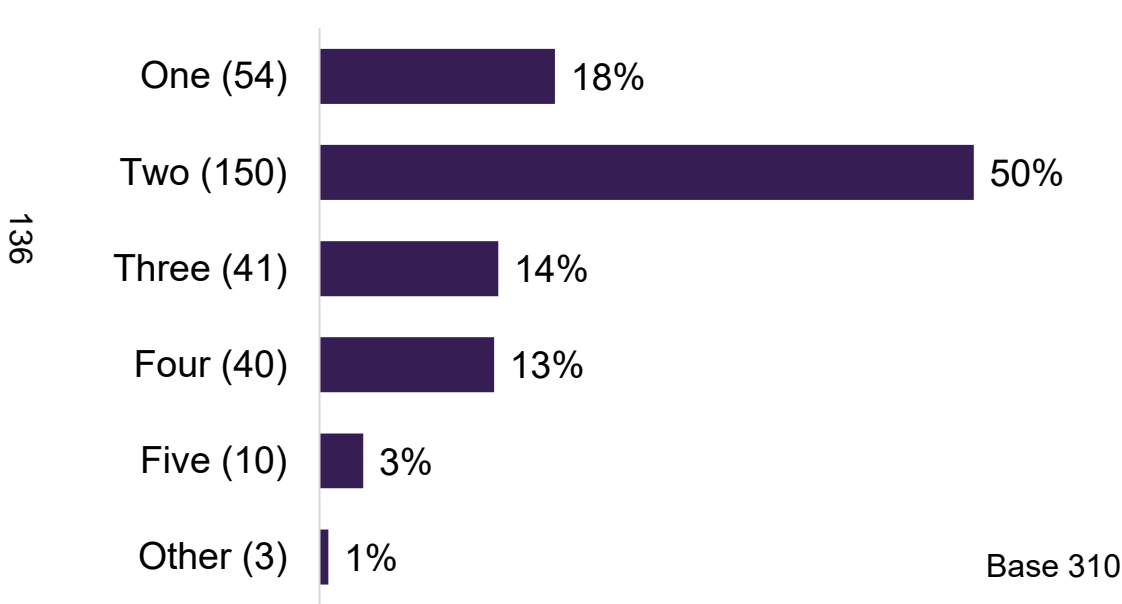
29% of those who responded wouldn't use the government scheme



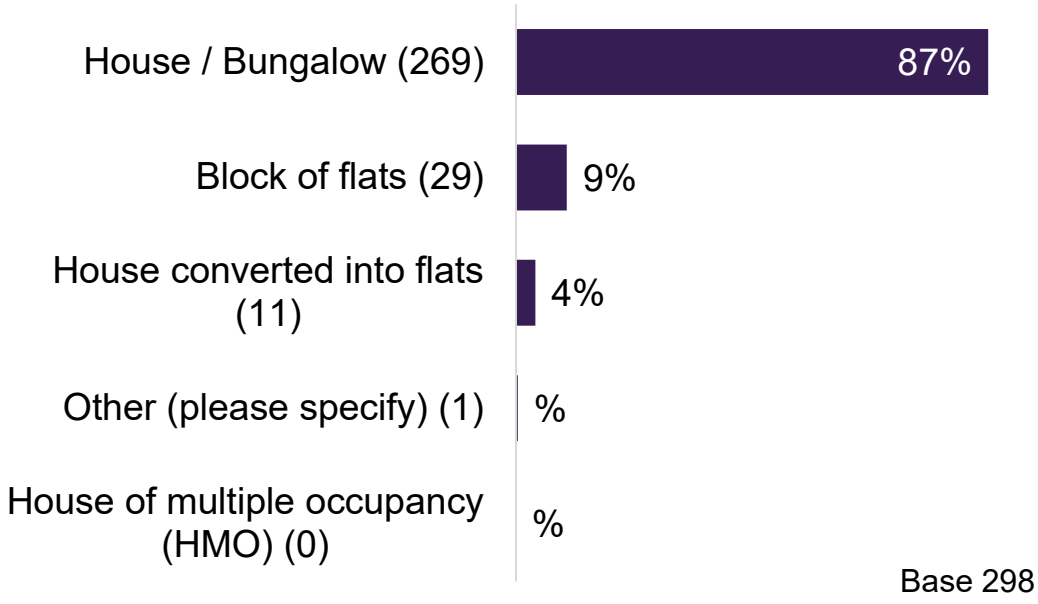
Living Arrangements



- 94% of respondents have access to a car (308 Responses)












50% of respondents live in households with 2 people



87% of respondents live in a house or a bungalow

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Impact Summary

Climate Change & Energy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Communities & Culture	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Waste & Resource Use	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Economy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Health & Wellbeing	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Learning & Skills	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Natural Environment	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Sustainable Procurement	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Transport & Accessibility	No positive or negative impacts identified	

Answers provided indicate that the score for the carbon footprint of the proposal is: **0**

Answers provided indicate that the carbon footprint of the proposal is:	Low	
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Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Proposal ID: **706**

Proposal Title: **BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy**

Type of Proposal: **Strategy**

Brief description:

The waste strategy will set out how household and commercial waste services will be managed. The strategy will be aligned with government waste reforms and the council's corporate strategy. It will set out a baseline of current performance along with focus areas, ambitions and plans covering kerbside collections, transfer stations, recycling centres and bring banks alongside commercial services and communications to residents, businesses and the community.

Proposer's Name: **Mary de Fonseca**

Proposer's Directorate: **Environment & Community**

Proposer's Service Unit: **Environment**

Estimated cost (£):

If known, the cost amount (£):

Ward(s) Affected (if applicable):

All Wards

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) supported by the proposal:

3. Good Health and Well Being 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities 12. Responsible Consumption and Production 13. Climate Action

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Climate Change & Energy

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on addressing the causes and effects of climate change? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (in this case there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Has the proposal accounted for the potential impacts of climate change, e.g. flooding, storms or heatwaves? **Yes**
- 2) Does it assist reducing CO2 and other Green House Gas (GHG) emissions? E.g. reduction in energy or transport use, or waste produced. **Yes**
- 3) Will it increase energy efficiency (e.g. increased efficiency standards / better design / improved construction technologies / choice of materials) and/or reduce energy consumption? **Yes**
- 4) Will it increase the amount of energy obtained from renewable and low carbon sources? **Yes**

How was the overall impact of the proposal on its ability to positively address the cause and effects of climate change rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Sustainable waste disposal and sustainable waste targets are key ambitions of the waste strategy - meeting government waste targets which come into force during the lifetime of this ten-year strategy: to recycle 65% of waste and send less than 10% to landfill by 2035. The proposal has accounted for potential impacts of climate change, for example, odour nuisance from waste, particularly during heatwaves may be reduced by collecting recyclable food waste weekly instead of fortnightly alongside non-recyclable waste. The strategy aims to reduce CO2 and greenhouse gases by prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as is necessary, reducing the carbon impact of transporting waste. The introduction of expanded food waste collections means vehicle emissions would slightly increase due to expanded collections but overall environmental impact would be improved through the reduction of carbon emissions through waste recycling, (rather than disposal) e.g. through diverting food waste out of non-recyclables and instead using it to create compost, landscape products or biogas. Energy consumption and waste reduction will be reduced by preserving items for longer through the reuse and repair declaration - supporting reuse and repair networks where funding allows. Waste reduction will also be supported by a potential re-location of the community reuse

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

store "new to you" to a more central location. The strategy has a focus on education and behaviour change - informing residents and businesses how to prevent waste and recycle more materials more frequently.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring
(inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Communities & Culture

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the development of safe, vibrant, inclusive and engaged communities? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it help maintain and expand vibrant voluntary and community organisations? **Yes**
- 2) Will it promote a safe community environment? **Yes**
- 3) Will it promote and develop cultural activities? **Not Relevant**

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the development of safe, vibrant, inclusive and engaged communities be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



Reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Collection of waste contributes to a safe and healthy community environment. Waste collection is important to residents and contributes to residents' engagement with the council - 81% of respondents are happy with waste services (BCP Council Residents Survey). A public consultation has taken place, (June 2025) with almost two-thirds of respondents happy to further separate their waste. A councillors' informal working group has been formed to capture any additional community feedback. Local communities will be supported to prevent, reduce and recycle waste through education, engagement and services. The community reuse store, "new to you" offers affordable items to support disadvantaged local people who are in need of essential items required to set up a home and for day to day living. It also ensures reusable items are diverted from disposal thus improving environmental performance.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Waste & Resource Use

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on waste resource use or production and consumption? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it prevent waste or promote the reduction, re-use, recycling or recovery of materials? **Yes**
- 2) Will it use sustainable production methods or reduce the need for resources? **Yes**
- 3) Will it manage the extraction and use of raw materials in ways that minimise depletion and cause no serious environmental damage? **Yes**
- 4) Will it help to reduce the amount of water abstracted and / or used? **Yes**

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the sustainable production and consumption of natural resources be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The waste strategy views waste as a valuable resource with the strategy setting out waste treatment, in legal accordance with the waste hierarchy: prevent, reduce, re-use, recycle, recover and finally dispose. Applying the waste hierarchy will reduce the demand for virgin raw materials for production, thus contributing to sustainable production and reducing consumption of natural resources. It supports the movement away from a linear economy where waste is thrown "away" to a circular economy where resources are used for as long as possible. During the lifetime of the strategy, the council will become responsible for new services including food waste, plastic film and separate paper and card collections increasing recycling rates. Food waste will be converted into compost material and biogas and separating paper and card will improve the quality of recyclate for use in new products, reducing depletion of natural resources. The risk of batteries causing fires when mixed with dry recycling will also be addressed by the strategy. By removing the service collecting batteries, vapes and small electricals at the kerbside, fires will be prevented and this will also protect dry recycling at the transfer stations prior to onward processing.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring
(inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):



Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Economy

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the area's ability to support, maintain and grow a sustainable, diverse and thriving economy? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will the proposal encourage local business creation and / or growth?

Yes

- 2) Will the proposal enable local jobs to be created or retained?

Yes

- 3) Will the proposal promote sustainable business practices?

Yes

=How would the overall impact of the proposal on it's potential to support and maintain a sustainable, diverse and thriving economy be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Positive impacts are expected through use of modern waste infrastructure and a review of recycling centre policies and the van permit scheme to manage commercial waste abuse more effectively. This in turn supports business by reducing the likelihood of reputable businesses being undercut by those not paying to dispose of waste correctly. The strategy supports the local economy and the creation and retention of local environment jobs. The strategy provides employment opportunities with businesses engaged in waste services. The proposal specifically aims to support a more sustainable economy and the transition to a circular economy. Government initiatives such as Deposit Return Scheme and Extender Producer Responsibility will impact upon the funding of waste services, however the level of funding is yet to be determined.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Health & Wellbeing

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the creation of a inclusive and healthy social and physical environmental for all? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will the proposal contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of residents or staff?
Yes
- 2) Will the proposal contribute to reducing inequalities?
Yes
- 3) Will the proposal contribute to a healthier and more sustainable physical environment for residents or staff?
Yes

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the creation of a fair and healthy social and physical environmental for all be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

This proposal will reduce inequalities as it will bring parity of strategy and service to residents regardless of which town they live in. Good management of waste contributes to a healthy physical environment for everyone and the strategy contributes to BCP Council's carbon reduction targets, lowering pollution by reducing vehicle and disposal emissions associated with waste and recycling. The strategy specifically considers how services will be delivered in a safe manner under the ambition to deliver "Futureproof and safe services". There will also be exploration of incentives for the use of reusable hygiene products. The extension of the food waste kerbside collection service may also support good health by highlighting to households how much edible food is thrown away and encouraging other behaviours such as freezing left-overs.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Learning & Skills

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on a culture of ongoing engagement and excellence in learning and skills? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it provide and/or improve opportunities for formal learning?
Partially
- 2) Will it provide and/or improve community learning and development?
Yes
- 3) Will it provide and/or improve opportunities for apprenticeships and other skill based learning?
Yes

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the encouragement of learning and skills be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The strategy will impact positively on learning and skills. Expected impacts include opportunities for community learning relating to prevention and recycling of waste, e.g. through information on-line or sorting tables at recycling centres to educate and enable residents to separate recyclables from non-recyclable items. The waste strategy also includes initiatives with schools through the School Environment Award which helps schools to raise awareness of local (and global) environmental issues and projects. Employees of BCP Council engaged in waste roles will receive training in line with the requirements of their role, therefore building their learning and skills.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Natural Environment

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the protection or enhancement of local biodiversity or the access to and quality of natural environments?

Yes

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it help protect and improve biodiversity i.e. habitats or species (including designated and non-designated)? **Yes**
- 2) Will it improve access to and connectivity of local green spaces whilst protecting and enhancing them? **Yes**
- 3) Will it help protect and enhance the landscape quality and character?
Yes
- 4) Will it help to protect and enhance the quality of the area's air, water and land?
Yes

How would the overall impact of your proposal on the protection and enhancement of natural environments be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The good management of waste, in particular the reduction of waste being sent to landfill disposal contributes to the quality of the natural environment. The waste strategy has an emphasis on reducing the need for raw materials, taken from the natural environment through its emphasis on keeping materials and items in use for as long as possible in line with the circular economy. The waste strategy covers commercial waste services which include a bulky waste collection service which may reduce the risk of fly-tipping therefore protecting the quality of landscape character.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Sustainable Procurement

Does your proposal involve the procurement of goods, services or works? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

Has or is it intended that the Strategic Procurement team be consulted?

Yes – planning to discuss

If the Strategic Procurement team was not consulted, then the explanation for this is:

- 1) Do the Government Buying Standards (GBS) apply to goods and/or services that are planned to be bought?

No

- 2) Has sustainable resource use (e.g. energy & water consumption, waste streams, minerals use) been considered for whole life-cycle of the product/service/work?

Yes

- 3) Has the issue of carbon reduction (e.g. energy sources, transport issues) and adaptation (e.g. resilience against extreme weather events) been considered in the supply chain?

Yes

- 4) Is the product/service fairly traded i.e. ensures good working conditions, social benefits e.g. Fairtrade or similar standards?

Yes

- 5) Has the lotting strategy been optimised to improve prospects for local suppliers and SMEs?

Yes

- 6) If aspects of the requirement are unsustainable then is continued improvement factored into your contract with KPIs, and will this be monitored?

Yes

How is the overall impact of your proposal on procurement which supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection and progressive labour standards been rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The strategy preparation will be completed in-house rather than using external consultants, once the waste strategy is in place, a tender process will commence for

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

waste disposal contracts and the Strategic Procurement Team will be consulted. Several of the contracts have lotted individual waste streams to help smaller or specialist contracts bid for contracts. Successful bidders will be expected to demonstrate evidence of sustainable environmental and social outcomes and at present, a number of local businesses hold existing contracts for waste services e.g. waste haulage (D&L) and waste processing (Eco Sustainable Solutions).

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: BCP Council ten-year Waste Strategy

Transport & Accessibility

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on the provision of sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe transport services - improving links to jobs, schools, health and other services? **No**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

There are not expected to be any impacts on affordable and safe transport services nor accessibility to schools, health or other services.

- 1) Will it support and encourage the provision of sustainable and accessible modes of transport (including walking, cycling, bus, trains and low emission vehicles)?
- 2) Will it reduce the distances needed to travel to access work, leisure and other services?
- 3) Will it encourage affordable and safe transport options?

How would the overall impact of your proposal on the provision of sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe transport services be rated?

No positive or negative impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Details of proposed mitigation and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

COUNCIL



Report subject	Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Outside Bodies
Meeting date	10 February 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Council is asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group, the appointment of Councillors on Committees and appointments to outside bodies following the political group changes.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 to this report be noted; (b) the number of seats on the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee be reduced to 11 to 10 seats; (c) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2 to this report, be approved; (d) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking into account the wishes of each political group, as detailed in Table 3 to this report, be approved; (e) Councillor Mark Howell plus one other member of the Council be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Licensing Committee referred to in paragraphs 12 and 13 to this report; (f) a member of the Council be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Eastern BCP Planning Committee referred to in paragraphs 12 and 13 of this report; (g) the allocation of seats to each political group to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 4 to this report, be approved; (h) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, taking into account the wishes of each political group, as detailed in Table 5 to this report, be approved; (i) Councillor Lawrence Williams be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Dorset Police and Crime Panel as shown in Table 5 to this report.

Reason for recommendations	To ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations in reviewing and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats together with any other associated issues.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Millie Earl, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council is asked to note the revised political balance of the Council following notifications from Councillor Mark Howell of his decision to resign from the Poole People Group and to be unaligned to any political group, and from Councillor Rachel Pattinson-West of her decision to resign from the Liberal Democrat Group and to subsequently join the Green Group.
2. Set out in Table 1 below is the revised political balance of the Council reflecting these changes. Due to the mathematical rounding of seat entitlements based on the existing number of seats on committees which totals 112, the existing political balance will not divide equally into this number. The Council therefore has two options, (1) to allocate the seats with an accepted imbalance or (2) reduce the number of seats on one of the committees to reduce the total seats to 111.
3. The two options are set out in the table below showing the calculations for both 112 seats and 111 seats. It is proposed to proceed with a total of 111 committee seats by reducing the number of seats on Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 11 members to 10 members. The Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been consulted and supports this change.

Table1	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement for 112 seats*	Seat entitlement for 111 seats*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Liberal Democrat	28	36.84	41.26	40.89
Conservative	9	11.84	13.26	13.14
Christchurch Independents	8	10.53	11.79	11.68
Labour	8	10.53	11.79	11.68
Green	7	9.21	10.32	10.22
BCP Independents	5	6.58	7.37	7.30
Poole People	4	5.26	5.89	5.84
BCP Reform UK	2	2.63	2.95	2.92
Independents	2	2.63	2.95	2.92

Table1	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement for 112 seats*	Seat entitlement for 111 seats*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Poole Engage	2	2.63	2.95	2.92
Other	1	1.32	1.47	1.46
Total	76		111 (-1)	111

4. After allocating the proportion of seats to the political groups, any remaining unallocated seats may be allocated by council to any named councillor, although, it has been customary, where appropriate, to allocate such committee seats to those councillors who are not a member of any political group. There is one seat shown as 'Other' in the table above.
5. The following principles are contained within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and have been amended under the regulations to take account of the fact that not all the seats are necessarily held by members of political groups. They need to be applied in the following order and as far as practicably possible:
 - (a) Not all the seats on a committee are allocated to the same political group.
 - (b) Where a group has a majority of seats on the Authority it should have the majority of seats on each committee.
 - (c) The third rule provides that, without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the ordinary committees taken together be as near as reasonably practicable proportionate to their proportion of seats as a proportion of the authority as a whole.
 - (d) Finally, so far as is consistent with the above each group should be allocated seats on each committee to reflect their proportion of seats on the authority.
6. The allocation of seats other than in accordance with the above principles, requires approval without dissent.
7. The Council is asked to consider the proposed allocation of seats to political groups as detailed in Table 2 below in accordance with the above principles and based on the number of seats on the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee being reduced to 10. The last column in the table identifies there is no variance in the allocation of seats when compared to calculations set out in Table 1, column 5.
8. Seats on committees, which are allocated to political groups, are to be filled by councillors of the respective political group in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group.

Table 2 – Allocation of seats on Committees/Boards

Political Group	Western BCP Planning Committee	Eastern BCP Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Board	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Environment and Place O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Liberal Democrat	4	4	5	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	2	41	+ 0
Conservative	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	13	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	12	+ 0
Labour	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	1	2	2	-	12	+ 0
Green	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	+ 0
BCP Independents	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	7	+ 0
Poole People	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	6	+ 0
BCP Reform UK	1	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	+ 0
Independents	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	+ 0
Poole Engage	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	+ 0
Other (to be allocated)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	+0
Total	11	11	14	7	7	9	13	10	11	11	7	111	

Appointment of Councillors to Committees

9. The following table (Table 3) sets out the proposed membership of the Committees and Boards as advised by the respective political groups. Where a political group has not advised of their proposed members to serve on each committee or board at the time of publication, this will be shown as a vacancy.
10. The Political Groups may at any time alter their Group's membership of Committees and Boards, but any seats otherwise allocated including to the unaligned Members must be approved by full Council. Members are asked to consider the schedule and any revised nominations submitted by the political groups.
11. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 makes provision, where a political group is unable to appoint or fails to appoint a member of that group to an allocated seat, for the council to 'make such appointment as they think fit'. This does not require a recalculation of political balance, and the seat may be allocated to any councillor regardless of political grouping, however, the provisions relating to substitutions would not apply to these direct appointments similarly to those seats allocated to councillors who are not a member of a political group.
12. Members will note in the table below (marked with *) that since the allocation of seats in October 2025, the BCP Reform UK Group has not appointed a member of that group to the Eastern BCP Planning Committee, and the Poole Engage Group has not appointed a member of that group to the Licensing Committee.
13. Unless the Groups concerned appoint a member of their group to the vacant seats prior to the council meeting, council is asked to appoint a named member to each

seat. If more than one valid nomination is received for each seat it will be necessary to conduct a secret ballot in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

14. As set out in the schedule, it is proposed that the seat shown as 'Other' be allocated to Councillor Mark Howell to serve on the Licensing Committee. This appointment requires approval and is included within the remit of recommendation (e).

Table 3 – Appointments to Committees/Boards

	Western BCP Planning Committee	Eastern BCP Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Board	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Environment & Place O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee
Liberal Democrat	Chapmanlaw Clements Le Poidevin Sidaway	Clements Gillett Le Poidevin Tarling	Chapmanlaw Harman Matthews Richardson Sidaway	Andrews Chick Nanov o	Brown, O Le Poidevin Logan	Andrews Slade, V Tarling Trent	Goodall Mackrow Trent Walters Weight	Matthews Richardson Slade, P	Brown, O Harman Mackrow Walters	Chick Clements Gillett Goodall	Earl * Cox **
Conservative	Challinor	Slade, T	Filer Williams	Wright	Dove	Beesley	Beesley Wright	Allen	Slade, T	d'Orton- Gibson	Dove
Christchurch Independents	McCormack	Flagg Hilliard	Flagg Hilliard	Ricketts	Phipps	Phipps	Dedman	Dedman	Martin, D	Ricketts	-
Labour	Cooper	Canavan	Farquhar	Farquhar	-	Connolly	Aitkenhead Canavan	Canavan	Cooper Carr- Brown	Martin, J Moriarty	-
Green	Salmon, J	Salmon, J	Keddie	Pattinson- West	-	Armstrong	Salmon, K	Armstrong	Bull	Rigby	Pattinson- West
BCP Independents	Martin, G	-	Bartlett	-	Rampton	Bartlett	-	Dower	-	Edwards	Bartlett
Poole People	Hitchcock	Rice	-	-	Miles	-	Rice	-	Hitchcock	Rice	-
BCP Reform UK	Adams	Vacancy*	-	-	-	-	-	-	Farr	-	-
Independents	-	-	-	-	-	-	Northover	Northover	-	-	Northover
Poole Engage	-	-	Vacancy*	-	-	-	-	Bagwell	-	-	Butt
Other	-	-	Howell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Leader of the Council in accordance with the Constitution

** Portfolio Holder in accordance with the Constitution

Allocation of Outside Body Seats to Political Groups

15. The following tables (Tables 4 and 5) set out the allocation of seats and named appointments on outside bodies which are subject to the political balance requirements. The last column in Table 4 identifies there is no variance in the allocation of seats compared to the calculations in Table 1.
16. Council is asked to appoint a named member of the Council to the Dorset Police and Crime Panel. If more than one valid nomination is received it will be necessary to conduct a secret ballot in accordance with the Council's procedure rules. At the time of writing this report, one nomination had been received for Councillor Williams to be appointed and is reflected in Table 5 accordingly.

Table 4 – Allocation of seats on Outside Bodies

	Entitlement based on 17 Seats	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board*	Total	Variance (+/-)
Liberal Democrat	6	1	2	1	2	6	+ 0
Conservative	2	-	-	1	1	2	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	1	1	-	-	2	+ 0
Labour	2	1	-	-	1	2	+ 0
Green	2	1	-	1	-	1	+ 0
BCP Independents	1	-	1	-	-	1	+ 0
Poole People	1	-	1	-	-	2	+ 0
BCP Reform UK	0	-	-	-	-	0	+0
Independents	0	-	-	-	-	0	+ 0
Poole Engage	0	-	-	-	-	0	+ 0
Other (to be allocated by council)	1	1	-	-	-	1	+ 0
Total	17	5	5	3	4	17	

* Membership on Lower Central Gardens Trust Board must be not less than 4 and not more than 5.

Table 5 - Appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies

	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board*
Liberal Democrat	Sidaway	Brown, O Weight	Brown, D	Gillett Nanovo
Conservative	-	-	Beesley	Williams
Christchurch Independents	Flagg	Hilliard	-	-
Labour	Canavan	-	-	Martin, J
Green	Keddie	-	Salmon, J	-
BCP Independents	-	Dower	-	-
Poole People	-	Miles	-	-
BCP Reform UK	-	-	-	-
Independents	-	-	-	-
Poole Engage	-	-	-	-
Other (to be allocated by Council)	Williams	-	-	-

Summary of financial implications

17. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Summary of legal implications

18. The Council is required to comply with the relevant legislation and regulations when considering and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats.
19. The Act and Regulations make provisions where a proposal is not as far as possible politically representative. This includes instances where a Group gives up a seat which they are entitled to hold in favour of another and distorts the political balance rules. In such an instance such a proposal can only be accepted if no member votes against them.
20. The proposals, as set out in this report, comply with the political balance principles and can be approved with a simple majority.
21. Although ordinarily the allocation of seats on committees is in accordance with the political balance of the Council, where a political group fails to appoint to a seat allocated to them, the Council may appoint another councillor to that seat. This does not need to be in accordance with the political balance provision and may be appointed regardless of any dissent.

Summary of human resources implications

22. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

23. There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Summary of public health implications

24. There are no public health implications associated with this report

Summary of equality implications

25. There are no equality implications associated with this report. It would be a matter for the political groups to consider any equality issues through their own appointment process.

Summary of risk assessment

26. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

Background papers

None

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

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COUNCIL



Report subject	Non-compliance with Standards Complaints Process - Determination
Meeting date	10 February 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report is for information and provides the Council with updated details of various complaints received since the last report to Council against councillors which were upheld, but in addition, whereby the subject councillor has failed to comply with the remedies considered to be proportionate and appropriate by the Chair of and in consultation with members of the Standards Committee.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: the report be noted.
Reason for recommendations	This report has been prepared following a decision made by Standards Committee to report to Full Council member non-compliance in relation to Code of Conduct complaints detailed in the body of this report.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Robin Watson, Interim Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

Background

1. The Council has a statutory duty arising from the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council. Moreover, those of parish and town councils situated within the boundary of the Council.
2. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for receiving with complaints or allegations that councillors have failed to comply with the members' Code of Conduct in accordance with the arrangements adopted by the Council. These arrangements are published in the Constitution, Part 6 (Codes and Protocols).
3. In summary, these arrangements generally establish a tiered approach for the consideration of complaints as follows:
4. Upon receipt, the Monitoring Officer to undertake an initial assessment and where appropriate, resolve the complaint by way of rejection, dismissal, or seek to secure informal resolution;
5. Refer the complaint to the Chair of the Standards Committee for the Chair to consider in consultation with the Standards Committee members, Independent Persons and the Monitoring Officer; or
6. The Chair may:
 - i) Dismiss the complaint;
 - ii) Conclude that a potential breach of the Code has occurred and seek an informal resolution; or
 - iii) Refer the complaint for independent investigation.
7. The following are summary reports of determinations of the Chair that the Councillors referred to below had breached the Code and what remedies were imposed as a consequence, but not complied with by those Councillors.

The Complaints & Non-Compliance

8. The following Code of Conduct complaints numbered 199; 203; 205; 207 and 209 are all complaints made by a BCP Councillor or member of the public regarding Councillor Cameron Adams' conduct. All arose from the same allegations and circumstances.
9. The complaints were determined by the Chair in consultation with Standards Committee members and Independent Persons at an informal consultation meeting.

Code of Conduct Complaint 199: Councillor Cameron Adams

10. The complaint was upheld in relation to a potential breach of the Code for or in relation to the following:
- a) **1.1 Respect:** I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;
 - b) **2.1 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination:** I do not bully any person; and
 - c) **5.1 Disrepute:** I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

Code of Conduct Complaint 203: Councillor Cameron Adams

11. The complaint was upheld in relation to a potential breach of the Code for or in relation to the following:
- a) **1.1 Respect:** I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;
 - b) **2.1 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination:** I do not bully any person; and
 - c) **5.1 Disrepute:** I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

Code of Conduct Complaint 205: Councillor Cameron Adams

12. The complaint was upheld in relation to a potential breach of the Code for or in relation to the following:
- a) **1.1 Respect:** I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;
 - b) **2.1 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination:** I do not bully any person; and
 - c) **5.1 Disrepute:** I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

Code of Conduct Complaint 207: Councillor Cameron Adams

13. The complaint was upheld in relation to a potential breach of the Code for or in relation to the following:
- a) **1.1 Respect:** I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;
 - b) **2.1 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination:** I do not bully any person; and
 - c) **5.1 Disrepute:** I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

Code of Conduct Complaint 209: Councillor Cameron Adams

14. The complaint was upheld in relation to a potential breach of the Code for or in relation to the following:
15. **1.1 Respect:** I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;
16. **2.1 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination:** I do not bully any person; and
17. **5.1 Disrepute:** I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

Remedies for Code of Conduct complaints 199; 203; 205; 207 and 209

18. The appropriate and proportionate remedies considered by the Chair and Standards Committee members were for Councillor Adams to:
19. write a personal apology to the relevant Councillor apologising for the social media posts published, recognising the impact and any offence caused;
20. submit an apology on the Facebook Community Group, again acknowledging [the] error of judgement [in relation to] the comments. However, in this regard, the Chair required that relevant Councillor approve the wording first;
21. submit for approval to the Chair of Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer the apology and the Facebook retraction before being sent or posted;
22. abide by the expectation of the Chair to attend refresher Code of Conduct training; and
23. pause and reflect on the choice of words before posting on social media and how the same may be interpreted.
24. Councillor Adams was informed of the outcome of the Chair's determination in a letter dated and sent by email on 4 June 2025. There was a requirement for compliance with the remedies above within 14 days.
25. At the time of writing this report, compliance by Councillor Adams with the remedies remained outstanding.

Code of Conduct Complaints 226, 227 and 228: Councillor Cameron Adams

26. Subsequent to upheld complaints 199; 203; 205; 207 and 209 and the failure to comply, three of the complainants submitted further complaints, under references 226, 227 and 228, each asserting that Councillor Adams had breached the Code of Conduct by way of the following:

- a) **8.4 Complying with the codes of conduct:** Comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the code of conduct.
- 27. The appropriate and proportionate remedy was considered by the Chair and Standards Committee members to be for the breach to be reported to full council and for Councillor Adams to be named in the report.
- 28. Councillor Adams was informed of the outcome of the Chair's determination in a letter dated and sent by email on 18 November 2025.
- 29. At the time of writing this report, compliance by Councillor Adams with the remedies remained outstanding.

Code of Conduct Complaint 220: Councillor Duane Farr

- 30. Code of Conduct complaint 220 is a complaint made by a BCP Councillor regarding Councillor Farr's conduct. The complaint was determined by the Chair in consultation with Standards Committee members and Independent Persons at an informal consultation meeting.
- 31. The complaint was upheld in relation to a potential breach of the Code for:
- 32. **1.1 Respect:** Failure to treat other councillors and members of the public with respect;
- 33. **1.2 Respect:** Failure to treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play;
- 34. **3.1 Impartiality of officers of BCP Council:** Do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority;
- 35. **5.1 Disrepute:** I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute; and
- 36. **8.3 Complying with the codes of conduct:** Do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.
- 37. The appropriate and proportionate remedies were considered to be for Councillor Farr to:
- 38. write a letter of apology to the relevant officers and the committee, including the Independent Persons;
- 39. have the letter to be read out at a future committee meeting;

40. make a retraction on his Facebook account and to remove the offending post; and
41. submit for approval to the Chair of Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer the apology and the Facebook retraction before being sent or posted.
42. Councillor Farr was informed of the outcome of the Chair's determination in a letter dated and sent by email on 18 November 2025. There was a requirement for compliance with the remedies above by 2 December 2025.
43. At the time of writing this report, compliance by Councillor Farr with the remedies remained outstanding.

Summary of financial implications

44. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

45. The Council has a legal duty to respond to complaints made against Councillors of allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Council has adopted procedures for handling complaints and these are set out in part 6 of the Constitution.
46. Paragraph 8.2 of Part 6 requires a Councillor to cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

Summary of human resources implications

47. There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report, however, it should be noted that the receiving and processing of complaints is highly resource intensive. A high volume of complaints could require the need for additional resources.

Summary of sustainability impact

48. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

49. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

50. This report is for information only reporting on the outcome of councillor non-compliance following a determination of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct. Consequently, there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

51. The Code of Conduct includes a duty upon all councillors to promote equalities and not to discriminate unlawfully against any person. Equality implications are considered as an integral part of the complaints process.

Summary of risk assessment

52. There are no direct risks associated with this report.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

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