Consultation and Engagement

Parks and Green Spaces Strategy Consultation

Consultation Report v0.4

26 February 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (PGSS)

Our public parks and green spaces are vital spaces for all communities to enjoy. With over 17 million visits per year, and over half of Bristol resident's using parks and green spaces weekly, they are the most popular free-to-use resource in the city. We visit parks for our health and wellbeing, to relax, play, socialise, engage in sport and be in contact with nature. They host events that attract international and local audiences, supporting the rich cultural heritage that makes Bristol a great place to live and visit.

Increasingly, our parks and green spaces are recognised for their important role in helping the city respond to the climate and ecological emergencies, as we seek to increase tree cover, create new spaces for nature, support community food growing and help keep Bristol cool during more frequent heatwaves.

Our parks and green spaces are much loved and highly valued, but we face significant challenges. Austerity and budget cuts have had a significant impact on our ability to deliver a quality service that meets the needs of all in the city.

Our new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy sets out a bold and ambitious plan to improve our parks and green spaces and deliver more for the city over the next 15-years.

1.2 Priority themes

Through engagement work six priority themes have been identified that will drive the approach, alongside the approach to financial sustainability, Green Space Provision Standards and food growing and allotments – so that Bristol's parks and green spaces meet the need of residents', and the aspirations and objectives of the council and Bristol as a whole.

Nature and climate
How we will continue to respond to the ecological and climate emergencies, with our plans to manage more land for nature and mitigate climate change.

Children and young people
How we will support healthy lifestyles for all of our young people in early life through fun, play and learning.

Community participation
How we will create more inclusive and accessible parks with a greater level of community involvement.

Health and wellbeing
How we will address health inequalities across the city, our role in developing health related activities in our parks.

Culture
How we will bring people together to celebrate and enjoy all the cultural events Bristol has to offer. Our role as custodians of the historic landscape and making heritage accessible.

Employment and skills
How we will develop a more diverse workforce with the skills and knowledge to deliver a great parks service in collaboration with communities.

We also look at how we will deliver a financially sustainable Parks Service and secure the investment required to deliver this strategy.

The draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy can be viewed here.

1.3 Scope of this report

This consultation report describes the consultation methodology and the feedback received, which will be considered by Cabinet on 5 March 2024.

- **Chapter 2** of this report describes the consultation methodology. The consultation information and questions are summarised in section 2.1. The print versions of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and survey booklet can be viewed online.
- **Chapter 3** presents the consultation survey response rate and respondent characteristics.
- **Chapter 4** describes feedback on the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy
- **Chapter 5** sets out the effects that respondents said the proposals would have on them because of their protected characteristics.
- **Chapter 6** summarises the feedback received from letters and emails.
- **Chapter 7** describes how this report will be used and how to keep updated on the decision-making process.

2 Methodology

2.1 Survey

2.1.1 Online survey

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy consultation was available on the council's Consultation and Engagement Hub (www.ask.bristol.gov.uk) between 11 December 2023 and 22 January 2024.

Survey information

The survey contained the following information as context for the survey questions.

- Bristol City Council Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and Food Growing and Allotments Strategy
- Map showing sites that are being managed for nature, and sites that have potential to be managed for nature
- Map showing the tree canopy combined impact score to identify where tree planting would provide the most benefit to land.
- Map showing land and food growing sites with areas where households have experienced moderate or severe food insecurity
- Bristol Open Space provision standards
- Provision standards proposals maps

Survey questions

The survey questions sought respondents' views on the following:

- Whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the actions in the Nature and Climate; Children and Young People; Community Participation; Health and Wellbeing; Culture; Skills and Employment; Financial Sustainability and Investment; and the Food Growing and Allotments sections of the PGSS.
- Whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the areas that had been identified as having the potential to be managed for nature.
- Whether respondents had concerns about the impact that managing more land for nature could have on their current use of parks and green spaces.
- Whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the areas that had been identified as having the greatest benefit.
- Whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the actions in the Nature and Climate section of the PGSS.
- Where respondents thought there may be opportunities to increase the land available for food growing.

- Whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the proposals to update the minimum standards for publicly accessible open spaces for recreation in Bristol.

  The 'about you' section requested information which helps the council to check if the responses are representative of people across the city who may have different needs.

- Respondents' postcode – this identifies if any parts of the city are under-represented in responding to the consultation and it can show if people from more deprived areas of the city have different views compared to people living in less deprived areas.
- Equalities monitoring information – this enables the council to check if people with specific protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are under-represented in the responses.
- Other information about respondents; for example, whether they are a resident of Bristol, whether they are a councillor, a council employee, or represent a local business.

Respondents could choose to answer some or all questions in any order and save and return to the survey later.

2.1.2 Alternative formats

Paper copies (the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and a separate survey booklet) were distributed with Freepost return envelopes to all libraries in Bristol and were available on request.

Alternative formats (easy read, braille, large print, other alternative formats, and translation to other languages) were available on request.

2.1.3 Other correspondence

12 emails/letters were received in response to the consultation. 11 of these were from organisations, and 1 was from a member of the public. The feedback in the letters and emails is reported in Chapter 7, separately from the survey responses.

2.2 Publicity and briefings

2.2.1 Objective

The following programme of activity was carried out to publicise and explain the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy consultation. The primary objective was to engage residents, communities, and stakeholders across the city on the details and actions of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

To achieve this, information was shared across a wide range of channels, reaching as broad a range of audiences as possible, to maximise response rates.

2.2.2 Bristol City Council channels

Online and paper versions of the consultation document were shared via the following council and partner channels and networks:

- Ask Bristol e-bulletin – delivered to 7,800 recipients on 30 January 2024
- Paper copies in libraries

2.2.3 Media engagement

A news article was published to the BCC Newsroom on 11 December 2023.

2.2.4 Social Media – posts, outreach, and advertising

Regular posts on Bristol City Council's social media channels (X, Facebook, Next Door, and Instagram) were made for the duration of the consultation. These organic posts had a potential reach of 22,000 people resulting in 165 survey link clicks.

Paid for Facebook and Instagram advertising (approximately £200) was also employed. This had a reach of 29,117 with 1,013 link clicks.

3 Survey response rate and respondent characteristics

3.1 Response rate to the survey

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy consultation survey received 718 responses, of which 703 were responses to the online survey, and 15 were paper surveys. In addition, 12 email responses were received.

The response rate and respondent details in sections 3.2 to 3.4 below are for respondents to the survey. Details of the email respondents are summarised in section 3.5.

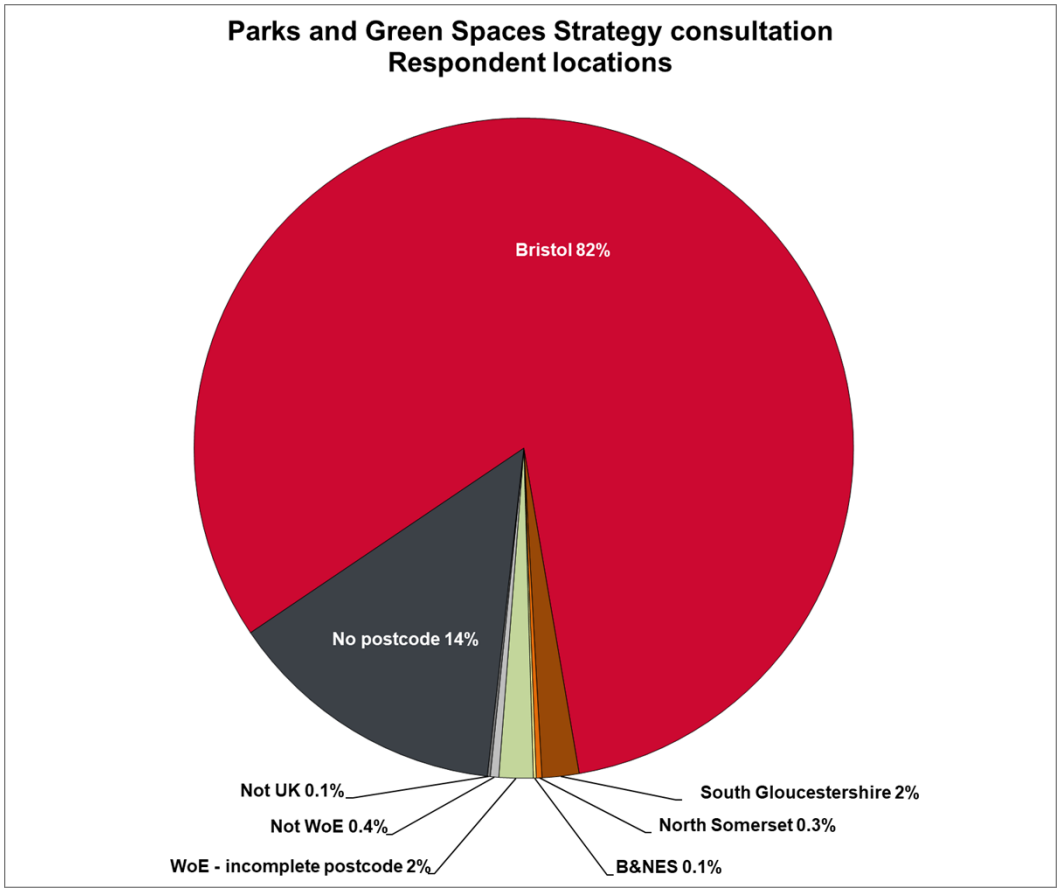
3.2 Geographic distribution of survey responses

587 responses (82%) were received from postcodes within the Bristol City Council area, 13 (2%) responses were from South Gloucestershire, one (0.1%) were from Bath & Northeast Somerset (B&NES), and two (0.3%) were from North Somerset. A further 12 (2%) were from unspecified locations within the four West of England authorities[1] (Figure 1).

98 (14%) did not provide a postcode.

[1] Incomplete postcodes identified the home location as within the WOE authorities area (Bristol, B&NES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire), but not which authority.

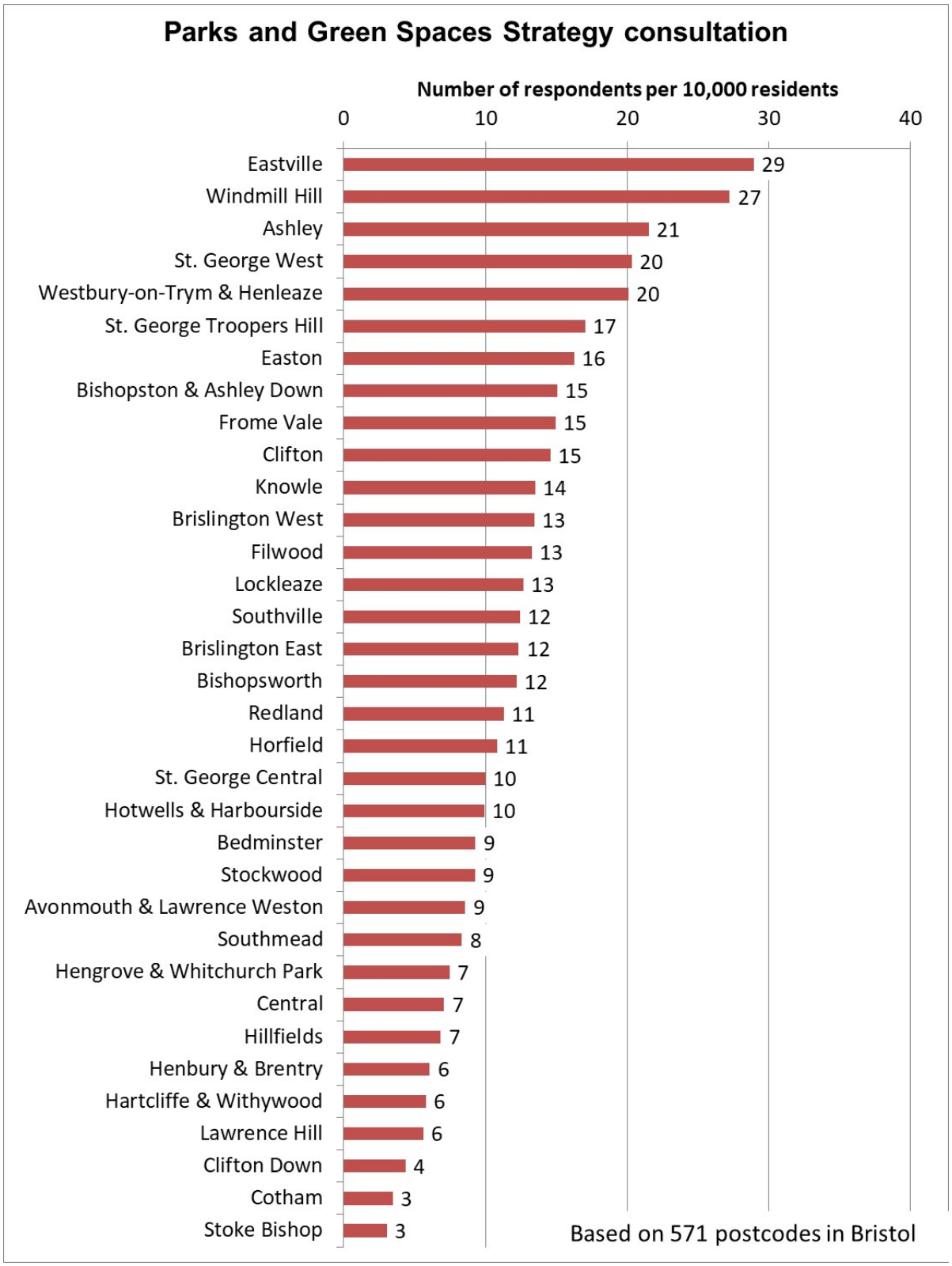
Figure 1: Geographic distribution of responses

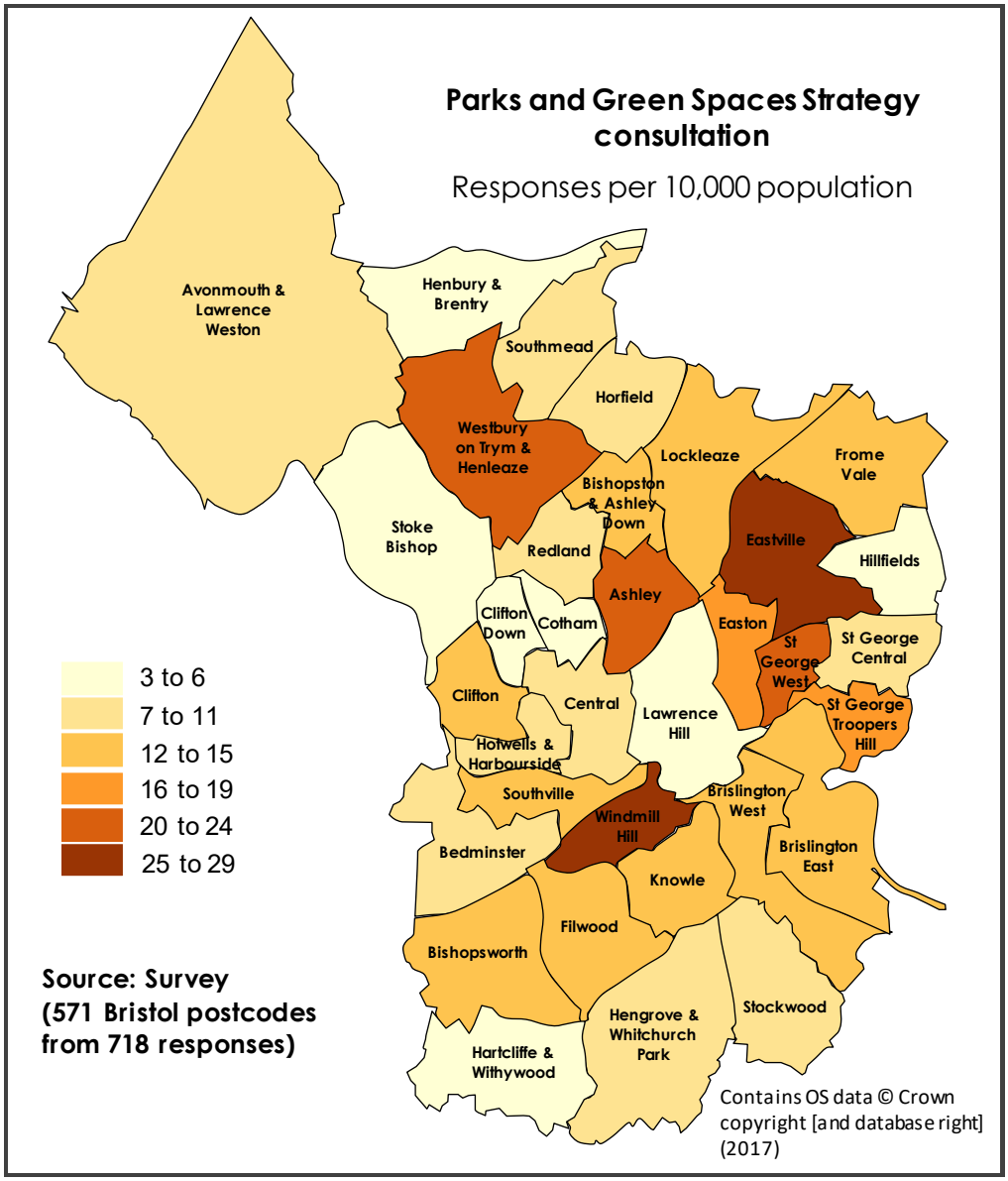


Of the 587 responses from within the Bristol City Council area, 571 provided full or partial postcodes from which the ward of origin could be identified[2] (Figure 2).

[2] The other 117 responses included incomplete postcodes which are within Bristol but do not include enough information to identify a specific ward.

Figure 2: Geographic distribution of responses in Bristol




Parks and Green Spaces Strategy consultation
Responses per 10,000 population
Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston
Henbury & Brentry
Southmead
Horfield
Westbury on Trym & Henleaze
Lockleaze
Frome Vale
Bishopston & Ashley Down
Stoke Bishop
Redland
Eastville
Hillfields
Ashley
Clifton Down
Cotham
Easton
St George West
St George Central
Clifton
Central
Lawrence Hill
St George Troopers Hill
Hotwells & Harbourside
Southville
Windmill Hill
Bristlington West
Bedminster
Bristlington East
Knowle
Filwood
Bishopsworth
Stockwood
Hengrove & Whitchurch Park
Hartcliffe & Withywood
3 to 6
7 to 11
12 to 15
16 to 19
20 to 24
25 to 29
Source: Survey
(571 Bristol postcodes from 718 responses)
Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] (2017)

3.3 Response rate from areas of high and low deprivation

The home location of respondents in Bristol was compared with nationally published information on levels of deprivation across the city[3] to review if the responses received include a cross-section of people living in more deprived and less deprived areas. This helps the council to know if the views of citizens in more deprived areas differ from people living in less deprived areas.

The comparison looked at levels of deprivation in 10 bands (known as 'deciles') from decile 1 (most deprived) to decile 10 (least deprived). Figure 3 compares the percentage of Bristol respondents[4] living in each of the deprivation deciles (red bars) to the percentage of all Bristol citizens who live in each decile.

The home location of respondents in Bristol was compared with nationally published information on levels of deprivation across the city[5] to review if the responses received include a cross-section of people living in more deprived and less deprived areas. This helps the council to know if the views of citizens in more deprived areas differ from people living in less deprived areas.

The comparison looked at levels of deprivation in 10 bands (known as 'deciles') from decile 1 (most deprived) to decile 10 (least deprived).

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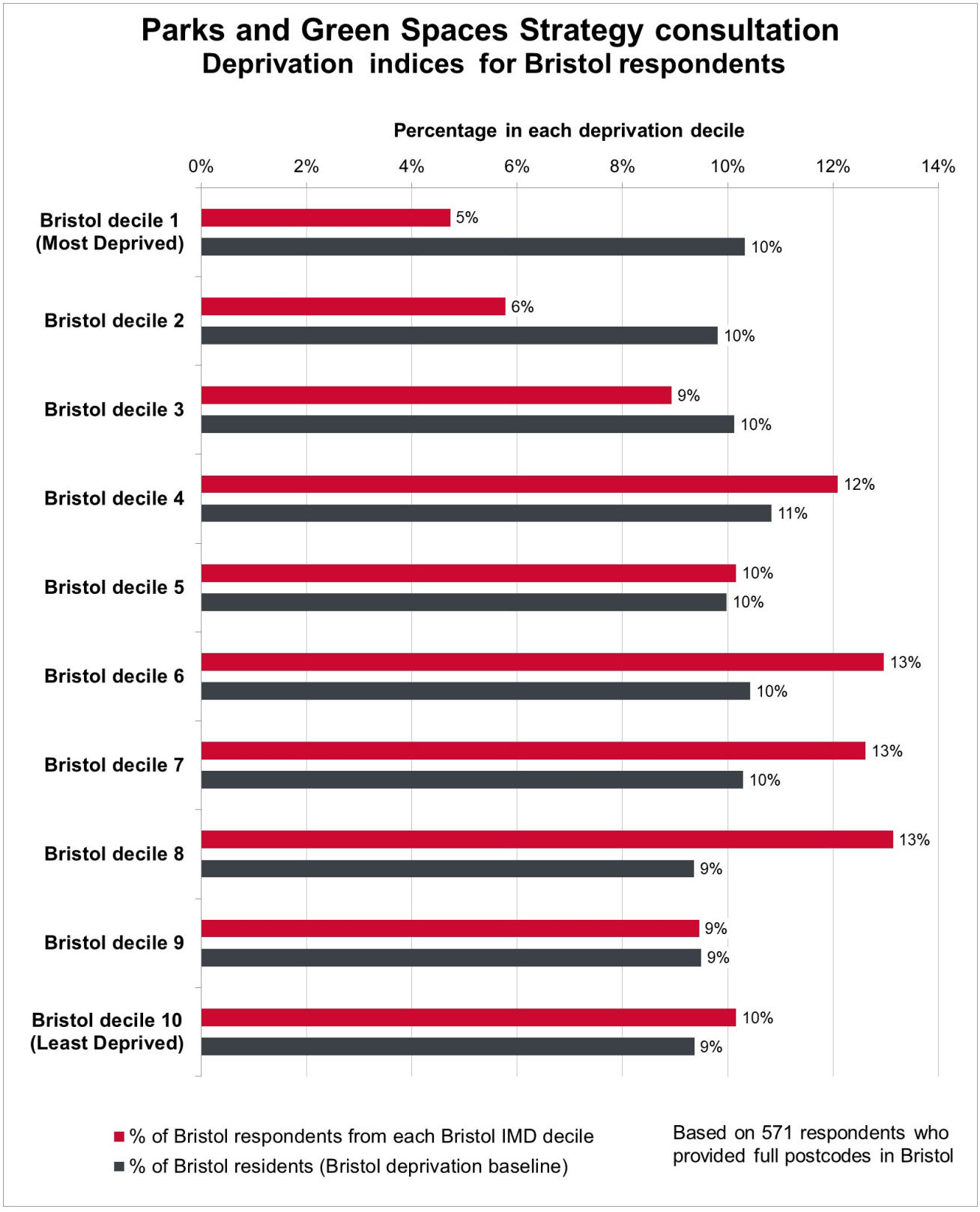
[3] The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes information about deprivation for small areas throughout England - known as 'Lower Super Output Areas' (LSOAs). For each LSOA, a measure of deprivation is published called 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD), which takes account of 37 indicators that cover income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. The latest IMD data are from 2019 and define IMD for each of the 32,844 LSOAs in England used in the 2011 Census, of which 263 LSOAs are in the Bristol City Council area. Postcodes provided by respondents can each be matched to one of the 263 LSOAs in Bristol and thus to one of the deprivation deciles. Note: postcodes provide approximate locations; they are not used to identify individuals or specific addresses.

[4] Based on 2,281 respondents who provided full postcodes in the Bristol administrative area from which deprivation decile can be identified.

[5] The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes information about deprivation for small areas throughout England - known as 'Lower Super Output Areas' (LSOAs). For each LSOA, a measure of deprivation is published called 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD), which takes account of 37 indicators that cover income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. The latest IMD data are from 2019 and define IMD for each of the 32,844 LSOAs in England used in the 2011 Census, of which 263 LSOAs are in the Bristol City Council area. Postcodes provided by respondents can each be matched to one of the 263 LSOAs in Bristol and thus to one of the deprivation deciles. Note: postcodes provide approximate locations; they are not used to identify individuals or specific addresses.

Figure 3 shows that there was an under-representation of responses from the most deprived 30% of the city (deciles 1, 2 and 3). Responses from deciles 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 were over-represented, while deciles 5 and 9 were representative.

Figure 3: Comparison of response rate from areas of high and low deprivation



3.4 Characteristics of survey respondents

3.4.1 Overview

Respondent characteristics are summarised below. The charts compare:

- characteristics for all respondents who answered the equalities questions (shown by bars with a red outline)
- characteristics of 'Bristol respondents' who answered equalities questions and provided a Bristol postcode (shown by solid red bars)
- characteristics of all Bristol's citizens based on the 2021 Census (shown by solid grey bars). Census 2021 data are available for seven protected characteristics (age, disability, ethnicity, religion/faith, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation)

Note that many of the respondents who did not provide postcodes may also live in the Bristol City Council administrative area but are not included in figures for Bristol respondents.

In summary, groups that were under-represented in the responses were:

- Children and young people aged 24 years and younger, people aged 25-34, and 85 and older.
- People of Asian or Asian British backgrounds; Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African backgrounds; Mixed or multiple ethnic groups; people of other white background; and people of other ethnic background
- Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Jews, and Sikhs
- Males
- Heterosexual citizens

The following groups responded in higher numbers than their proportion in the population:

- People aged 35 to 84 years.
- Disabled people
- People of White British background
- People with no religion, Buddhists, and people with 'Other religion'
- Females
- Bi, gay/lesbian, and people who use another term to describe their sexual orientation.
- People who have a gender identity different to their sex recorded at birth.

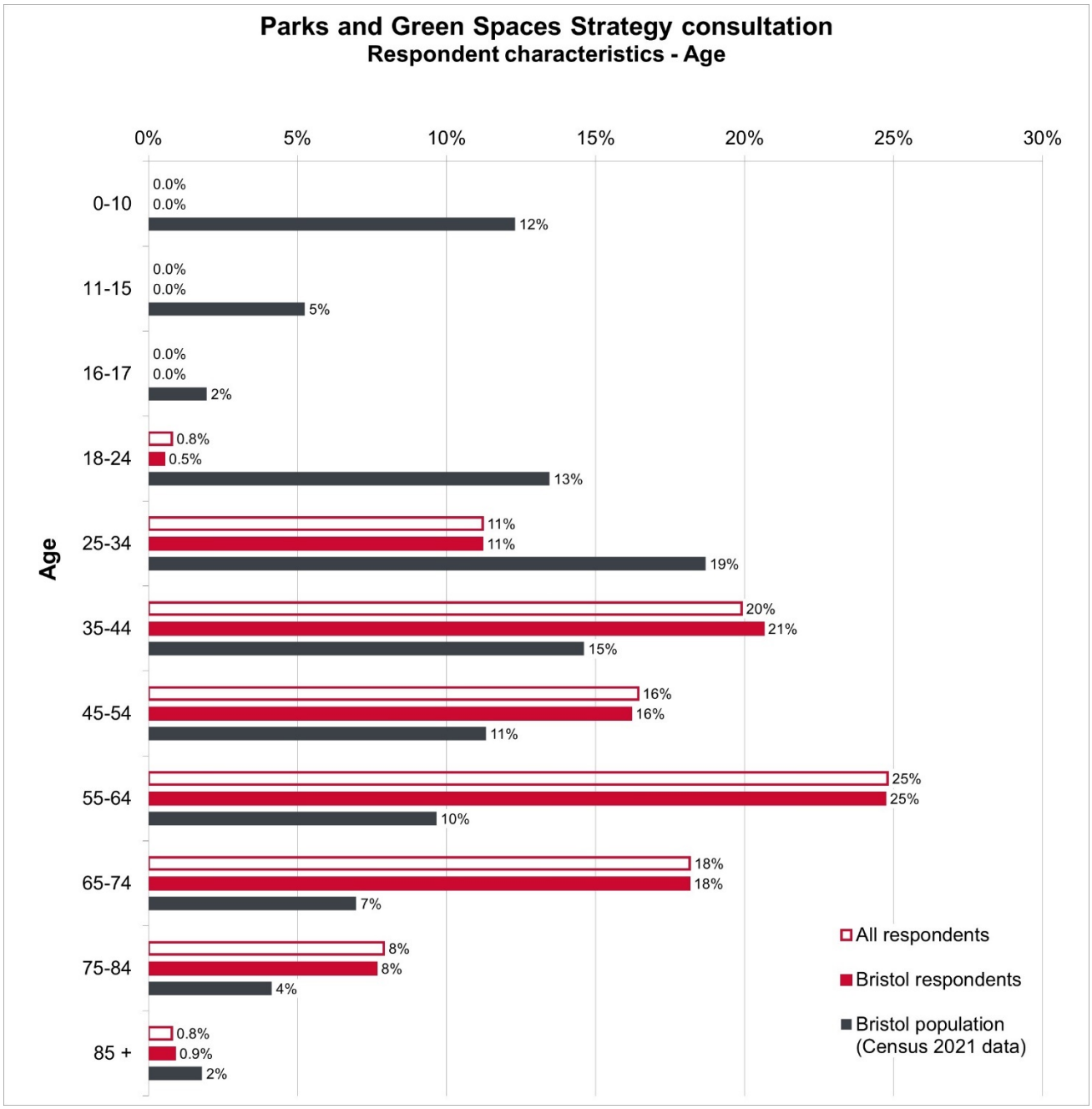
3.4.2 Age

The highest number of responses were from respondents aged 55-64 years (25%), followed by 35-44 (20% of all respondents, 21% of Bristol respondents).

All age groups between 35 and 84 responded in higher proportions than these ages in the population. Response rates from children (under 18), young people aged 18-24, people ages 25-34 and those aged 85 and over were under-represented. These percentages exclude the 4% of respondents (3% of Bristol respondents) who answered, 'prefer not to say'.

In each age category, the proportions of 'all respondents' and 'Bristol respondents' were similar.

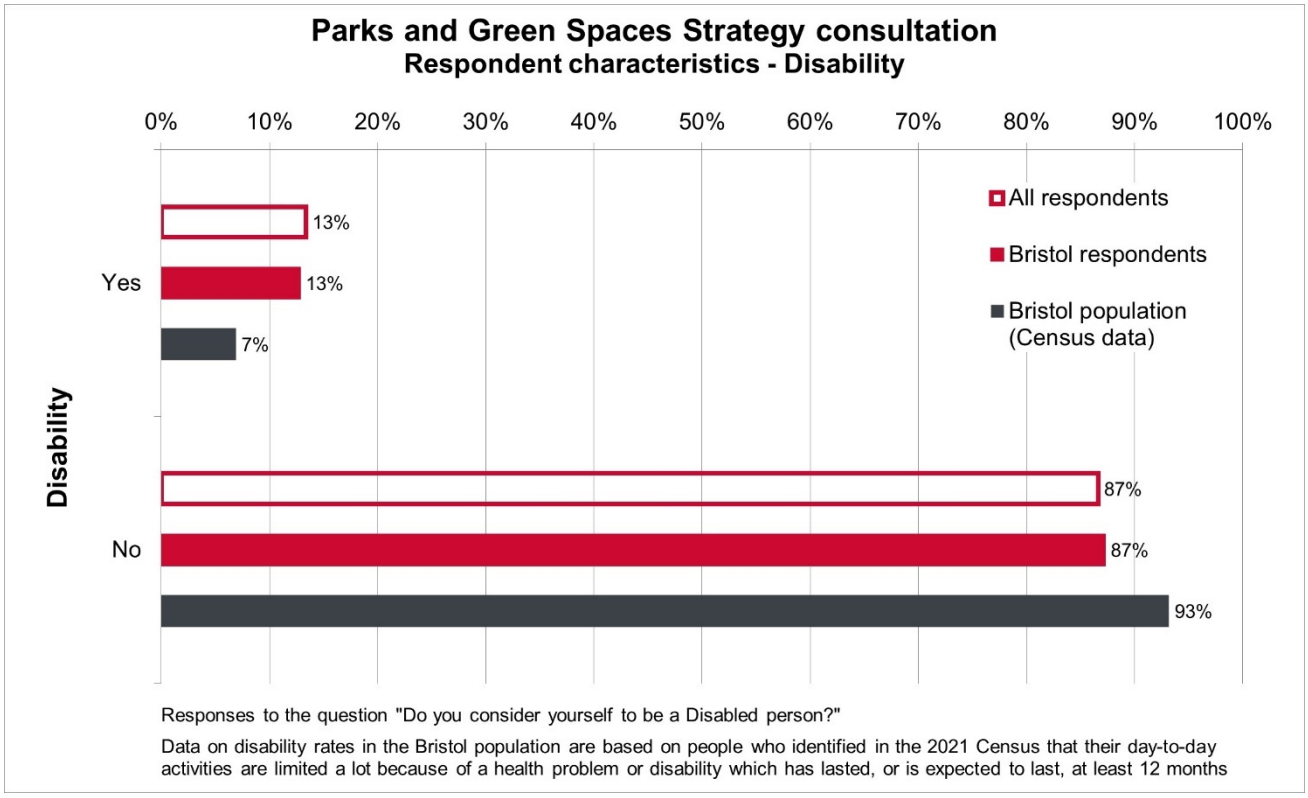
Figure 4: Age of respondents



3.4.3 Disability

The proportion of disabled respondents (13% of respondents) is greater than the proportion of disabled people living in Bristol (7% of the population). These percentages exclude the 7% of respondents (6% of Bristol respondents) who answered 'prefer not to say').

Figure 5: Disability



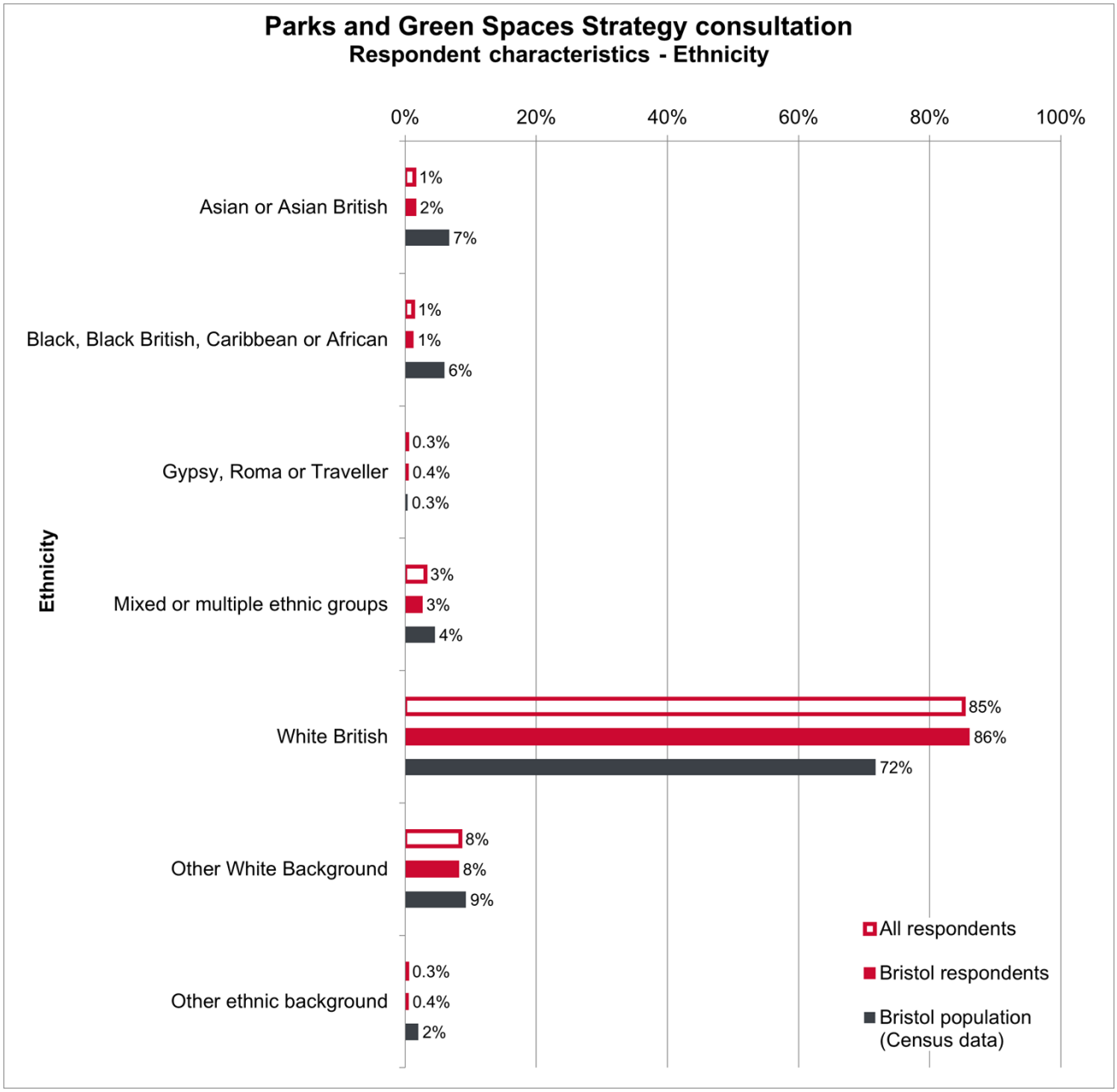
3.4.4 Ethnicity

The response rate from of White British (85% of all respondents, 86% of Bristol respondents) is higher than the proportion of these citizens in the Bristol population (72%).

The following ethnic groups were under-represented in the response rates compared to the proportion of people in each of these ethnic groups living in Bristol:

- Asian or Asian British (1% of all respondents; 2% of Bristol respondents compared with 7% of the Bristol population)
- Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African (1% of respondents compared with 6% of the Bristol population)
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups (3% of respondents compared with 4% of the Bristol population)
- Other White background (8% of respondents compared with 9% of the Bristol population)
- Other ethnic background (0.3% of all respondents; 0.4% of Bristol respondents compared with 2% of the Bristol population)

These percentages exclude the 11% of respondents (10% of Bristol respondents) who answered ‘prefer not to say’.


Parks and Green Spaces Strategy consultation
Respondent characteristics - Ethnicity
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
Ethnicity
Asian or Asian British
1%
2%
7%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
1%
1%
6%
Gypsy, Roma or Traveller
0.3%
0.4%
0.3%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
3%
3%
4%
White British
85%
86%
72%
Other White Background
8%
8%
9%
Other ethnic background
0.3%
0.4%
2%
All respondents
Bristol respondents
Bristol population (Census data)

3.4.5 Religion/Faith

People with no religion (69% of all respondents; 70% of Bristol respondents) responded in higher proportion than people of no religion in Bristol's population (55%).

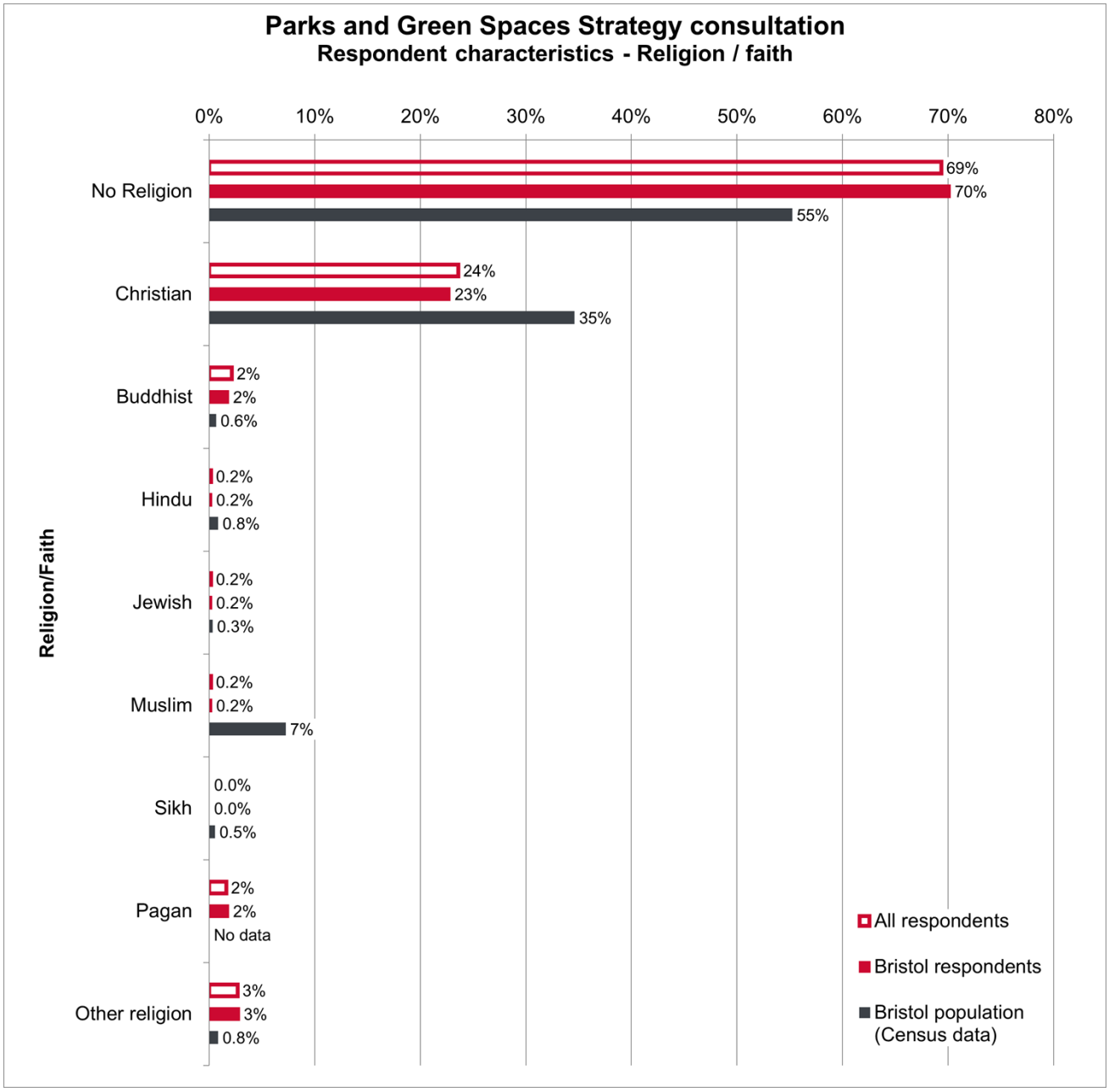
Buddhists (2% of respondents) and people with 'Other religion' (2%) also responded in slightly greater numbers than the proportions of these faiths in Bristol.

Christians (24% of all respondents; 23% of Bristol respondents), Muslims (0.2%), Hindus (0.2%), Jews (0.2%) and Sikhs (0%) were under-represented compared to the proportions of these faiths living in Bristol.

2% of respondents are Pagan. There are no data from the Census 2021 for the proportion of Pagans living in Bristol.

These percentages exclude the 14% of all respondents (13% of Bristol respondents) who answered 'prefer not to say'.

Figure 4: Religion/faith of respondents



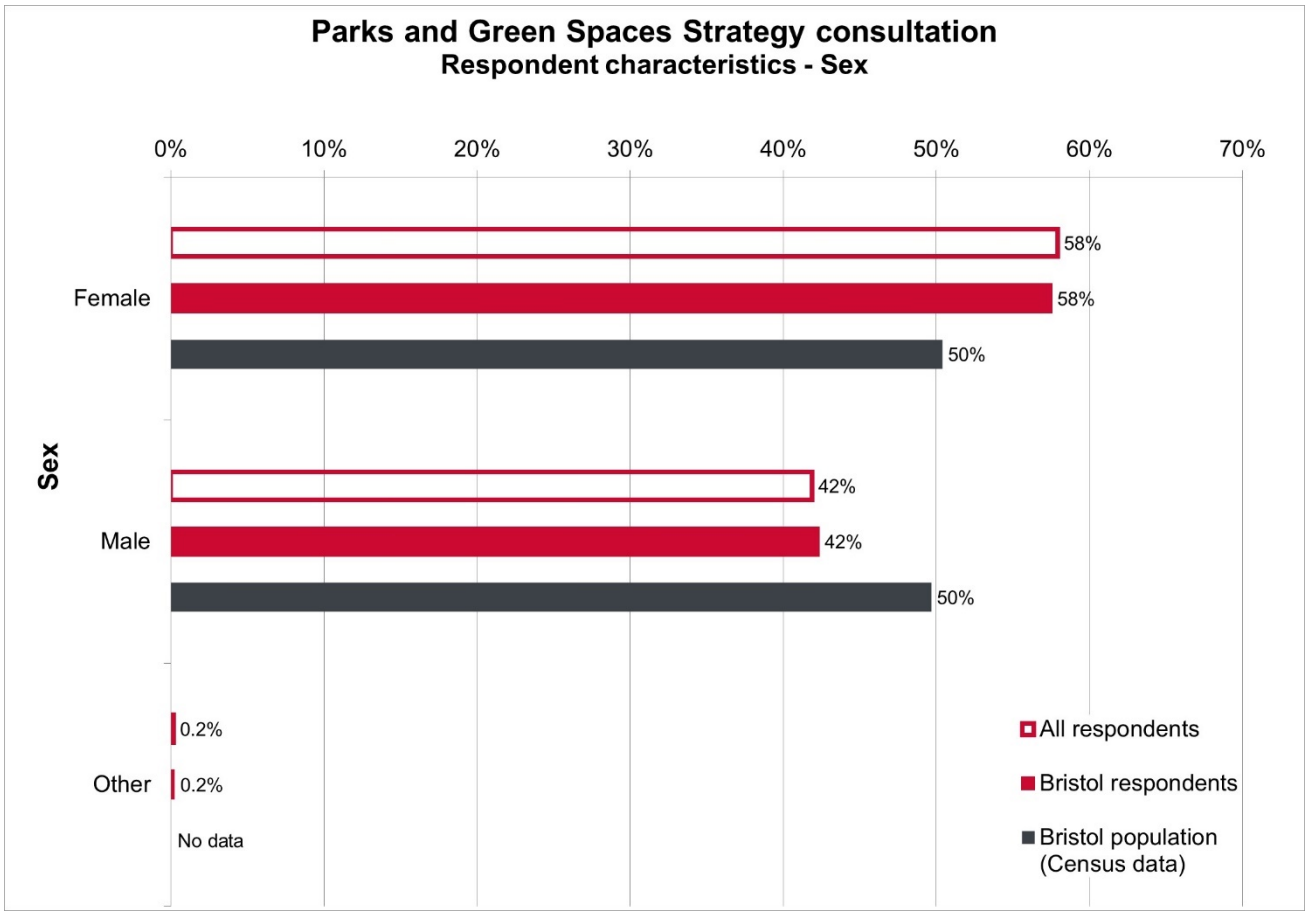
3.4.6 Sex

58% of all survey responses were from women and 42% were from men. This compares to 50% of each sex in the Bristol population. 0.3% of all responses and 0.4% of Bristol responses were from people who identified as ‘other sex’.

The proportion of male and female for all respondents closely matches Bristol respondents.

These percentages exclude the 10% of all respondents (9% of Bristol respondents) who answered ‘prefer not to say’.

Figure 5: Sex of respondents

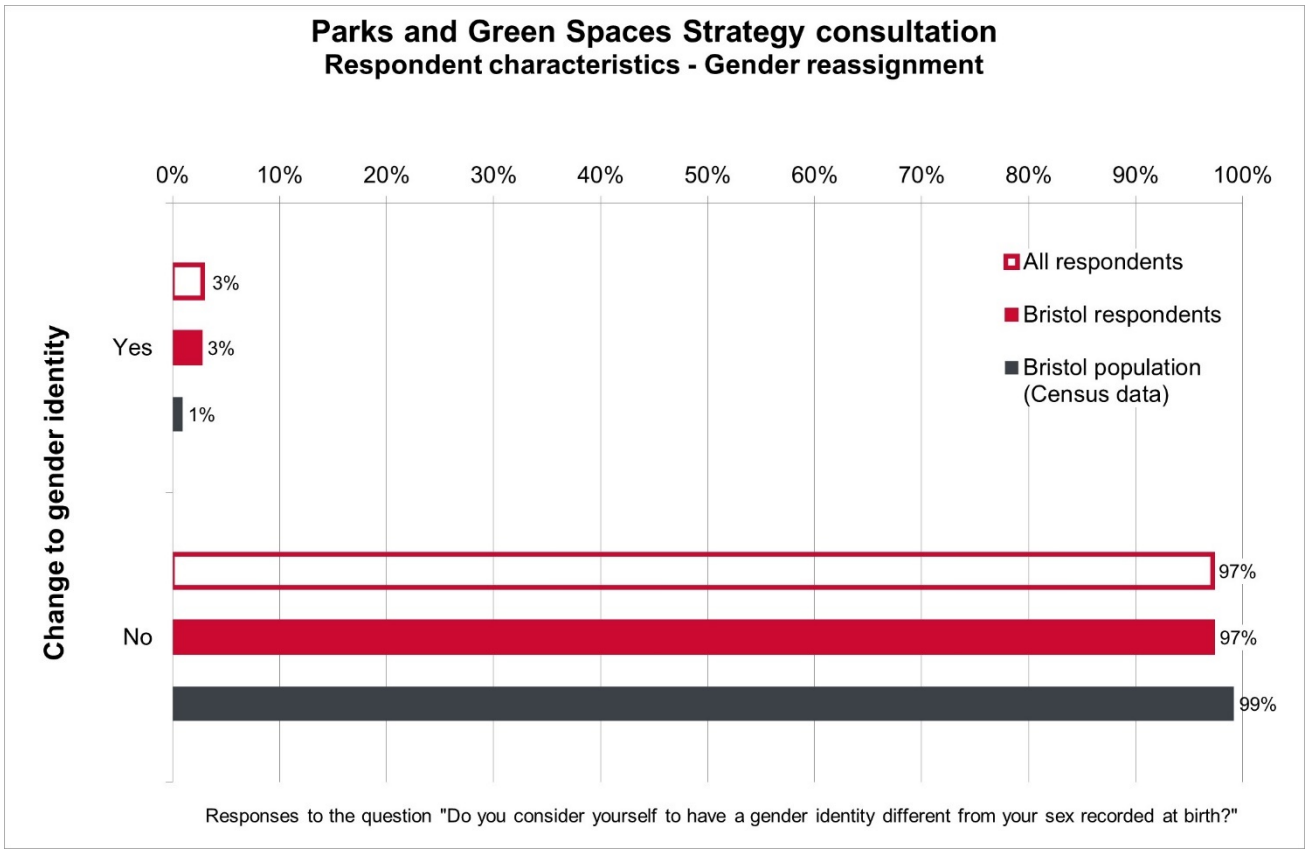


3.4.7 Gender reassignment

3% of respondents stated they have a gender identity different to their sex recorded at birth. This higher than the 1% of the Bristol population who stated in the 2021 Census that their gender identity is different to their sex recorded at birth.

These percentages exclude the 10% of all respondents (9% of Bristol respondents) who answered ‘prefer not to say’.

Figure 6: Gender reassignment



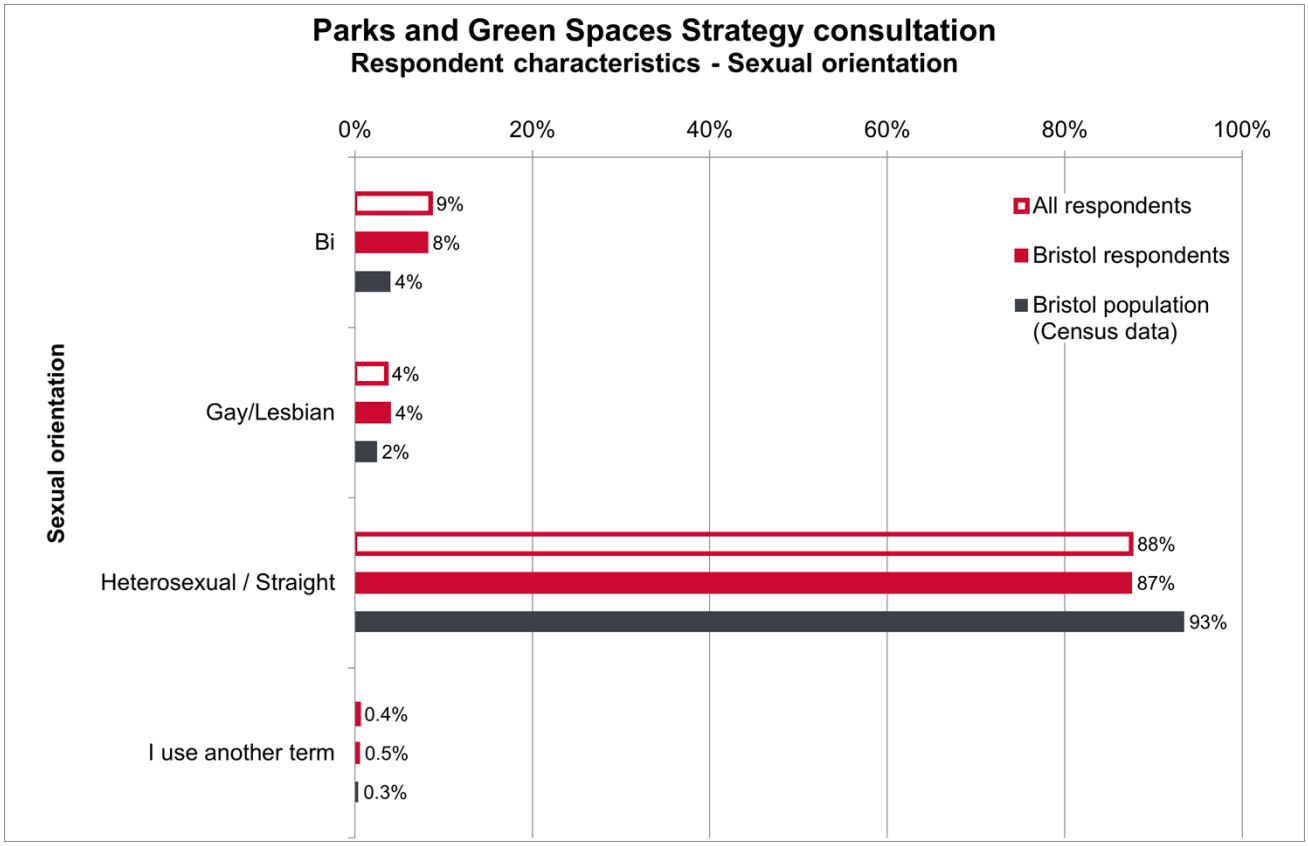
3.4.8 Sexual orientation

People who are bi (9% of all respondents, 8% of bristol respondents) or gay/lesbian (4%) responded in higher numbers than the proportions of these groups in Bristol's population. In the 2021 Census, the proportions of each group in Bristol was 4% bi and 2% gay/lesbian.

Heterosexual respondents (88% of all respondents, 87% of Bristol respondents), were under-represented compared to the proportions of heterosexual people living in Bristol (93%).

These percentages exclude the 22% of respondents who answered 'prefer not to say'.

Figure 7: Sexual orientation



3.4.9 Pregnancy and maternity, carer status and and refugee/asylum status

The survey also asked respondents about their pregnancy and recent maternity status, if they are a career, and if they are a refugee or asylum seeker.

Census data are not available for the proportion of people with these characteristics living in Bristol. Figures 11, 12, and 13 show the proportions of all respondents and Bristol respondents for each of these characteristics. The proportion of each characteristic for all respondents closely matches the proportion for Bristol respondents.

Figure 8: Pregnancy and recent maternity

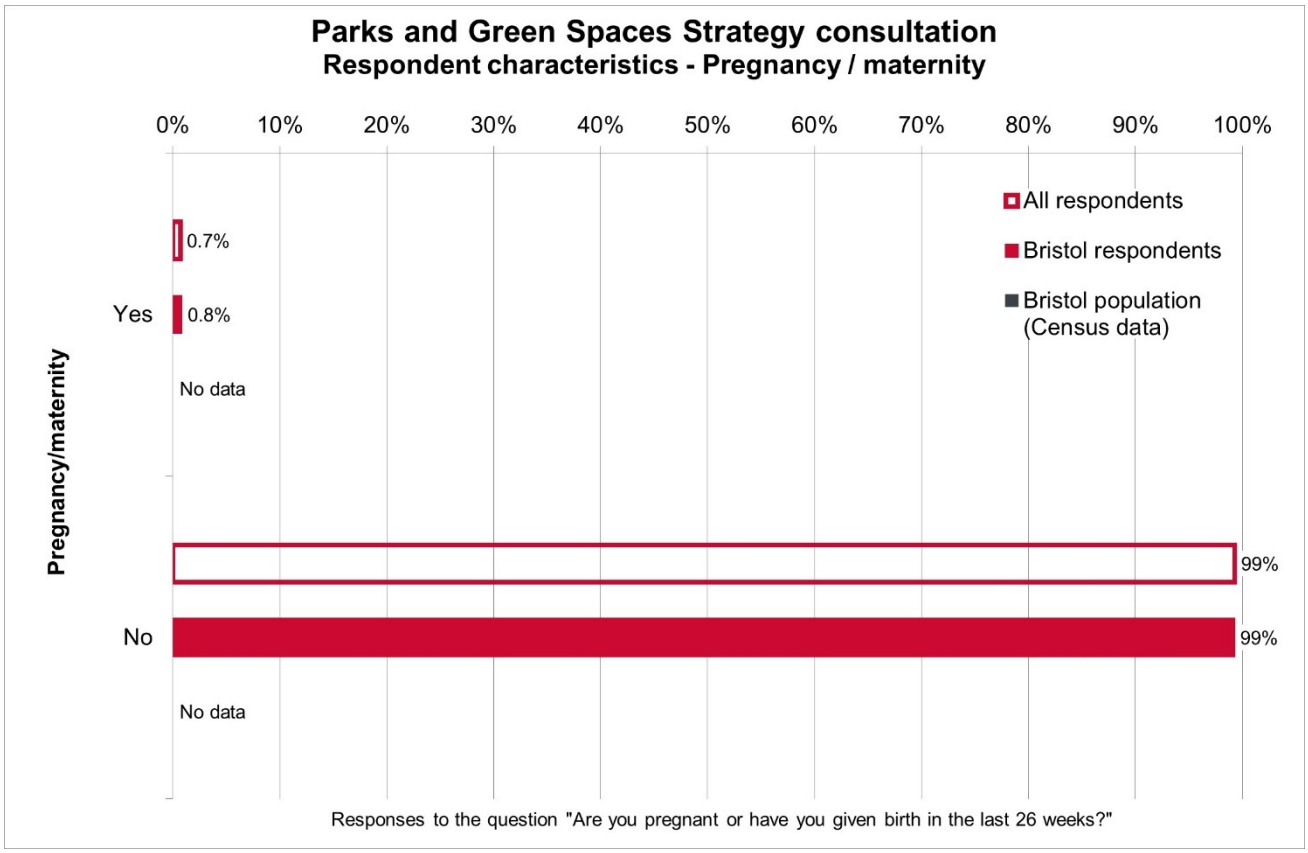


Figure 9: Carer status

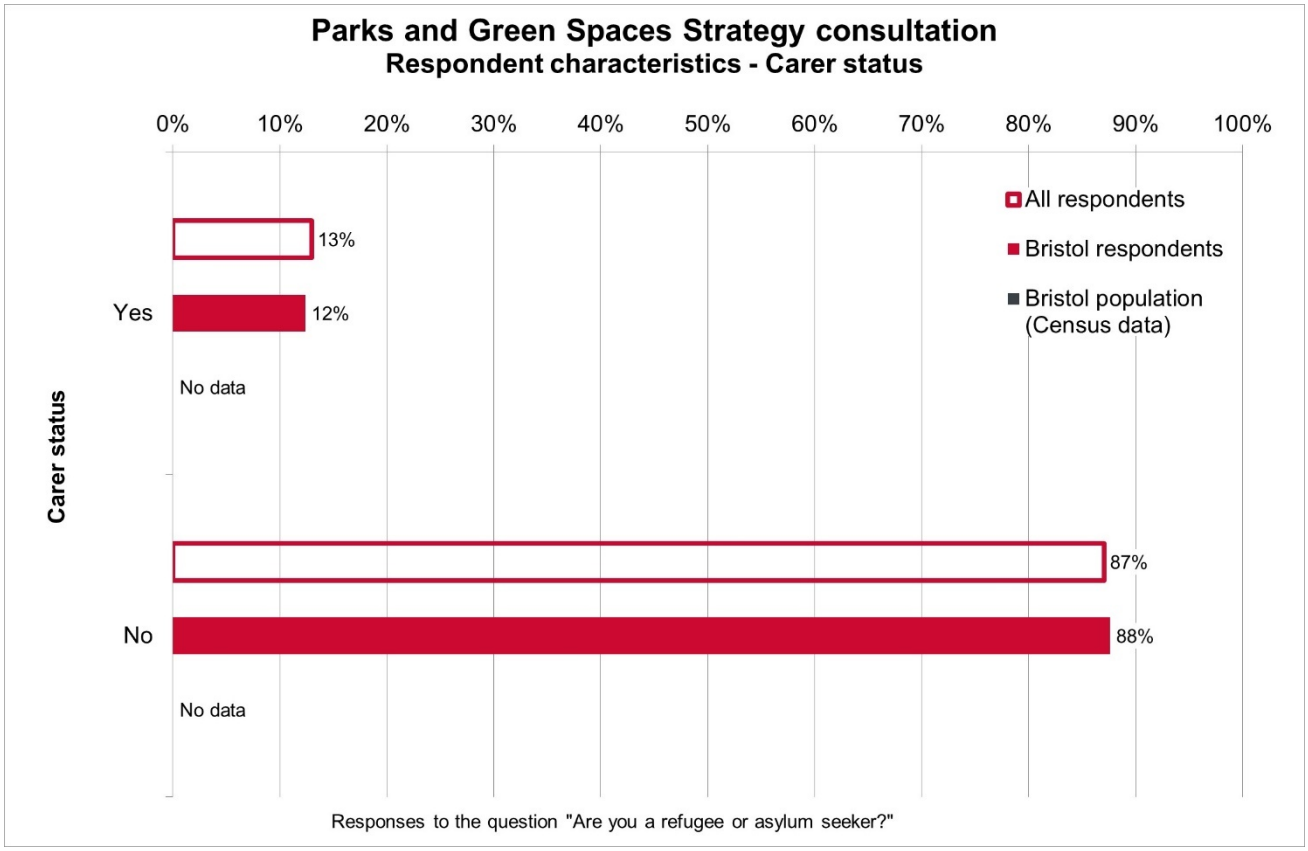
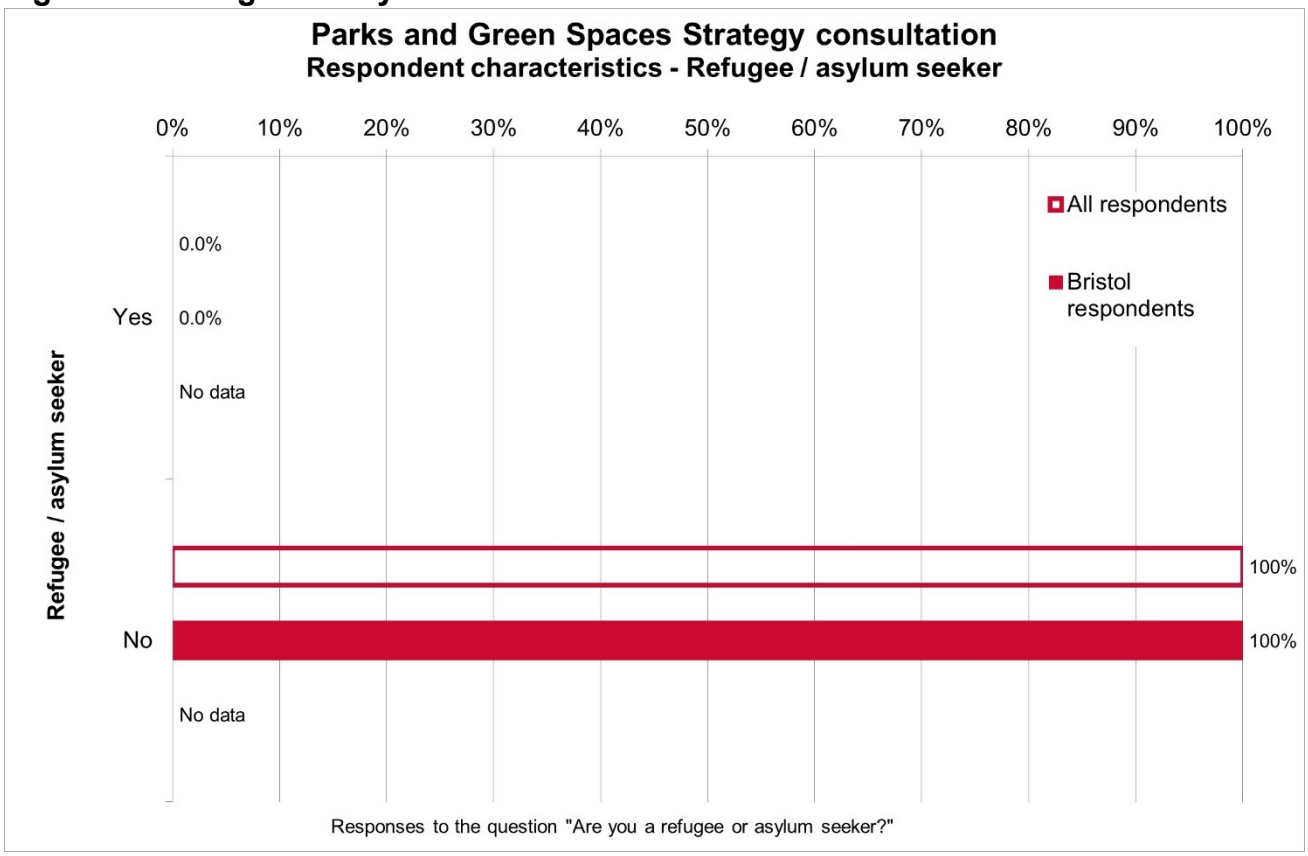


Figure 10: Refugee or asylum seeker status



3.4.10 Other respondent characteristics

675 (94%) respondents provided other details of their personal situation, selecting from a list of 11 options. Because respondents could select more than one option, the percentages below exceed 100%.

- 645 (96% of the 675 respondents who answered the question) are Bristol residents
- 24 (4%) responded on behalf of a Voluntary/Community/Social Enterprise/interest group
- 23 (3%) represent and/or own a local business
- 21 (3%) are Bristol City Council employees
- 19 (3%) responded on behalf of a parks group or Friends of Group
- 12 (2%) work in Bristol but live elsewhere
- 6 (1%) live elsewhere but visit Bristol for shopping or leisure
- 3 (0.4%) are ward councillors
- 2 (0.3%) responded on behalf of a health or social care provider
- 26 (4%) selected ‘other’.
- No respondents stated that they are MPs.

Of the 26 respondents who selected ‘other’:

- 4 are allotment plot holders.
- 1 is an allotment site representative.
- 1 has family members who are waiting for a local allotment.
- 3 gave details of their profession, including an NHS employee, a GP, and a social care charity worker.
- 3 are retired.
- 2 volunteers in Bristol parks
- 2 stated they use Bristol parks and open spaces.
- 2 are involved in running community gardens.
- 2 are involved in environmental organisations (one a response from the Woodland Trust and one a personal response from a member of Sustainable Westbury on Trym)
- 1 is a member of the Parks Forum and the Civic Society
- 1 said they are a birder.
- 2 reiterated that they are Bristol residents.

- 2 live and work in Bristol
- 1 has family in Bristol.
- 1 live in France and is concerned about environment.
- 1 said they are Disabled.
- 2 selected ‘other’ but gave no details.

4 Survey results

The consultation survey primarily asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the actions from the following priority themes:

Nature and climate
How we will continue to respond to the ecological and climate emergencies, with our plans to manage more land for nature and mitigate climate change.

Children and young people
How we will support healthy lifestyles for all of our young people in early life through fun, play and learning.

Community participation
How we will create more inclusive and accessible parks with a greater level of community involvement.

Health and wellbeing
How we will address health inequalities across the city, our role in developing health related activities in our parks.

Culture
How we will bring people together to celebrate and enjoy all the cultural events Bristol has to offer. Our role as custodians of the historic landscape and making heritage accessible.

Employment and skills
How we will develop a more diverse workforce with the skills and knowledge to deliver a great parks service in collaboration with communities.

There were also questions on the following:

Food Growing and Allotment Strategy
Bristol City Council's Food Growing and Allotments Strategy – which sets out the council's approach to improving access to food growing opportunities across the city – has been embedded into the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (PGSS). This is in acknowledgement of how important the council's green spaces are to providing sustainable food growing opportunities, and the relationship this has to the wider priorities within the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Green Space Provision Standards
The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy proposes to update minimum standards for publicly accessible open spaces for recreation in Bristol. The purpose of setting standards is to help ensure that residents across the city have sufficient and equitable access to high quality open space that meets their needs.

4.1 Nature and Climate

4.1.1 Views on the actions for Nature and Climate

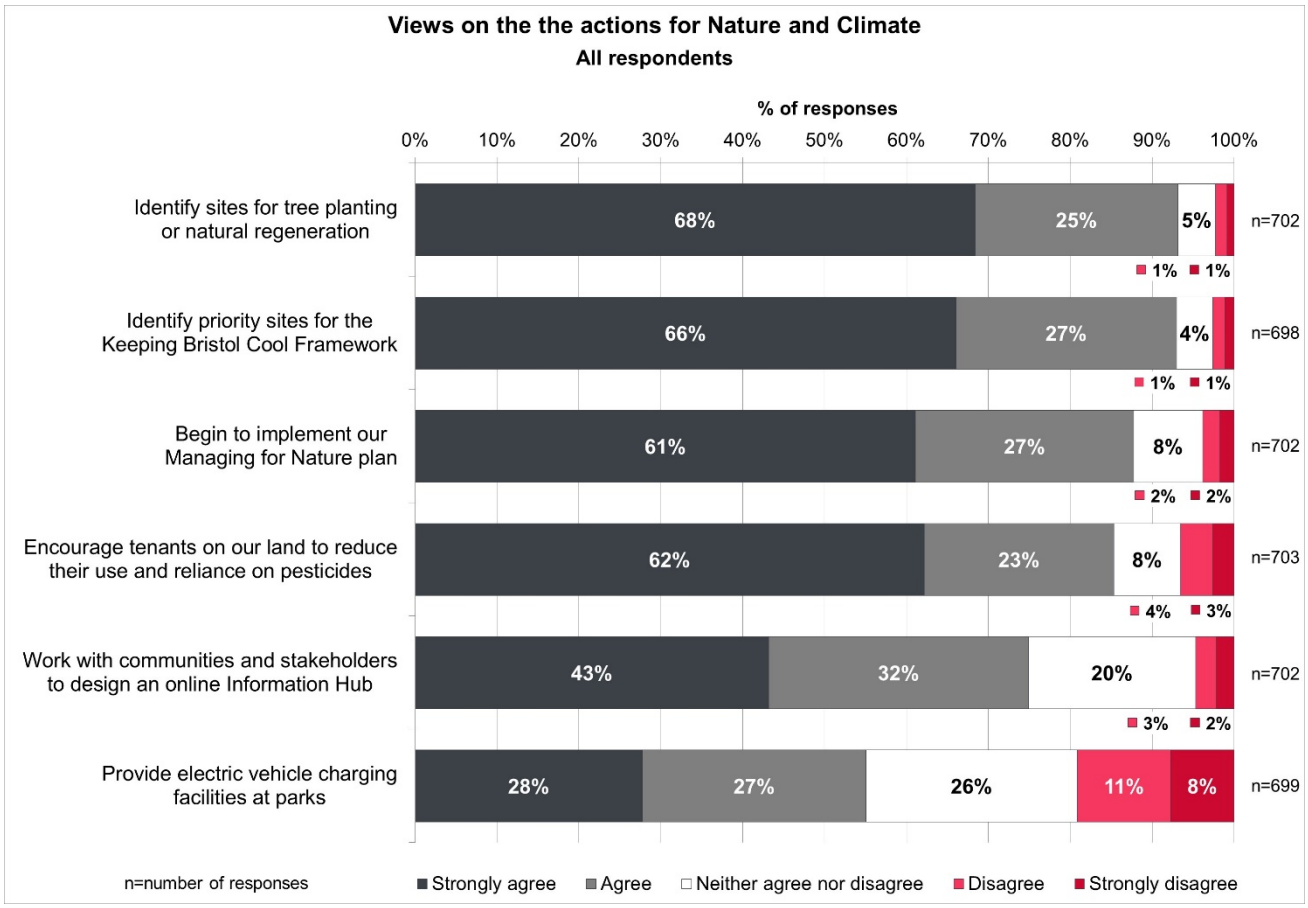
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Nature and Climate section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 50% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed with each of the Nature and Climate actions:

- 93% agreed with identifying sites for tree planting or natural regeneration.
- 93% agreed with identifying sites for the Keeping Bristol Cool Framework
- 88% agreed with beginning to implement the Managing for Nature plan.
- 85% agreed with encouraging tenants on Bristol City Council land to reduce their use and reliance on pesticides.
- 75% agreed with working with communities and stakeholders to design an online information hub.
- 55% agreed with providing electric vehicle charging facilities at parks.

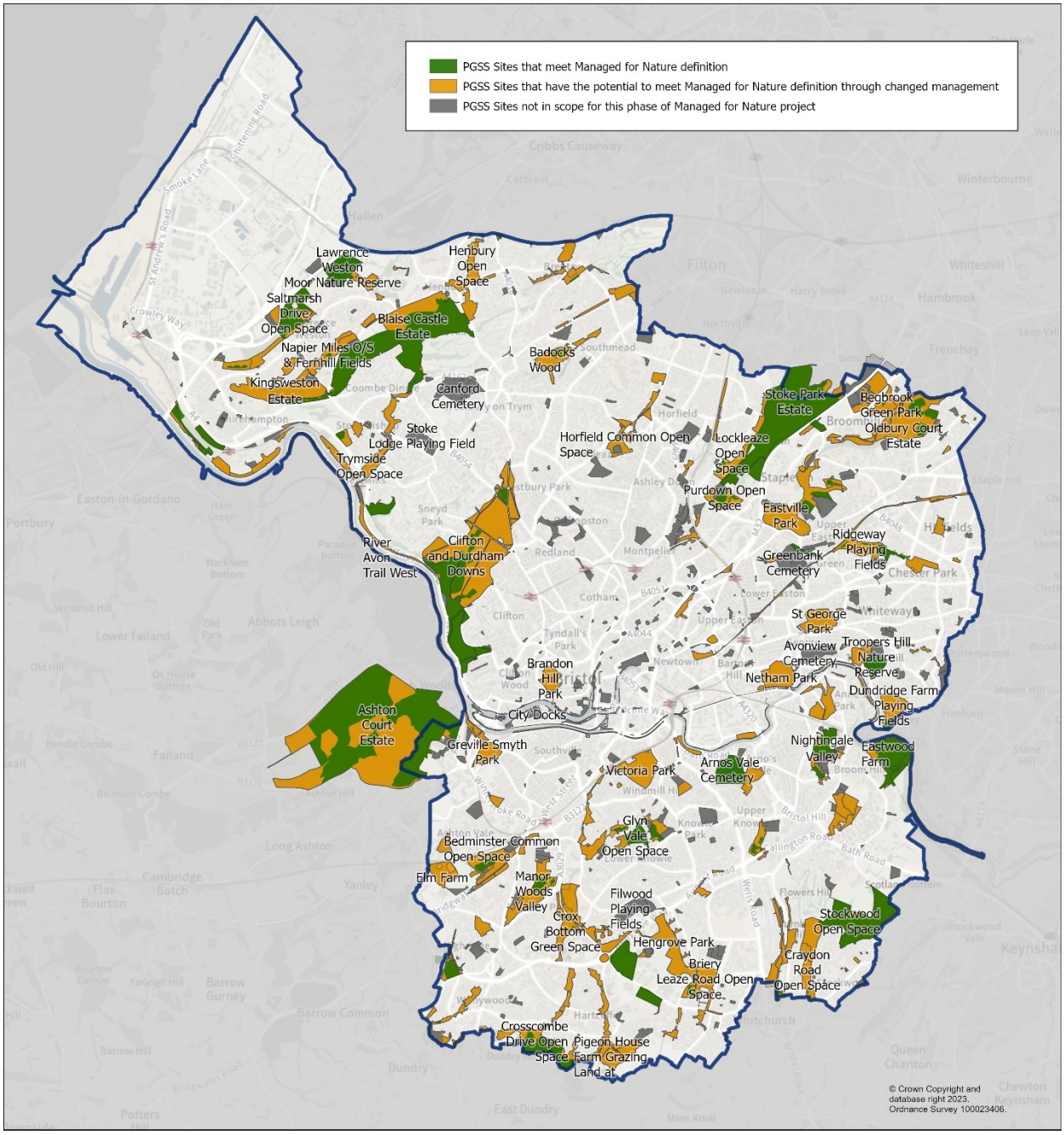
Figure 14 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 14: Views on the actions for Nature and Climate



4.1.2 Views on the areas identified as having the potential to be managed for nature

Respondents were presented with the following map which shows which sites are already being managed for nature, and which sites have potential to be managed differently, so that part or all that area could be managed for nature.

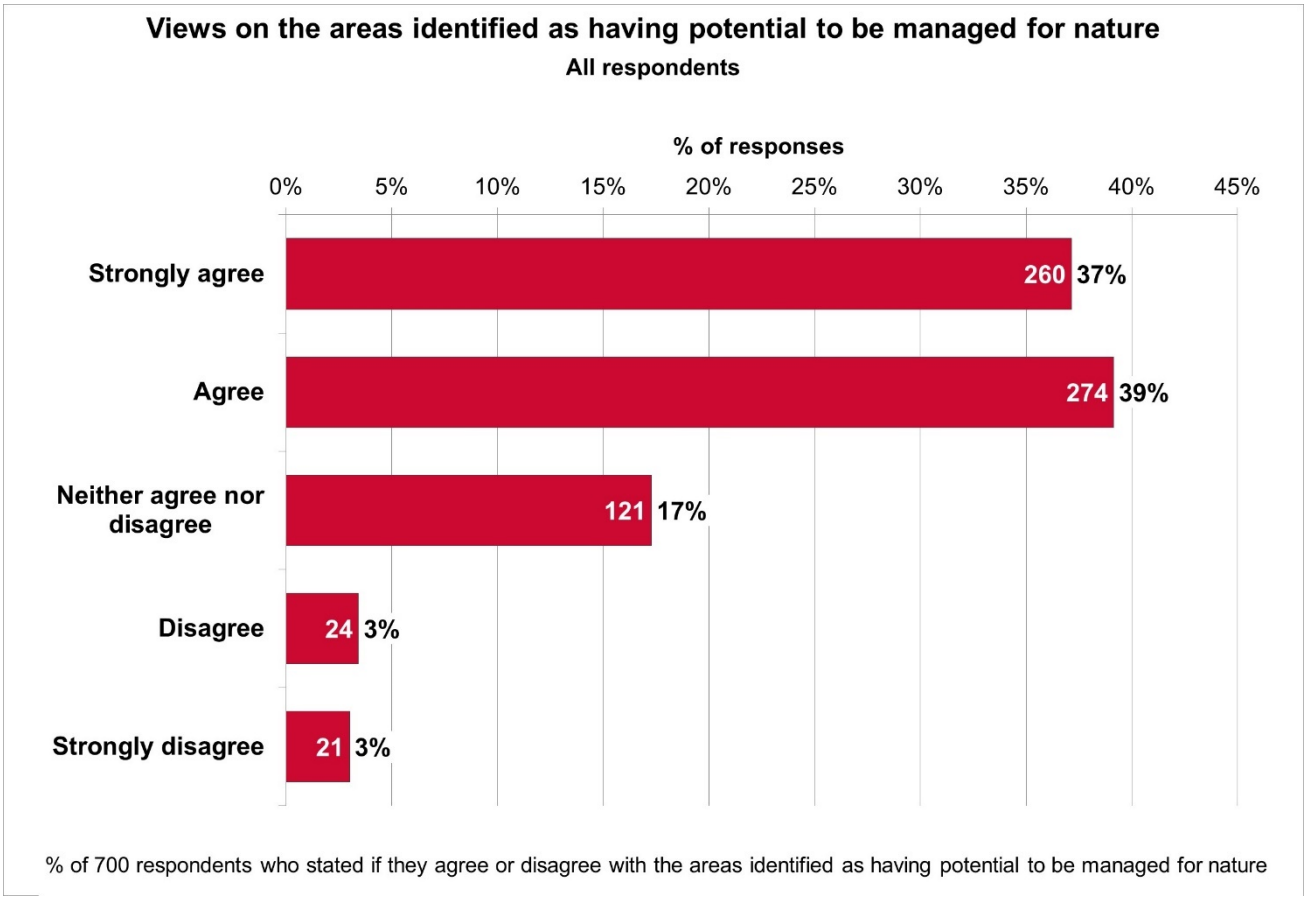


Respondents were asked to give their views on the areas identified as having the potential to be managed for nature.

- 76% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the areas identified.
- 17% Neither agreed nor disagreed with the areas.
- 6% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Figure 15 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 15: Views on the areas identified as having potential to be managed for nature.



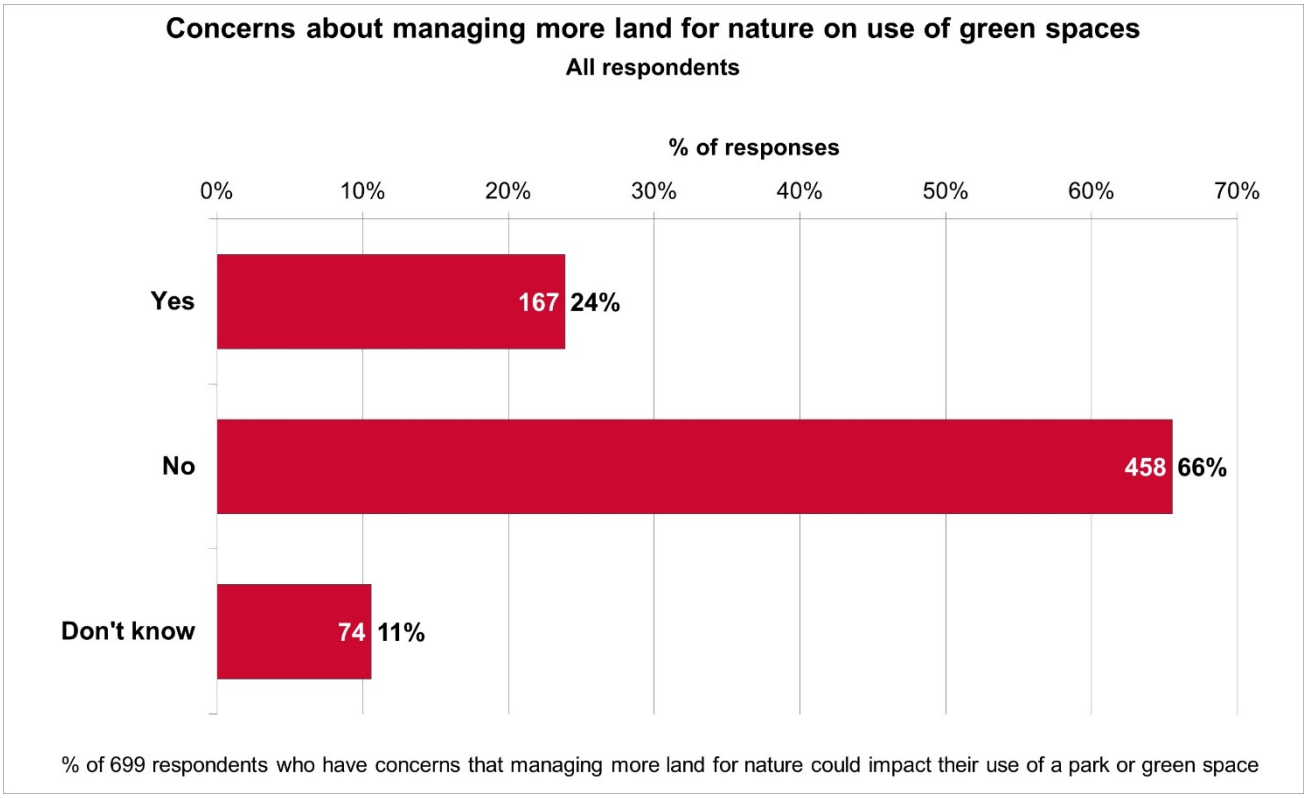
4.1.3 Concerns about managing more land for nature on use of green spaces

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the areas identified as having the potential to be managed for nature.

- 24% (167) respondents answered ‘yes’.
- 66% (458) respondents answered ‘no’.
- 11% (74) respondents answered, ‘Don’t know’.

Their views are shown in figure 16 below.

Figure 16: Concerns about managing more land for nature on use of green spaces.



We asked respondents if they answered “yes” or “don’t know” to provide free text comments to let us know why.

We have categorised the responses into the following themes:

Dog walkers

- Supports segregated areas for dog-use.
- Management of dog mess is difficult in long grass.
- Concerns it will restrict dog walking access/ areas for dogs to play.
- Long grass can cause injuries / be dangerous for dogs.

Accessibility

- Wild areas can impact on accessibility. There are concerns that the increase of wild areas will impact on the publics ability to visit these spaces without obstruction and areas to sit/ play.
- Walking access and walking routes are important.
- Balance in supporting nature with access to parks.
- Consider accessibility for wheelchair users/ pushchairs.
- Improve and maintain accessibility for cyclists.
- Vehicle access is still required. There are some concerns that if accessibility is reduced, then those who require access via their vehicles will be restricted.
- Reduce vehicle access. It was highlighted that charging points for electric vehicles will be needed.

Impact of long grass / wild park areas on park users

- Wild areas increase antisocial behaviour. Some respondents mentioned risk of vandalism and littering with the increase of unmanaged areas.
- Wild areas reduce access for children and families.
- Concerns about plans restricting public access. It was highlighted that if there are areas that are unmanaged, it may lead to overcrowding in the areas that are still accessible to the public. Some respondents mentioned that green spaces should be there for enjoyment.
- Wild areas reduce sports and recreational space available.
- Concerns about impact on health of wild areas. This included the increased risk of Lyme disease and allergies such as hay fever.
- Concern that areas will not be maintained.
- Concerns about littering/ fly tipping in unmanaged areas.
- Wild areas will reduce space to relax/ socialise/ spend time leisurely.

Tree planting

- Concern about negative impact on other habitats/ species. Some respondents highlighted that the planting of trees could damage habitats that need rich grassland.

- Protect mature trees.
- Fallen trees are not being managed properly.
- Concerned about health & safety with an increase of trees. Respondents mentioned the worry of trees falling.
- More trees are needed in other areas. Some respondents said more can be done with Stoke Lodge and Bedminster green.
- Broadly agree with plans to plant more trees. Respondents that agree with the planting of more trees highlighted the positive impact on the planet.
- More consultation on where planting takes place.
- Plant bushes instead of trees.

Management for nature

- Separation of nature areas for clarity to public.
- Support for ‘managing land for nature’. Some respondents highlighted that green spaces would become more interesting areas to visit. It was also mentioned that supporting nature is important and it would be beneficial to be able to see and hear nature.
- Clarity is needed on what ‘managing land for nature’ means.
- Concerns about interference causing harm to nature.
- Set aside nature only areas in parks.
- More wildlife corridors.
- Protection of historical monuments.
- Provide education and information on the plans.
- Consider water spaces in plans.

Council management of land

- Concerned about how the maintenance will be financed.
- Against any housing development on these sites.
- Proposals do not go far enough. Some respondents mentioned there are more sites that can be targeted for nature.
- Does not support changes to Yew Tree Farm.

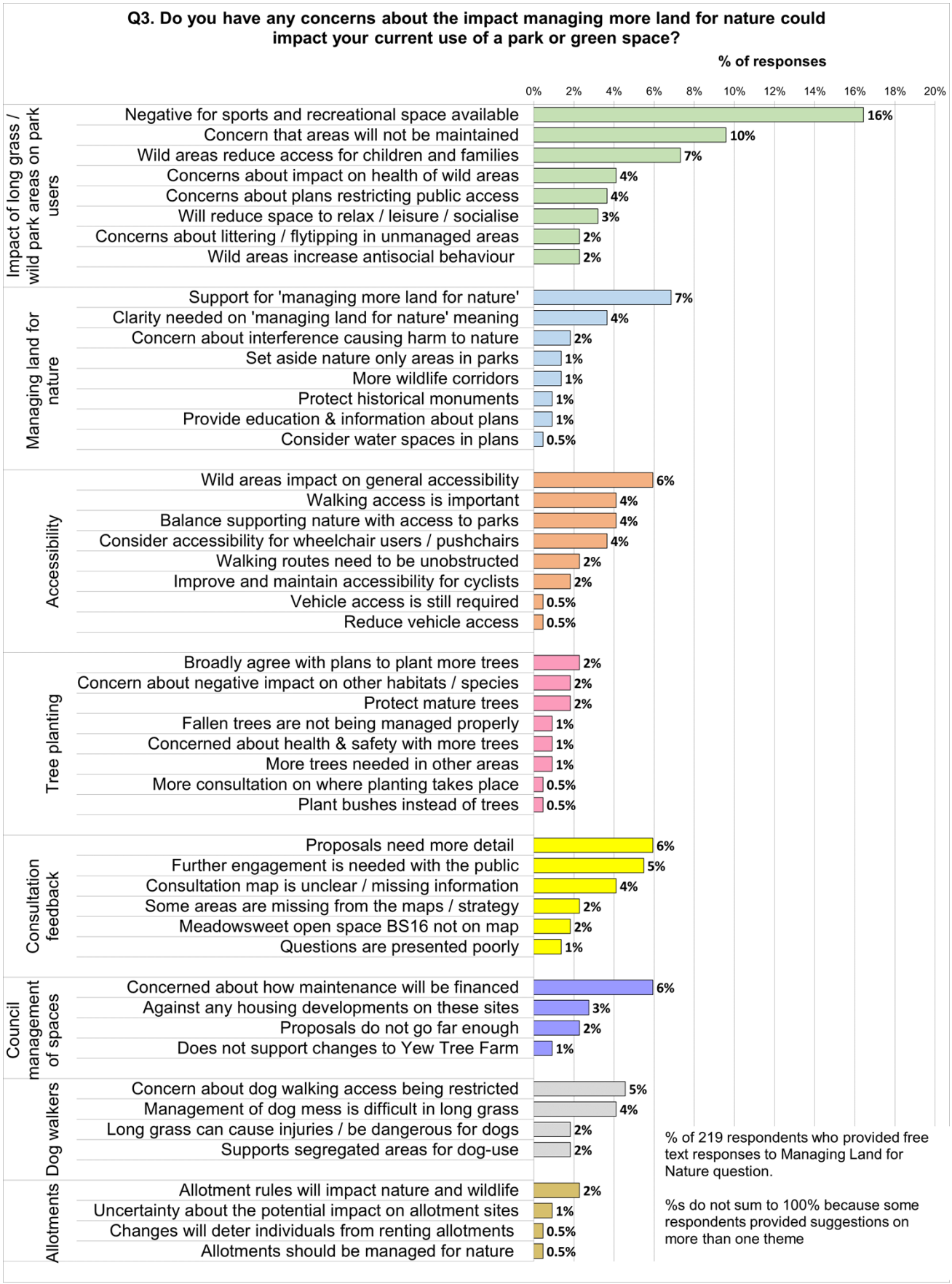
Allotments

- Allotment rules will impact nature and wildlife.
- Uncertainty about the potential impact on allotment sites.
- Changes will deter individuals from renting allotments.
- Allotments should be managed for nature.

Consultation feedback

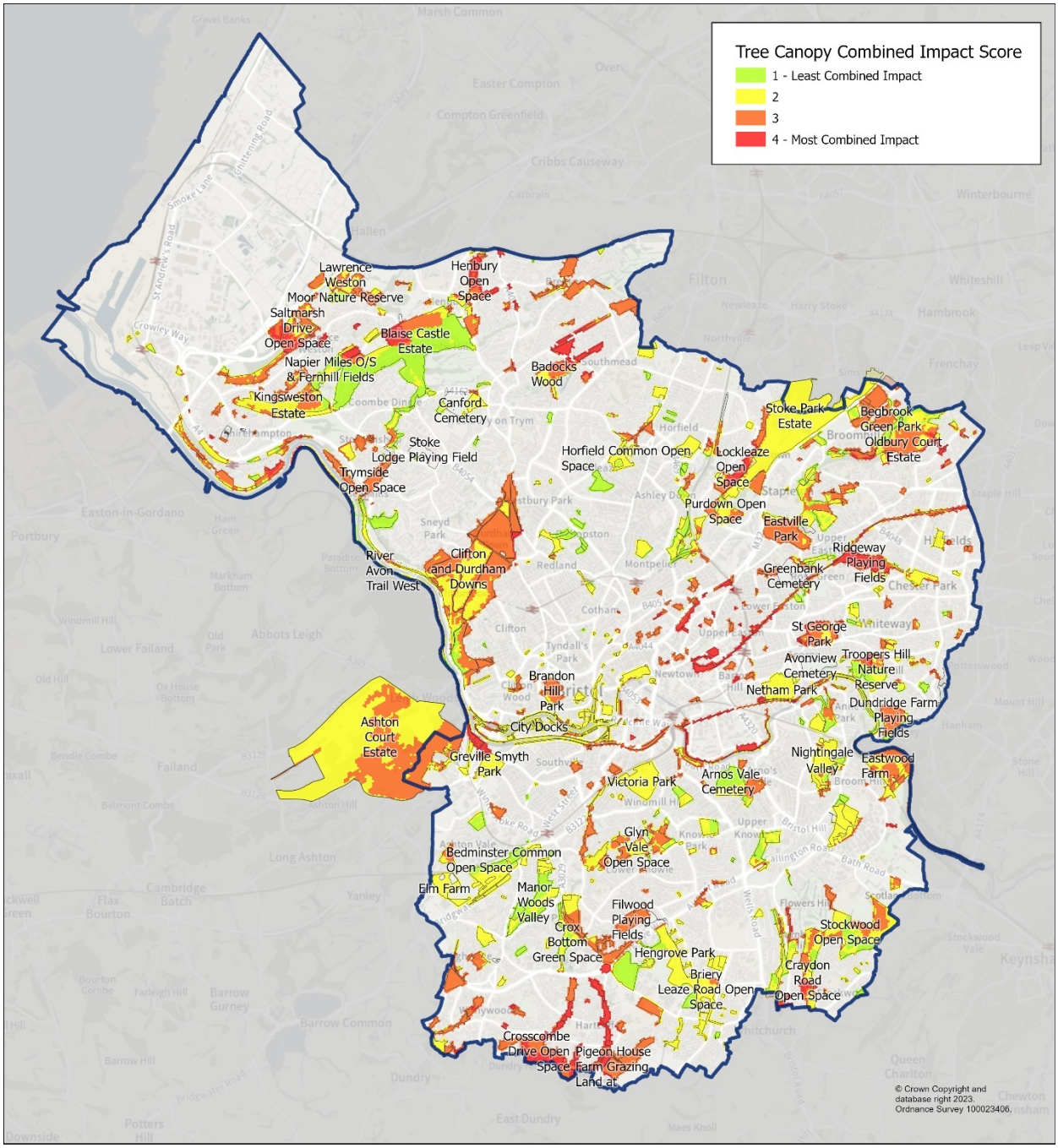
- Proposal needs more detail.
- Further engagement is needed with the public.
- Consultation map is unclear/ missing information.
- Some areas are missing from the map/ strategy.
- Meadow Street open space has not been identified.
- Questions are presented poorly.

Figure 17: Comments on concerns about managing more land for nature on use of green spaces.



4.1.4 Views on the areas identified for tree planting to have the greatest benefit

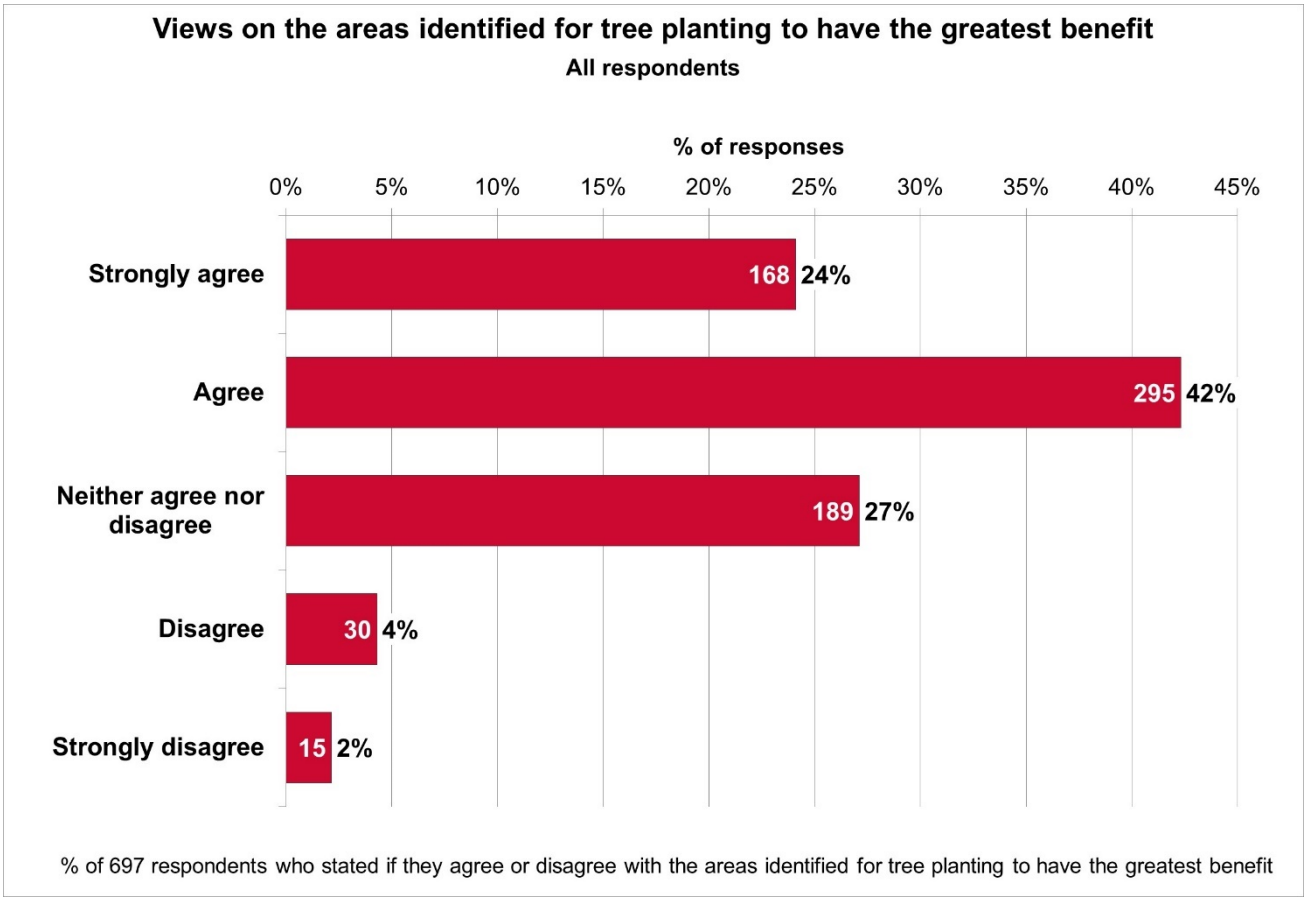
Respondents were asked to give their views on the areas of the city where we believe tree planting will have the greatest benefit, as shown on the map below.



- 66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- 27% neither agreed nor disagreed.
- 6% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Figure 18 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 18: Views on the areas identified for tree planting to have the greatest benefit.



4.1.5 Comments or suggestions about the Nature and Climate theme

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about nature and climate into the following themes:

Maintenance and mowing

- Concerns about maintenance of spaces for nature. Themes included the concern that wild areas will be left overgrown and unmaintained. There are concerns that current trees will not be looked after with plans to plant more.
- Concerns about watercourses and wetlands.

- Encourage areas of wildflowers.
- Mowing frequency should be reduced to encourage wildlife.
- Grass clippings should be used for compost or biofuel.
- Leaf mould creation and management should be considered.

Locations where more trees are wanted.

- Plant more trees in general.
- More tree planting in East Bristol
- More tree planting in South Bristol
- More tree planting in West Bristol
- More trees in residential areas and on streets
- More tree planting on housing greens

Decision making and feedback about the theme

- This theme is important.
- Plans should be more ambitious.
- Allotments changes conflict with this policy.
- Not enough detail about implementation.
- Concern that BCC will not act on the consultation.
- Link strategy to wider economic priorities.
- Use volunteers to delivery strategy.
- This theme is not a priority.
- Targets should be higher than 30%.
- Include conservation for other wildlife.
- Prioritise existing resources over new groups.

Tree planting considerations

- Trees must be suitable for wildlife.
- Retain and maintain existing mature trees.
- Community involvement in tree planting and ownership initiatives.
- Tree planting is detrimental to nature.

- Preference of native trees. It was highlighted that the right trees need to be planted in the right areas.
- Tree planting is bad for nature/ food growing. There are concerns that tree planting will impact on current habitats such as butterflies.
- Consider planters and bushes as well.
- Do not plant in residential areas.
- Plant a wider variety of trees.
- Avoid planting on traffic-free cycle/walking routes.
- Tree planting is good for cooling.
- Avoid tree planting in open spaces like the Downs.

Other locations to consider nature interventions.

- Avon View and Greenbank cemetery
- BS4 (including Novers Hill and Crox bottom).
- East Bristol (BS5 and BS15).
- Central Bristol.
- BS3
- BS16
- Bristol Northwest
- Most deprived areas of the city should get priority.
- Bristol's rivers/ streams
- Include private gardens.

Pesticides

- Keep allotments pesticide free.
- Against use of pesticides and glyphosate

Housing & developments

- Preserve trees and green spaces with new developments.
- Stop cutting down trees to build houses.
- Developers should be responsible for maintenance.

- Do not sell council owned green spaces.
- Sell Council owned green spaces.
- Identify spaces for neighbourhood gardens.

Rules

- More dog/ cat controls. Some suggested that dogs need to be kept on leads and that there has been an increase of dogs in Bristol which may impact on nature.
- More action on littering needed.

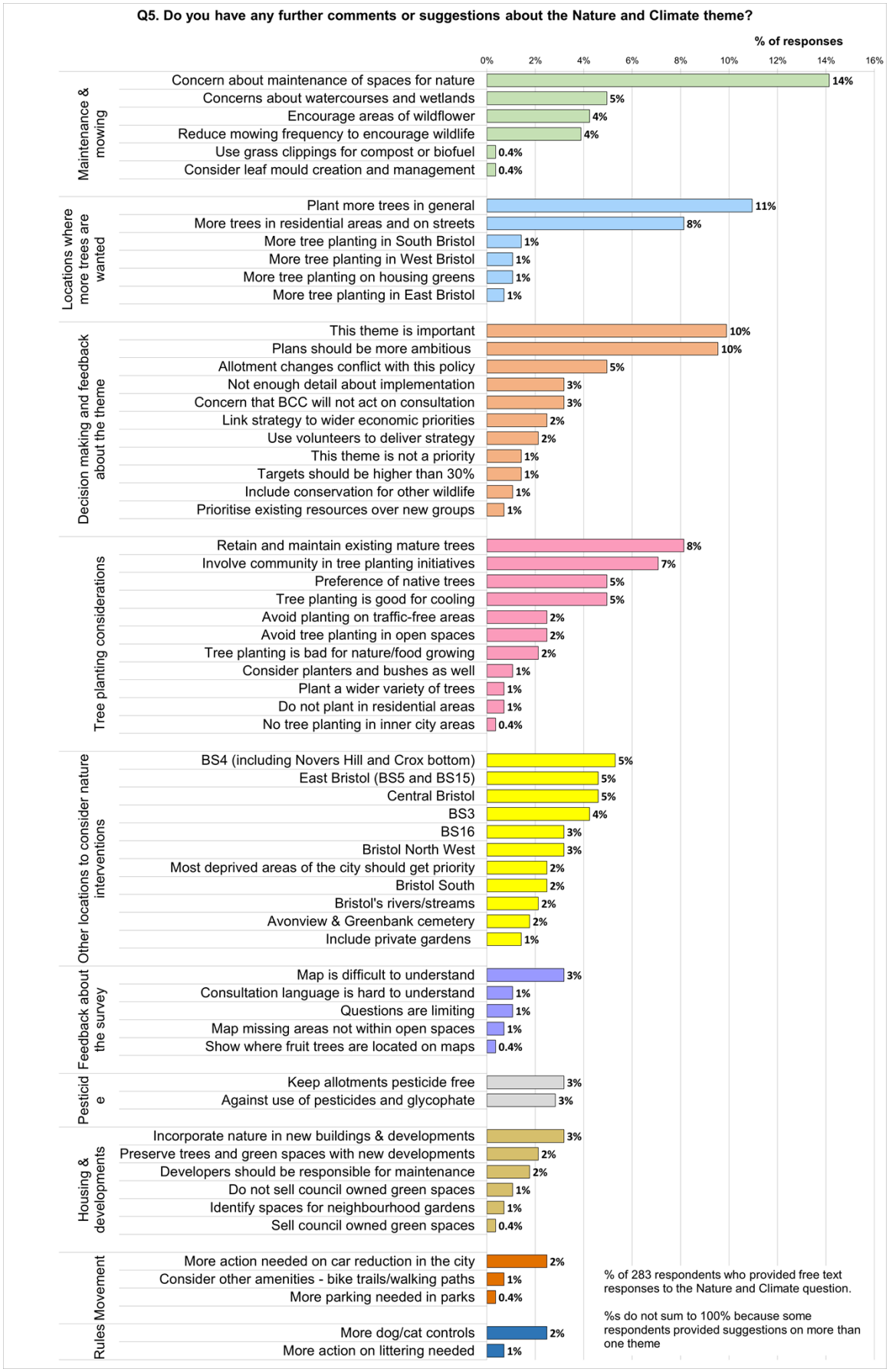
Movement

- More action needed on car reduction in the city.
- Consider other amnesties- bike trails/ walking paths.
- More parking needed in parks.

Feedback about the survey

- Map is difficult to understand.
- Consultation language is hard to understand.
- Questions are limiting.
- Map missing areas not within open space.
- Show where fruit trees are located on maps.

Figure 19: Comments or suggestions about the Nature and Climate theme



4.2 Children and Young People

4.2.1 Views on the actions for Children and Young People

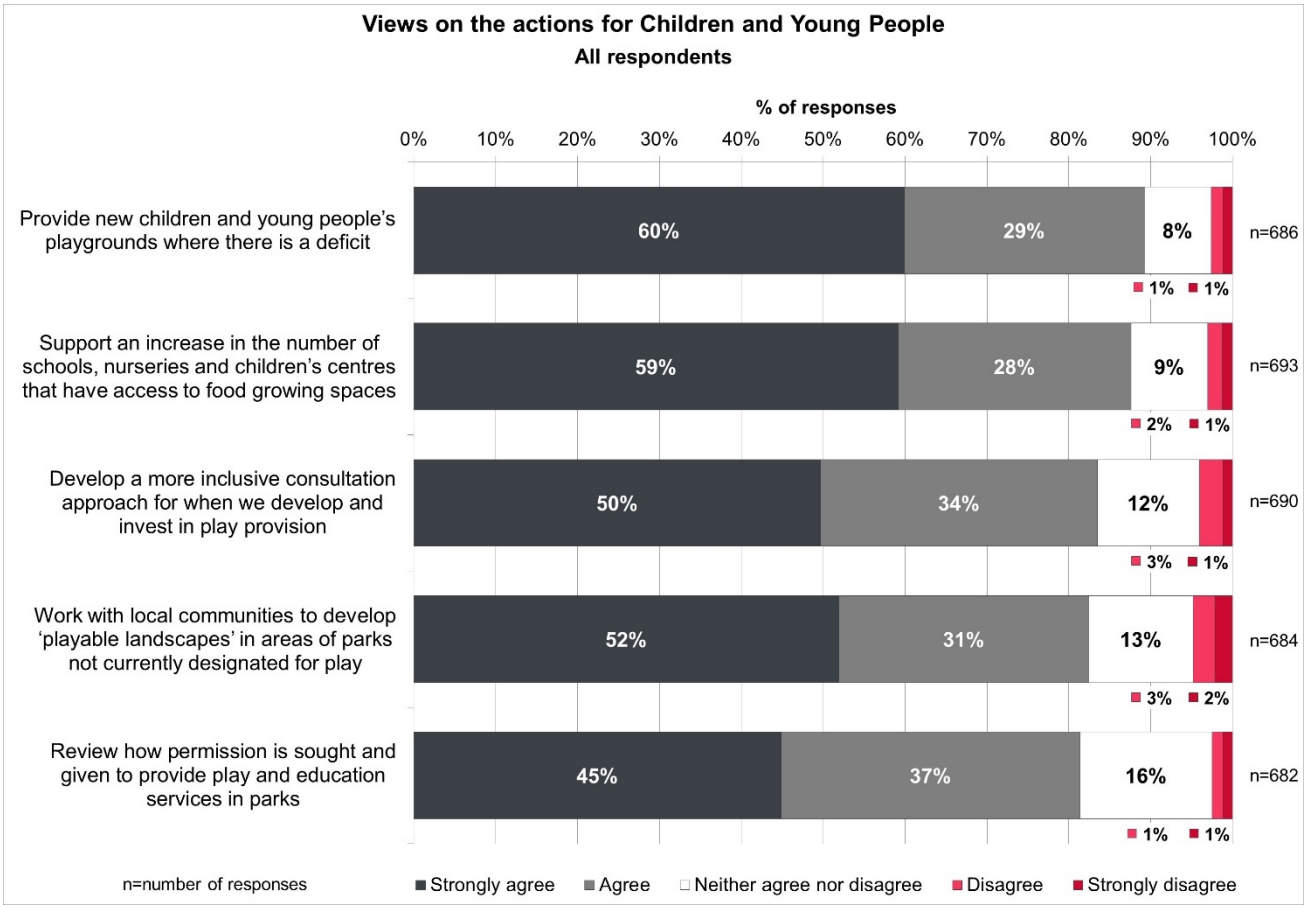
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Children and Young People section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Children and Young People:

- 89% agreed or strongly agreed with providing new children and young people's playgrounds where there is a deficit.
- 87% agreed or strongly agreed with supporting an increase in the number of schools, nurseries and children's centres that have access to food growing spaces.
- 84% agreed or strongly agreed with developing a more inclusive consultation approach for when we develop and invest in play provision.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed with working with local communities to develop 'playable landscapes' in areas of parks not currently designated for play.
- 82% agreed or strongly agreed with reviewing how permission is sought and given to provide play and education services in parks.

Figure 20 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 20: Views on the actions for Children and Young People



4.2.2 Comments or suggestions about the Children and Young People theme

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about children and young people into the following themes:

Design of play areas

- Support for natural play objects/ play areas.
- Engage with local community on new spaces.
- More skate parks and wheel-based activity areas.
- More seating/ picnic benches are needed.
- Outdoor fitness equipment areas.
- More water-based play areas/ public swimming pools.
- Consider provision of toilets nearby.
- More multi-use games areas.
- Less skate parks and wheel-based activities.
- Design spaces with shelter from rain.

- Create disc gold areas.
- More swings.
- Install more cafes and shops nearby.

Maintenance

- Play areas are not currently well maintained.
- Concerned about vandalism.
- Concerned about litter and dog mess.
- Improve sports field.
- Work with local schools on improvement & repairs.

Safety

- Access to safe places and equipment is important.
- More dog controls needed.
- Play rangers/ park attendants needed.
- Reduce/ eliminate traffic near parks and open spaces.
- Safe/ disabled- friendly equipment may be less appealing.
- Install lighting for nighttime play.
- More police presence needed in parks.

Strategy and delivery

- Preservation of nature and wildlife should take priority.
- Supports the proposals.
- Access to funding needs to be easier.
- More detail needed on how aims will be achieved.
- Does not trust BCC to deliver.
- Fund youth workers and clubs.
- Not in favour of play areas.

Accessibility and inclusivity

- Spaces for older children needed.

- Play areas should be easily accessible all year round.
- Spaces for adults and elderly needed.
- Improve access to everyone, not just for minority groups.
- Spaces for girls needed.
- More equipment accessible to disabled people.
- Concern about exclusive focus on space for women.
- Better cycling & walking access to play areas needed.
- Quiet spaces needed.
- Access for dog walkers is still needed.
- More youth/ family-oriented events.

Education and food growing

- Incorporate education about nature & food production.
- Use allotments for food growing education.
- School food growing should not take public space.

Suggested locations for play areas

- Prioritise play areas near social housing.
- Play areas on the downs.
- Easy of the city.
- Unused spaces.
- St Georges Park
- Purdown
- Bedminster Down
- Durdam Downs
- Knowle West
- South Bristol

Figure 21: Comments or suggestions on the Children and Young People theme

4.3 Community Participation

4.3.1 Views on the actions for Community Participation

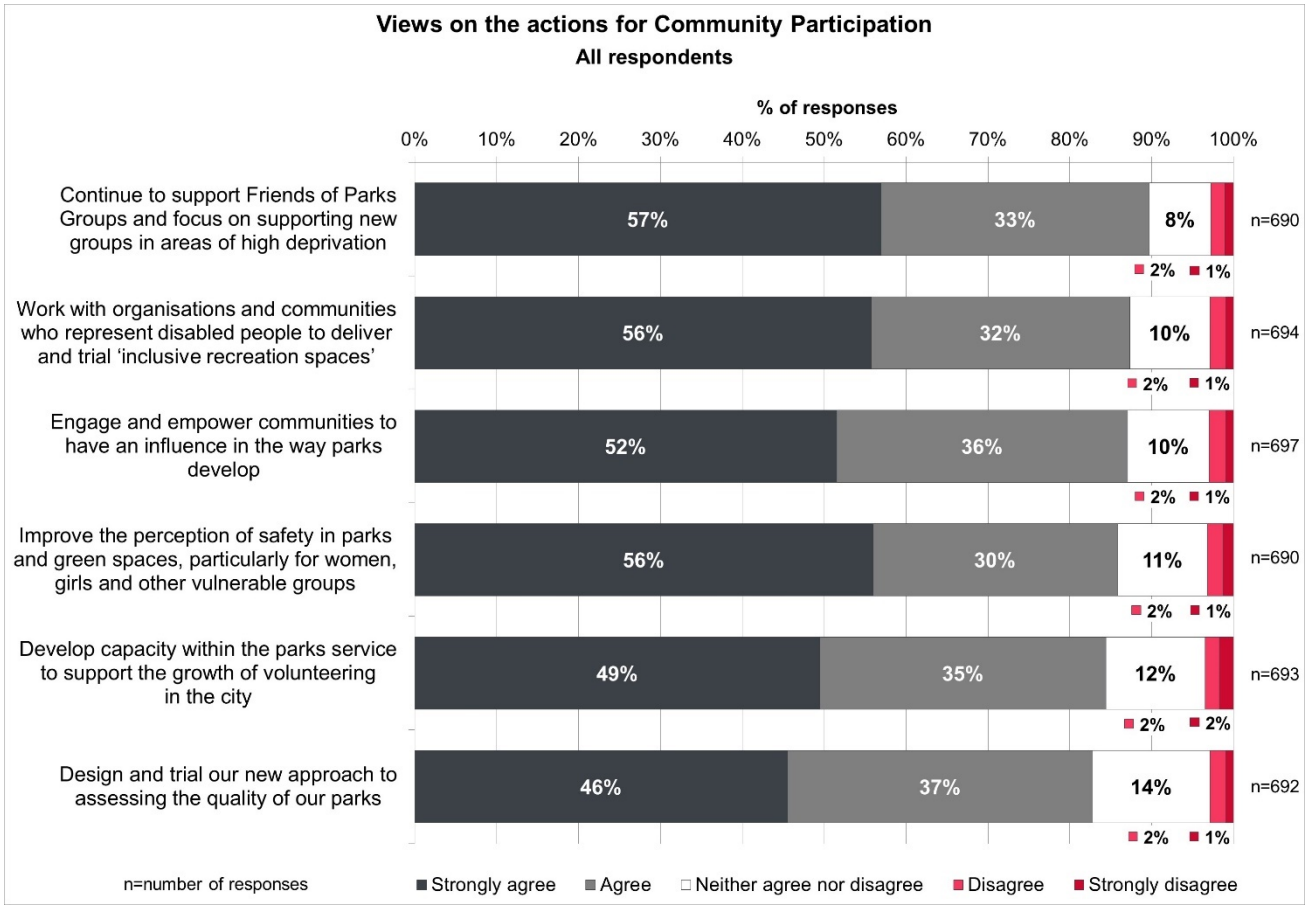
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Community Participation section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Community Participation:

- 90% agreed or strongly agreed with continuing to support Friends of Parks Groups and focus on supporting new groups in areas of high deprivation.
- 88% agreed or strongly agreed with working with organisations and communities who represent disabled people to deliver and trial ‘inclusive recreation spaces.
- 88% agreed or strongly agreed with engaging and empowering communities to have an influence on the way parks develop.
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed with improving the perception of safety in parks and green spaces through targeted site planning, maintenance, and investment particularly for women, girls and other vulnerable groups.
- 84% agreed or strongly agreed with developing capacity within the parks service to support the growth of volunteering in the city.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed with designing and trialling a new approach to assessing the quality of parks in partnership with community groups and park users.

Figure 22 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 22: Views on the actions for Community Participation



4.3.2 Comments or suggestions about the Community Participation theme

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about community participation into the following themes:

Community Engagement and Volunteer Management

- Employ full time workers & roles to support volunteers.
- In support of volunteering and community participation.
- Concerned about over reliance on volunteers.
- More collaboration between community and volunteers.
- Develop volunteering programmes.
- Difficulty getting people to participate/ volunteer.
- Volunteer groups are not always representative.

- Council should not be interfering with local volunteers.
- Concern that Bristol City Council (BCC) does not listen to volunteers.
- Friends of Parks group have too much power.
- Volunteers need incentives and rewards.
- Concerned about safety of volunteers.

Safety

- Better lighting needed in parks.
- Concerns about safety in parks. Respondents have highlighted issues with antisocial behaviour and the lack of lighting in the parks.
- More dog controls.
- Concerned about impact of lighting on wildlife.
- Keep females/ vulnerable individuals safe.

Decision making and feedback about the theme

- Concerned about funding/ feasibility of plans.
- Dependent on BCC for support and partnership.
- Vague or hard to understand proposals.
- Cut through bureaucracy.

Parks and green areas

- Concerned about keeping the parks clean.
- Prioritise nature and wildlife.
- Improve quality of parks.
- Address commercialisation of parks.
- Concerns overregulation. Respondents said there is a concern that play areas and community space will be regulated too harshly.
- Provision of fitness equipment in parks.
- More growing areas needed.

Inclusivity

- Include residents in decision making.
- Encourage greater diversity in community engagement.
- Focus on whole city, not just certain groups, or areas.
- Preference for in- person consultation on local change.
- Include mothers in vulnerable groups.
- Supports more participation of women & girls.

Education

- More education about nature.
- More education about food growing.

Accessibility

- Prioritise accessibility for those with disabilities.
- Against park charges.
- Communicate with volunteers online an in-person.
- Better public transport access required.

Figure 23: Comments or suggestions about the Community Participation theme

4.4 Health and Wellbeing

4.4.1 Views on the actions for Health and Wellbeing

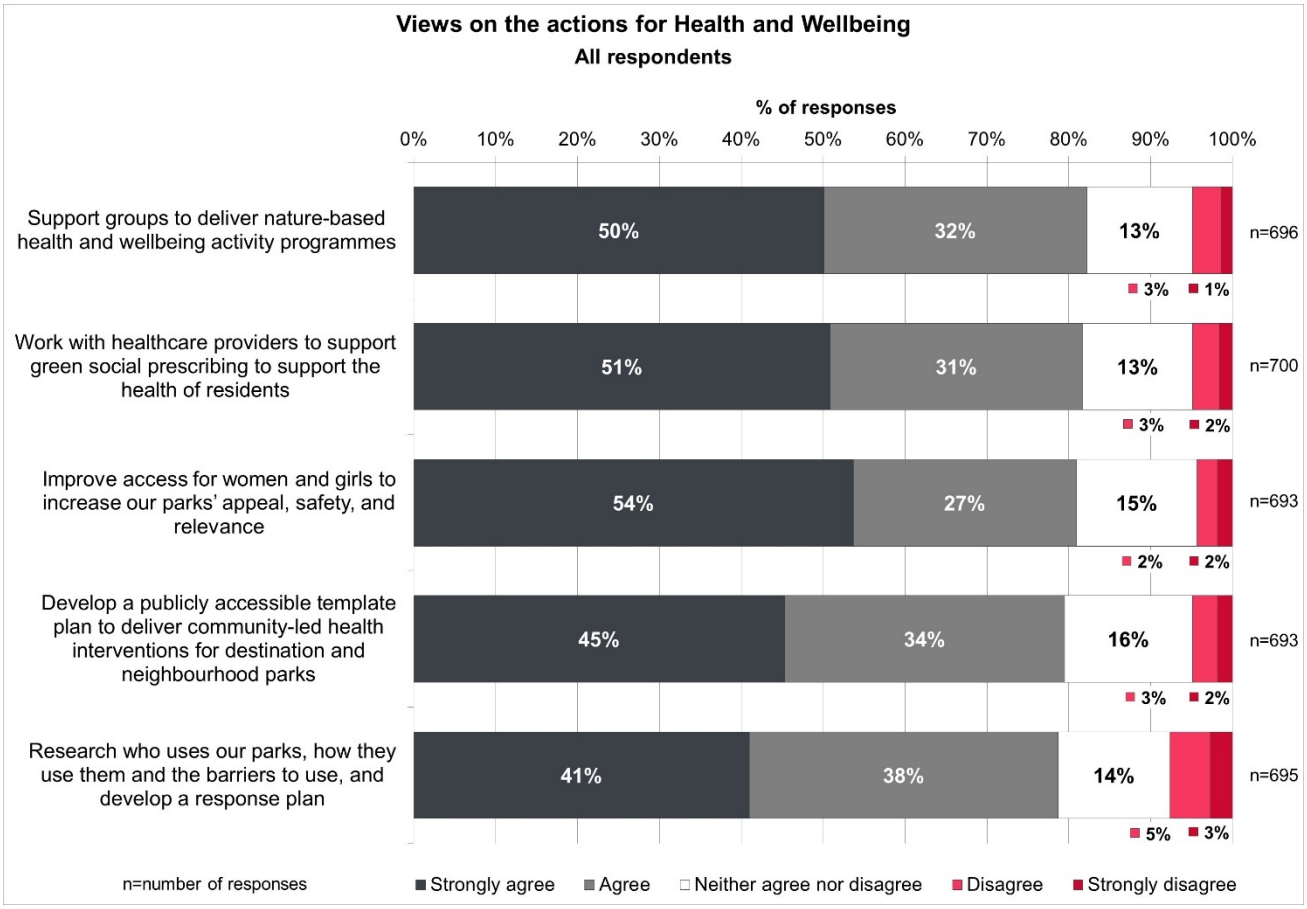
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Health and Wellbeing section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 70% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Health and Wellbeing:

- 82% agreed or strongly agreed with having support groups to deliver nature-based health and wellbeing activity programmes.
- 82% agreed or strongly agreed with working with healthcare providers to support green social prescribing to support the health of residents.
- 81% agreed or strongly agreed with improving access for women and girls to increase the parks' appeal, safety, and relevance.
- 79% agreed or strongly agreed with working with developing a publicly accessible template plan to deliver community-led health interventions for destination and neighbourhood parks.
- 79% agreed or strongly agreed with researching who uses parks, how they use them and what the barriers are to use and using this to develop a response plan.

Figure 24 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 24: Views on the actions for Health and Wellbeing



4.4.2 Comments or suggestions about the Health and Wellbeing theme

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about health and wellbeing into the following themes:

Health & Wellbeing

- Parks are beneficial for health and wellbeing.
- Support for community arts and activities in parks to reduce isolation and loneliness.
- Disagree with green social prescribing.
- Allotments have an impact on wellbeing.
- Opposition to charging fitness groups.
- More bicycle races should be facilitated.
- Housing developments should include public green space.
- Against fitness/ exercise areas in parks.
- Not top priority.

Decision making and feedback about the theme.

- General support for the proposals.
- Research needed on those who don’t currently use parks.
- Scepticism about the need for more research on park usage.
- In favour of evidence-based interventions.
- Proposed interventions are not specific or far reaching enough.
- Concerns about privacy and data usage in research.
- Scepticism about Bristol City Council’s willingness to invest in parks.
- Opposition to involvement of Friends of Parks groups in decision-making.
- Research needed on those who don't use the parks.

Community involvement

- Involve voluntary groups in park maintenance.
- Encourage community leaders to organise events in parks.
- Explore corporate support and volunteering programs.
- Redcatch community garden is a good example to learn from.
- Litter picking activities encouraged.
- Concerns about overreliance on volunteers.

Accessibility

- More accessible parks needed.
- Engage with children and young people to increase their use of parks.
- Accessibility for women is important.
- Ensure parks are free to use.
- Parking charges are a barrier to accessibility.
- Promote walking routes to and through parks.
- Allotments need to remain affordable.
- Crime is a barrier to park usage.
- Disabled access to parks is important.
- Inadequate public transport is a barrier to park usage.
- More green space is needed in residential areas.

Safety

- Concerns about safety in parks.
- Better lighting and safe spaces needed.
- Not in favour of additional lighting.
- Better CCTV in parks needed.
- Concern about human defecation in parks.

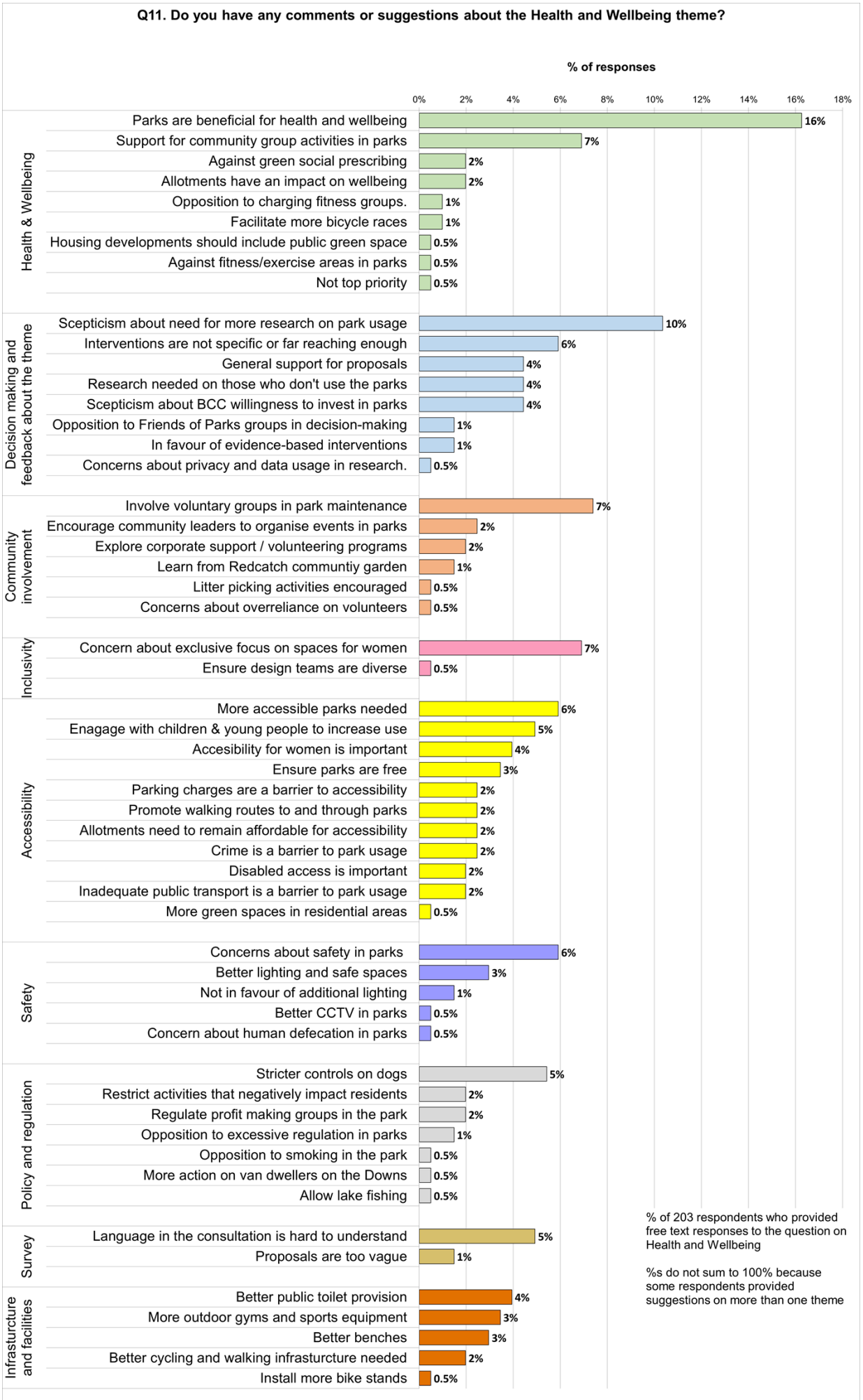
Policy and regulation

- Stricter controls on dogs needed.
- Activities that negatively impact residents should be restricted, e.g., playing loud music.
- Regulate private organisations that use parks for profit make a profit.
- Opposition to excessive regulation in parks.
- Opposition to smoking in the park.
- More action needed on van dwellers on the Downs.
- Lake fishing should be allowed.

Infrastructure and facilities

- Better public toilet provision needed.
- More outdoor gyms and sports equipment needed.
- Better benches need to be installed.
- Better cycling and walking infrastructure needed.
- More bike stands should be installed.

Figure 25: Comments or suggestions about the Health and Wellbeing theme



4.5 Culture

4.5.1 Views on the actions for Culture

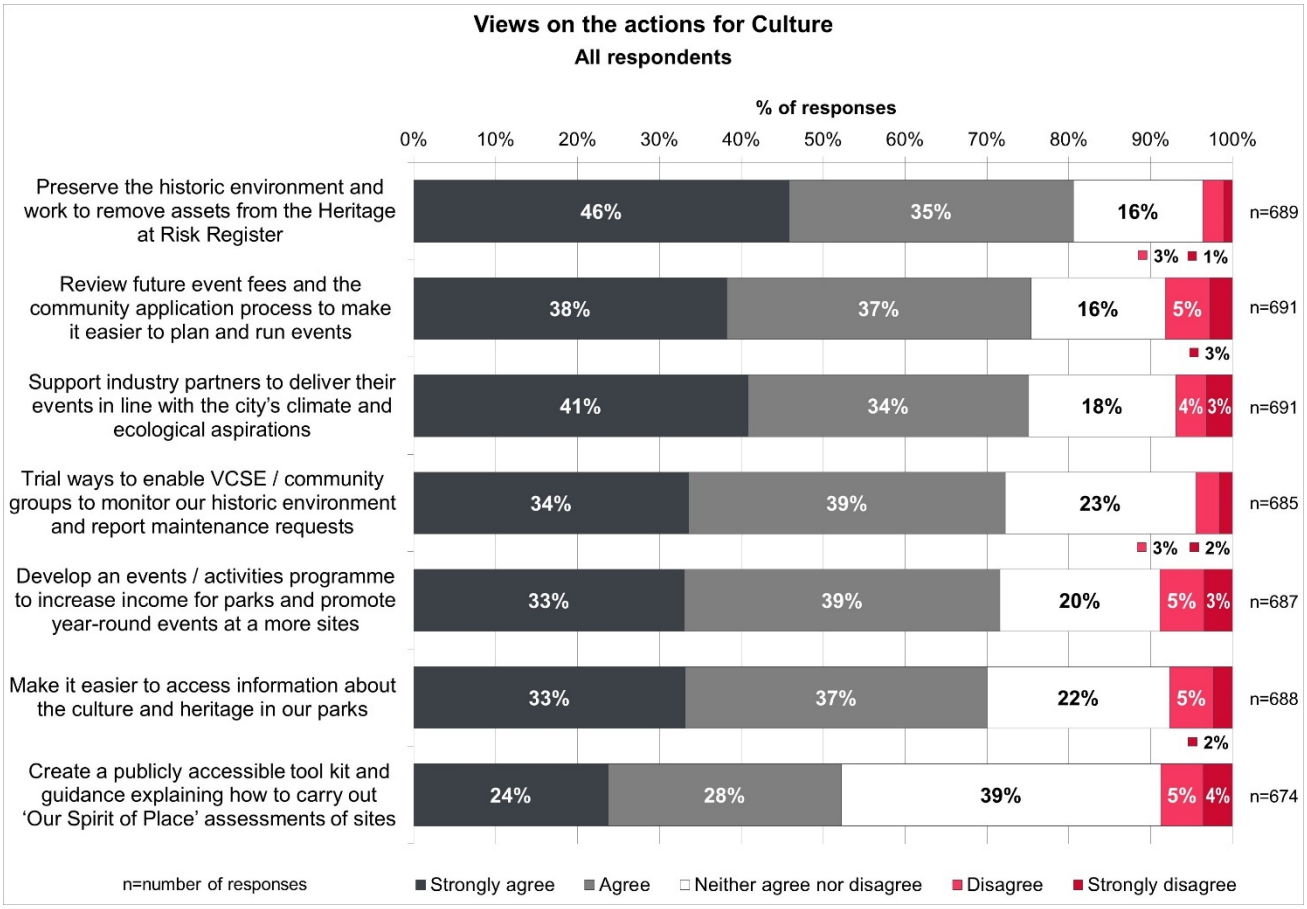
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Culture section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 50% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Culture:

- 81% agreed or strongly agreed with preserving the historic environment and work to remove assets from the Heritage at Risk Register.
- 75% agreed or strongly agreed with reviewing future event fees and the community application process to make it easier to plan and run events.
- 75% agreed or strongly agreed with supporting industry partners to deliver their events in line with the city's climate and ecological aspirations, by working with commercial event organisers to secure 'Greener code' or the equivalent sustainable accreditation.
- 73% agreed or strongly agreed with trialling ways of enabling the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and community groups to monitor our historic environment with a clear route for reporting maintenance requests.
- 72% agreed or strongly agreed with developing an events and activities programme that will support and contribute to the financial sustainability of the Parks Service and promote a good range of year-round events at a wider variety of sites.
- 70% agreed or strongly agreed with making it easier to access information about the culture and heritage in our parks.
- 52% agreed or strongly agreed with creating a publicly accessible tool kit and guidance explaining how to carry out 'Our Spirit of Place' assessments of sites.

Figure 26 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 26: Views on the actions for Culture



4.5.2 Comments or suggestions about the Culture theme

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about culture into the following themes:

Impact on residents

- Concerns about the impact of events on residents.
- Concerns that events will reduce accessibility to open spaces.
- Concerns about increased traffic due to events.

Environmental impact and conservation

- Concerns that events negatively impact the natural environment and other usages of parks.
- Need to ensure events are green-accredited and considerate of wildlife impact.
- Concerns about littering.
- More emphasis needs to be put on sustainable transport options.

Financial and commercialisation concerns

- Opposition to private enterprises benefiting from park events.
- Opposition to charging local groups for park use.
- Parks and cultural events need more funding.
- Profits from events should be reinvested into parks.

Decision-making and feedback on the theme

- Scepticism about costly or vague proposals.
- Against more events, seeing them as a detriment to other park activities.
- More clarity needed on the spirit of place assessments.
- Doubts about the council's commitment to proposed initiatives.
- Essential public services should be prioritised overspending on cultural events.
- In favour of the proposals.

Community and inclusivity

- Communities need to be more involved in decision-making.
- Concerns that events are not inclusive or accessible to all.
- Concerns about overreliance on volunteers.
- Local events organisers should be prioritised over national ones.
- A wider range of events is needed beyond concerts and festivals.
- More events in parks will help bring communities together and reduce barriers for marginalised communities.
- More toilets will need to be made available for events.

Preservation of heritage and historical sites

- Heritage assets should be protected before focusing on new cultural events.
- More clarity needed on the historical importance criteria.

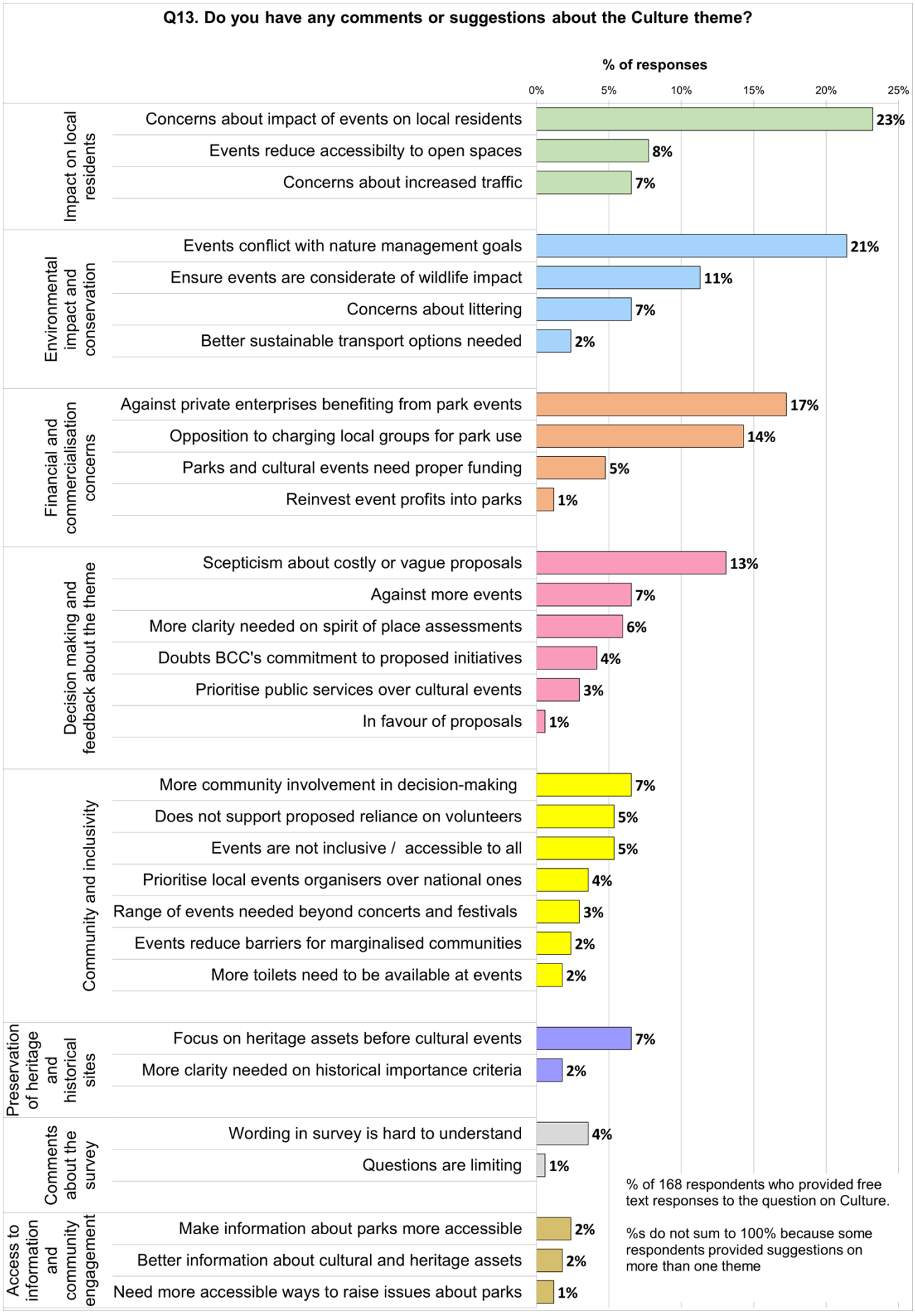
Comments about the survey

- Wording in survey is hard to understand.
- Questions are limiting.

Access to information and community engagement

- Better communication needed to make information about parks more accessible.
- Better information needed on cultural and heritage assets.
- Calls for easily accessible ways to raise issues about parks.

Figure 27: Comments or suggestions about the Culture theme



4.6 Skills and Employment

4.6.1 Views on the actions for Skills and Employment?

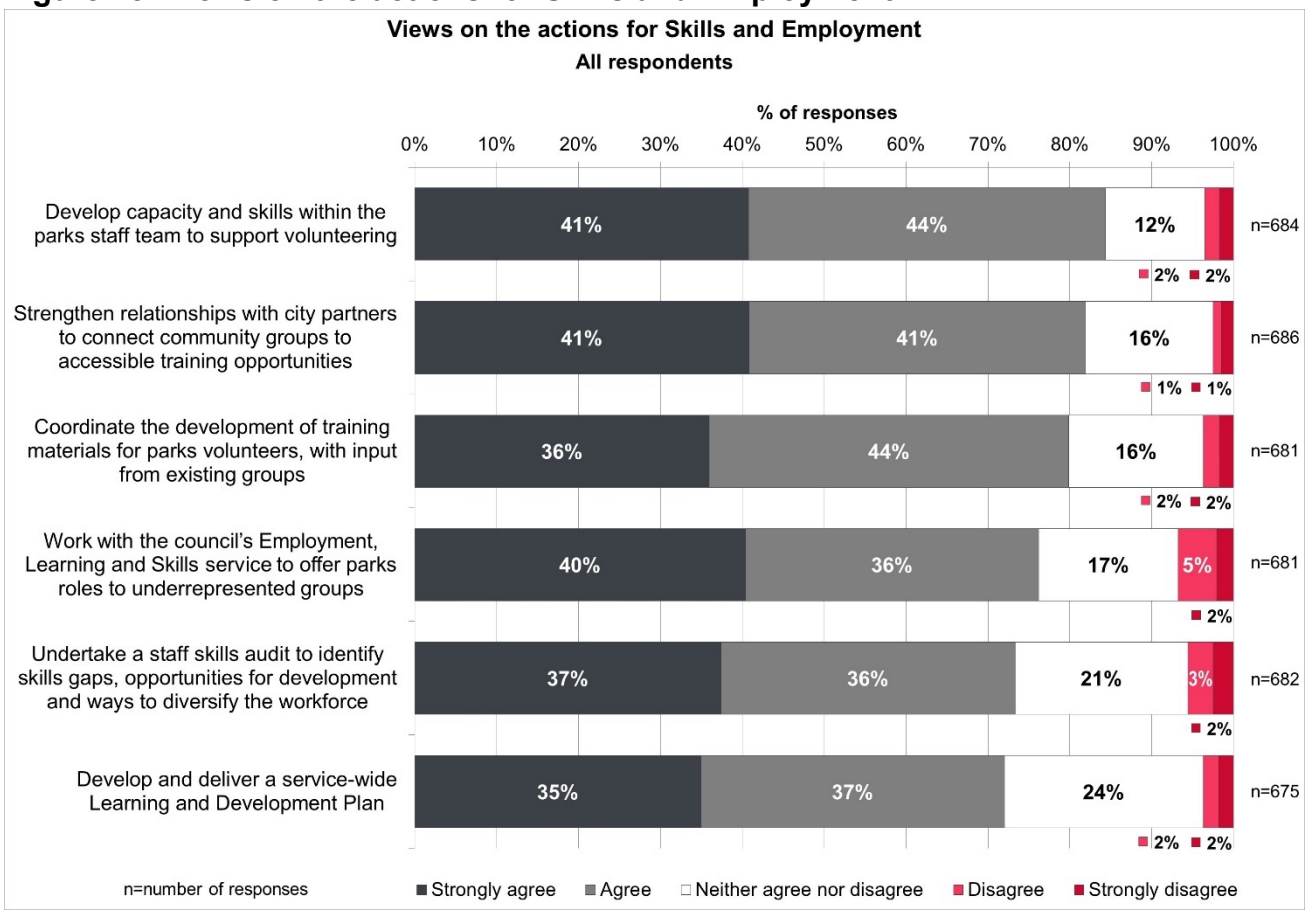
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Skills and Employment section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 70% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Skills and Employment:

- 85% agreed or strongly agreed with developing capacity and skills within the parks staff team to support volunteering.
- 82% agreed or strongly agreed with strengthening relationships with city partners to connect community groups to accessible training opportunities.
- 80% agreed or strongly agreed with coordinating the development of training materials for parks volunteers, with input from existing groups.
- 76% agreed or strongly agreed with working with the council's Employment, Learning and Skills service to offer parks roles to underrepresented groups in the city.
- 73% agreed or strongly agreed with undertaking a staff skills audit to identify skills gaps, opportunities for development and ways to diversify the workforce.
- 72% agreed or strongly agreed with developing and delivering a service-wide Learning and Development Plan to support the appropriate skills development for our future service.

Figure 28 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 28: Views on the actions for Skills and Employment



4.6.2 Comments and suggestions about the Skills and Employment theme

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about skills and employment into the following themes:

Recruitment and volunteering practices

- Concern about relying solely on volunteers rather than paid staff.
- Skilled gardeners and conservationists should be directly employed.
- Fair and open recruitment is important, where the best person should get the job regardless of quotas.
- Better utilise, support, and develop existing staff and groups.
- Create jobs in park management for wildlife-related activities.
- Proper management and vetting of volunteers are needed.
- Against the micromanagement of volunteers.

- There is a need to use agencies for work requiring skills that the council do not have in-house.

Governance and decision-making

- Scepticism about the necessity and cost-effectiveness of the Skills and Employment proposals.
- Skills gap audit and additional surveys are not needed.
- Funds should be used for practical on-the-ground actions rather than reports and plans.
- Park services need sufficient funding.
- Concerns about potential waste of funds on consultants.

Community knowledge and experience

- Existing community and council knowledge should be utilised.

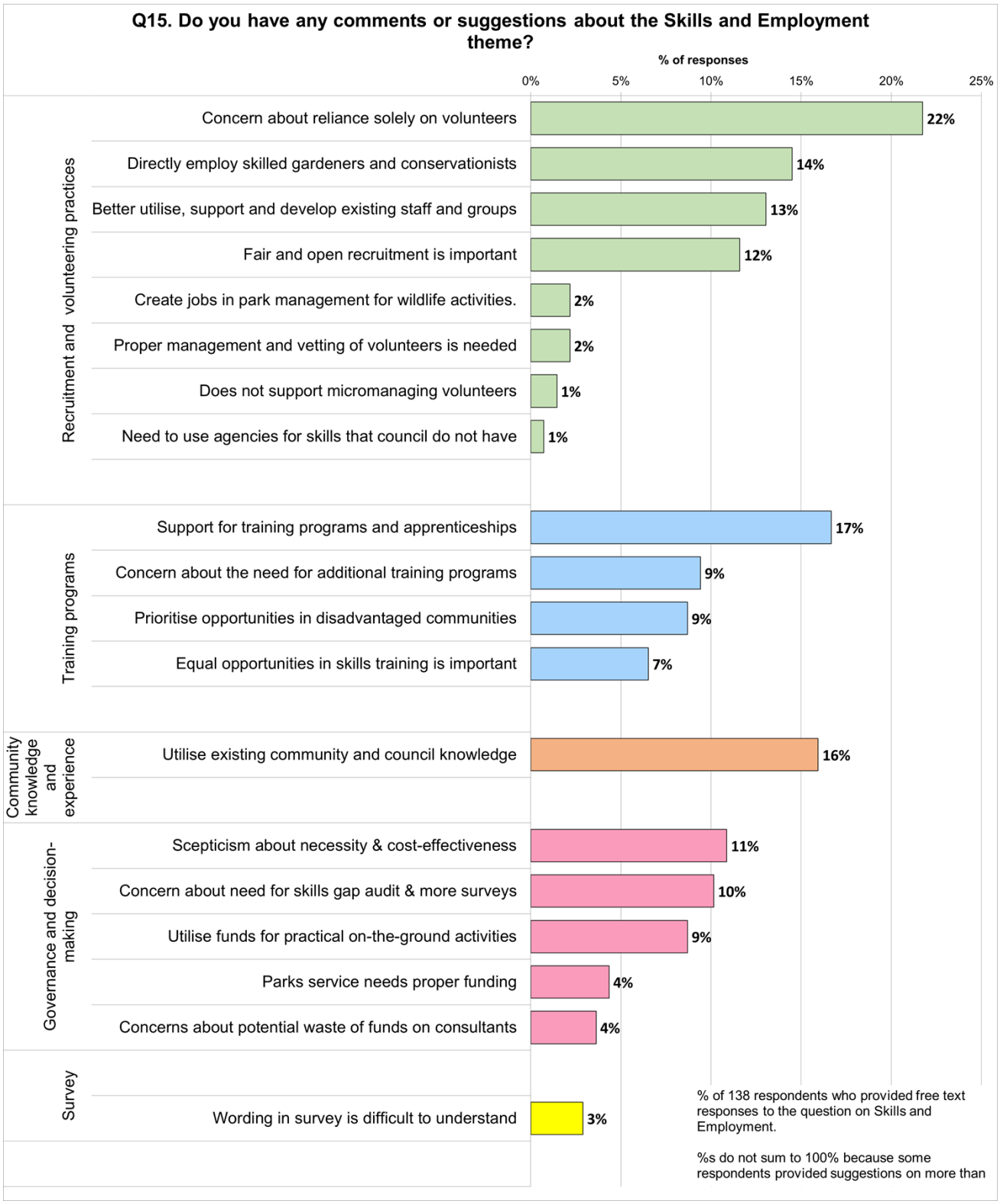
Training programmes

- Support for training programs and apprenticeships.
- Scepticism about the need for additional training programs and spending on training volunteers.
- Disadvantaged communities should be prioritised for learning and development opportunities.
- Importance of inclusivity and providing equal opportunities in skills training.

Survey

- Wording in survey is difficult to understand.

Figure 29: Comments and suggestions about the Skills and Employment theme



4.7 Sustainability and Investment

4.7.1 Views on the actions for Financial Sustainability and Investment

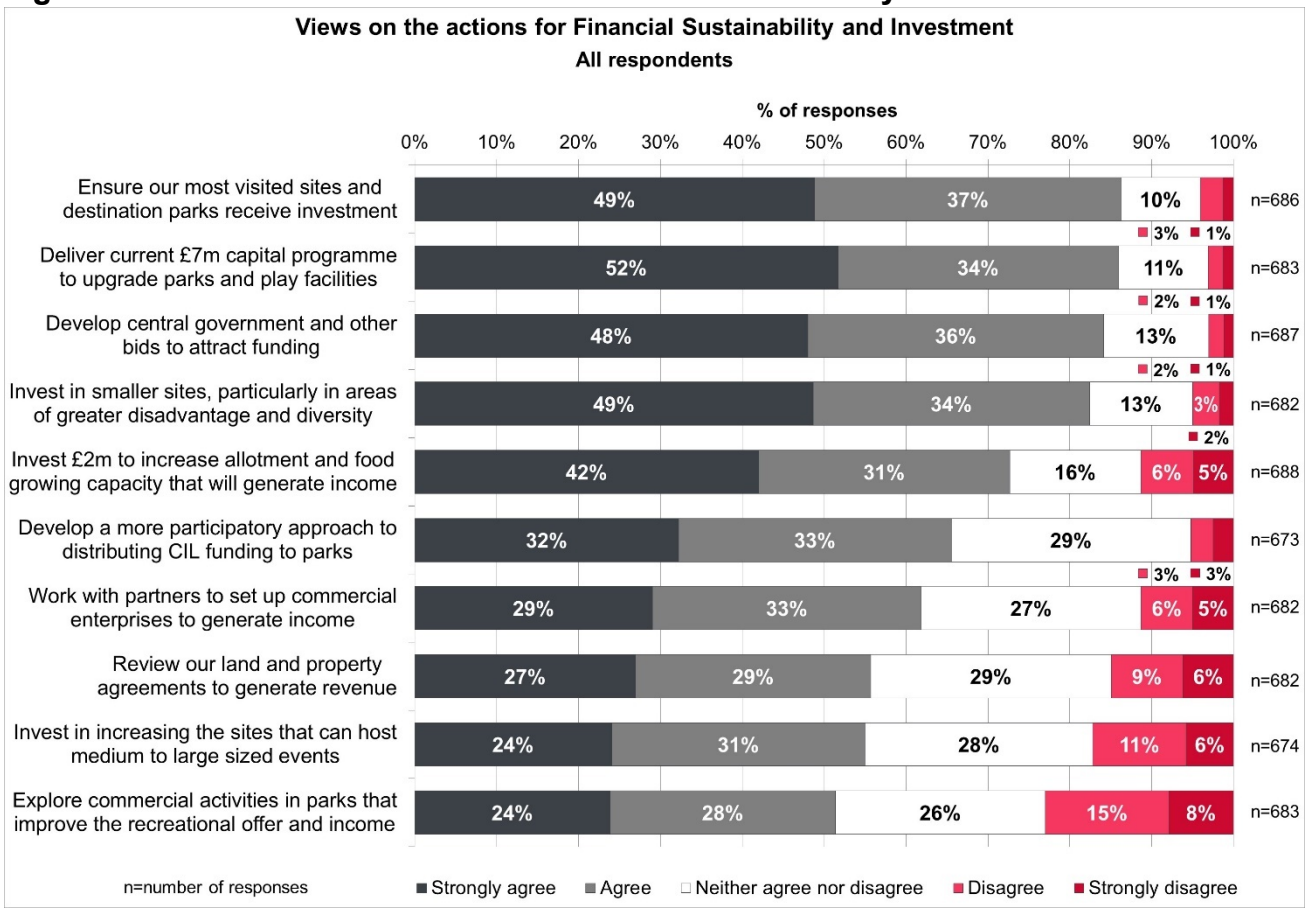
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Sustainability and Investment section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 50% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Sustainability and Investment:

- 86% agreed or strongly agreed with ensuring the most visited sites and destination parks receive investment.
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed with delivering the £7million capital programme to upgrade parks and play facilities across the city.
- 84% agreed or strongly agreed with developing central government and other funding bids.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed with investing in smaller sites, particularly in areas of greater disadvantage and diversity.
- 73% agreed or strongly agreed with investing £2million to increase allotment and food growing capacity that will generate income.
- 65% agreed or strongly agreed with developing a more participatory approach to distributing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to community-led parks development.
- 62% agreed or strongly agreed with working with partners to establish new, commercial enterprises to generate income.
- 56% agreed or strongly agreed with reviewing the council's land and property agreements to generate the appropriate amount of revenue, both through rental income and commercial opportunities.
- 55% agreed or strongly agreed with investing in increasing the number of sites that can host medium to large sized events.
- 52% agreed or strongly agreed with exploring the potential for more commercial activities in parks that improve the recreational offer to residents and generate income.

Figure 30 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 30: Views on the actions for Financial Sustainability and Investment



4.7.2 Comments or suggestions about the approach to Financial Sustainability

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about financial sustainability into the following themes:

Revenue sources

- Opposition to raising allotment rents to raise funds.
- Opposition to privatisation and charges for park use.
- Government funding should be sought for parks.
- Explore alternative uses for spaces to increase revenue.
- Maximise income from fines or other fees.
- Consider corporate sponsorship of specific parks and facilities.
- Against spending money on consultants.
- Review spaces with small rents in parks.

- Decrease parking charges to encourage parks usage.

Environmental considerations

- Do not compromise the environment for financial gains.
- Strengthen enforcement to address environmental issues.
- Encourage 'Pocket Parks' with fruiting trees and herbs.
- Increase allotment spaces.
- Increase parking charges to encourage eco-friendly travel.

Events and commercial activities

- Opposition to commercial events in public spaces.
- Concerns about impact of events on residents.
- Opposition to increasing fees for community event licenses.
- Support for community-driven initiatives and events.
- Opposition to more cafes in parks.

Access and inclusivity

- Concerns about affordability and access for all community members when increasing fees and charging.
- Calls for equality in facilities across all parks and areas, not just large destination parks.
- Focus on disadvantaged areas that need investment.

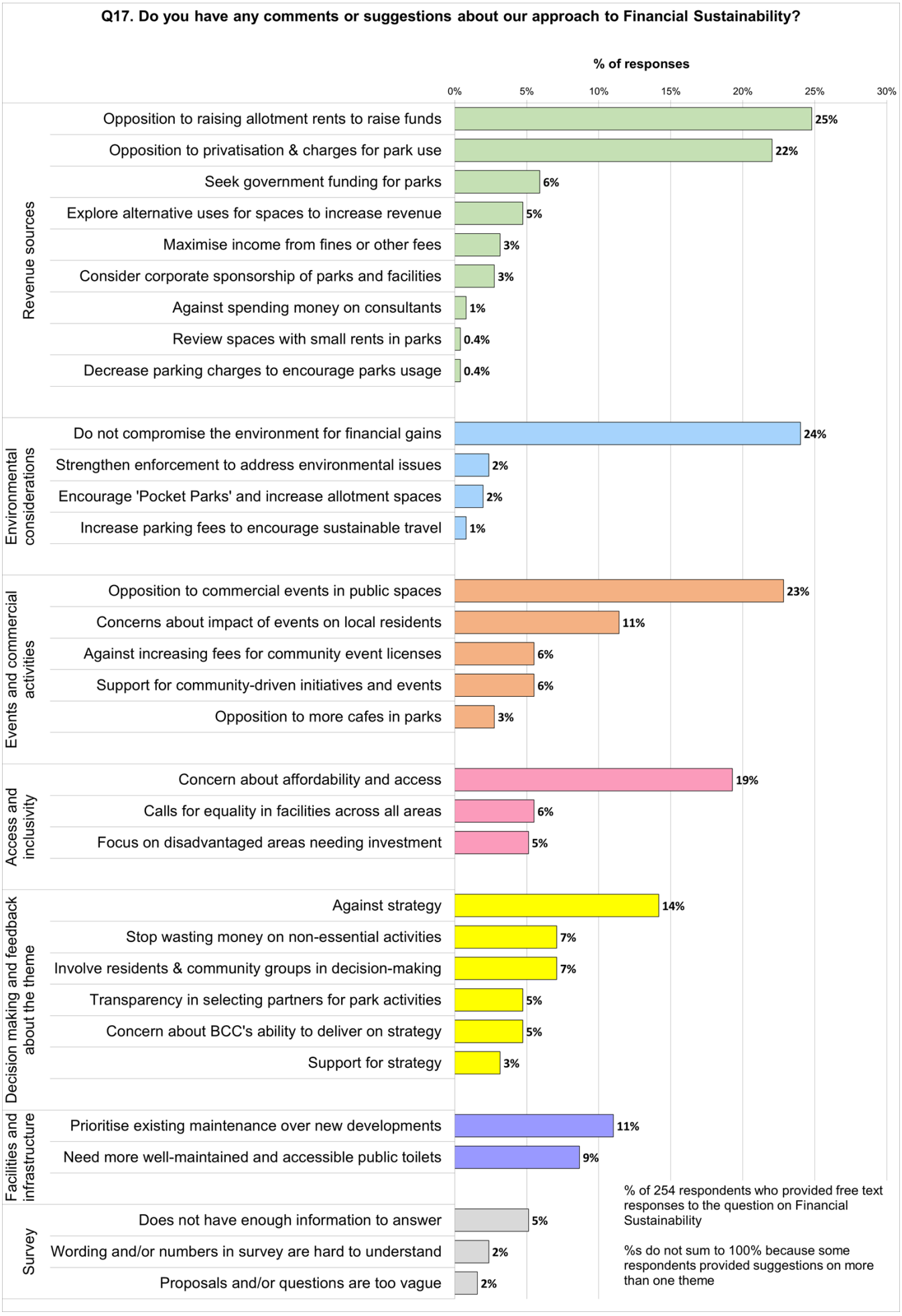
Facilities and infrastructure

- Prioritise maintenance of existing facilities over new developments.
- Demands for well-maintained and accessible public toilets.

Decision making

- Stop wasting money on non-essential activities.
- There needs to be transparency in the process of selecting partners for park activities.
- Residents and community groups should be involved in decision-making.

Figure 31: Comments and suggestions about Financial Sustainability



4.8 Food Growing and Allotments

4.8.1 Views on the actions for Food Growing and Allotments

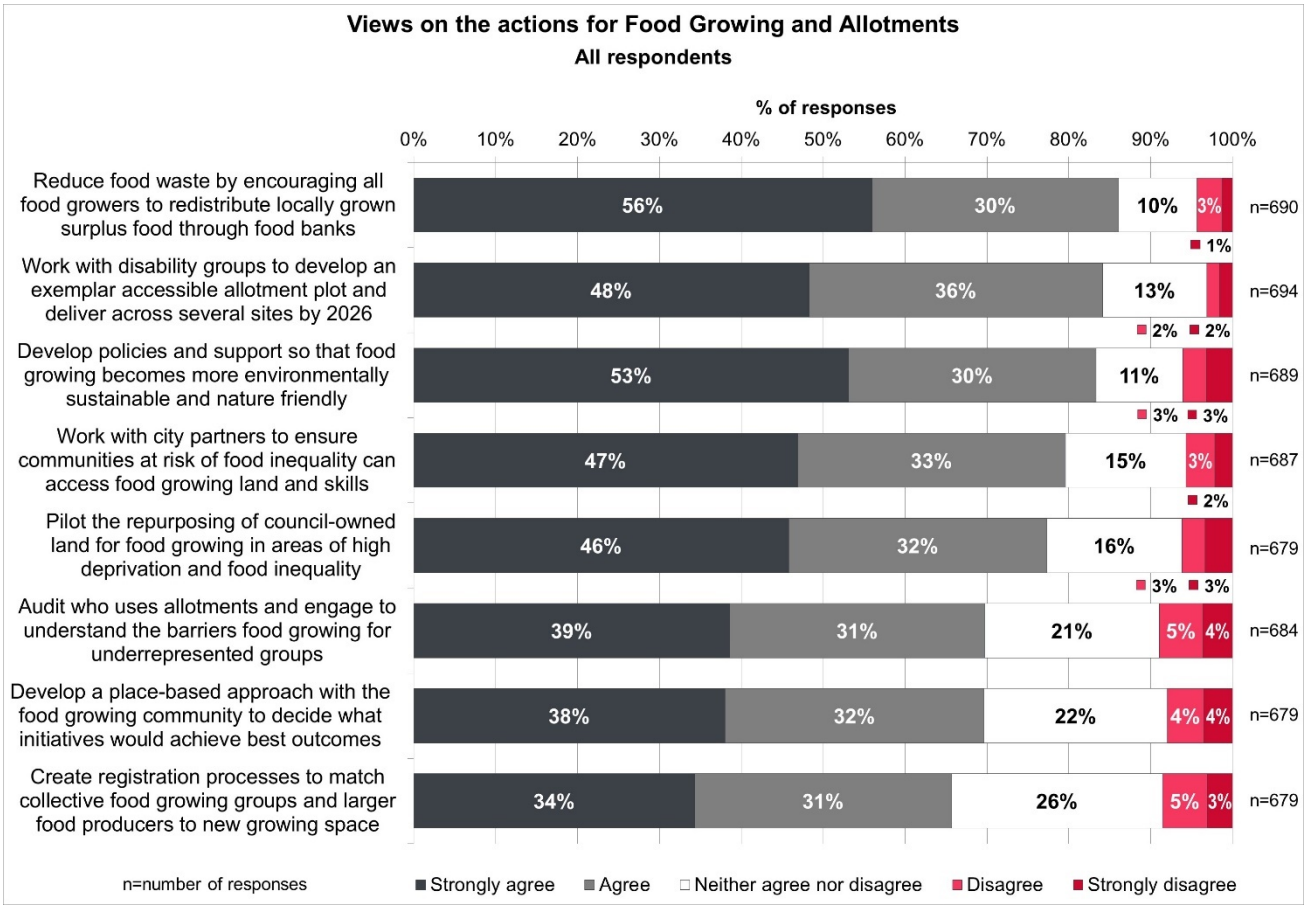
Respondents were asked to give their views on the actions within the Food Growing and Allotments section of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Over 60% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with every action for Food Growing and Allotments:

- 86% agreed or strongly agreed with reducing food waste by encouraging all food growers to redistribute locally grown surplus food through local food bank networks.
- 84% agreed or strongly agreed with the council working with Bristol's disability groups to develop an exemplar accessible allotment plot and deliver across several sites by 2026.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed with developing policies and support for tenants so that food growing across council-managed sites become more environmentally sustainable and nature friendly.
- 80% agreed or strongly agreed with the council working with city partners to ensure communities at risk of food inequality have access to food growing land and opportunities to develop growing and cooking skills.
- 78% agreed or strongly agreed with piloting the repurposing of council-owned land for food growing in areas of high deprivation and food inequality. This will include allotment space, collective food growing and commercial food growing spaces respectively.
- 70% agreed or strongly agreed with carrying out an audit into who uses existing council allotment space and engage with stakeholders to understand the barriers that underrepresented groups face to accessing food growing.
- 70% agreed or strongly agreed with a place-based approach in partnership with the food growing community to determine what type of food growing initiative would achieve the best outcomes for that space in that area.
- 65% agreed or strongly agreed with creating a registration process for collective food growing groups and larger scale food producers to help identify and match appropriate growing space with local food producers.

Figure 32 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 32: Views on the actions for Food Growing and Allotments



4.8.2 Comments or suggestions about Food Growing and Allotments Strategy

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about food growing and allotments into the following themes:

Changes to policy, regulation and rent.

- Calls to reconsider the allotment proposals
- Concerns about the affordability of the allotment rent increases
- Proposals will negatively affect the allotment community
- Do not commercialise food growing
- Allotment regulations are too stringent
- Audit of allotment holders is not a priority
- Request for the strategy to be backed with strong Local Plan policies

Management of allotments

- More allotments needed
- Repurpose council- owned land for allotments
- Action needed on empty and unused plots
- Better communication and support need for allotment holders
- There should be a fair distribution of allotments
- Improve infrastructure, communal tools, and services
- Improve neglected and overgrown allotment sites
- Gather support from local community
- Do not waste funds on allotments
- Accessibility for children & disabled people

Food growing and supply.

- Explore initiatives to address food waste
- Explore unconventional spaces for food growing
- Explore initiatives to address food poverty
- Requests not to build on Yew Tree Farm
- Some groups could be underrepresented (e.g., children and young people, parents, and carers)
- Cooking skills should be developed and supported
- Explore crops from other cultures
- Residents should be given priority over commercial growers.

Environmental considerations

- Development of land for food growing and allotments should consider ecological considerations and wildlife conservation.
- Concerns about removing park land for use as allotments.
- Stronger regulations needed for inorganic fertilisers and pesticides.
- Encourage practices like companion planting and green manure.
- Encourage growing in public spaces.

Education and outreach

- Support educational campaigns to promote home gardening and share food-growing knowledge.
- Coordinate with nurseries and schools to identify those in need of support.
- Support for community-oriented projects
- Outreach programs to support those with less income.

Local planning

- Concern about the impact of new developments.
- Greenery should be incorporated into urban planning.

Figure 33: Comments and suggestions about the Food Growing and Allotments Strategy

4.8.3 Opportunities to increase the land available for food growing.

Respondents were asked to comment on opportunities for new food growing opportunities. We have categorised the comments and suggestions into the following themes:

Ideas for new food growing areas.

- Identify and repurpose public spaces for growing
- Consider underused spaces & brownfield spaces
- Consider parks and underused sports areas
- Explore rooftop gardening
- Repurpose underused or cleared areas in allotments
- Convert unused spaces behind council housing
- Encourage sharing of existing allotments
- Use workplace spaces

Community and education

- Community involvement is key for the success of the project
- Food growing should be promoted in schools
- There is a need for initiatives to develop community interest
- More fruit trees and plants should be grown in parks
- Evaluate the success of existing community growing
- Establish community gardens where there is less experience

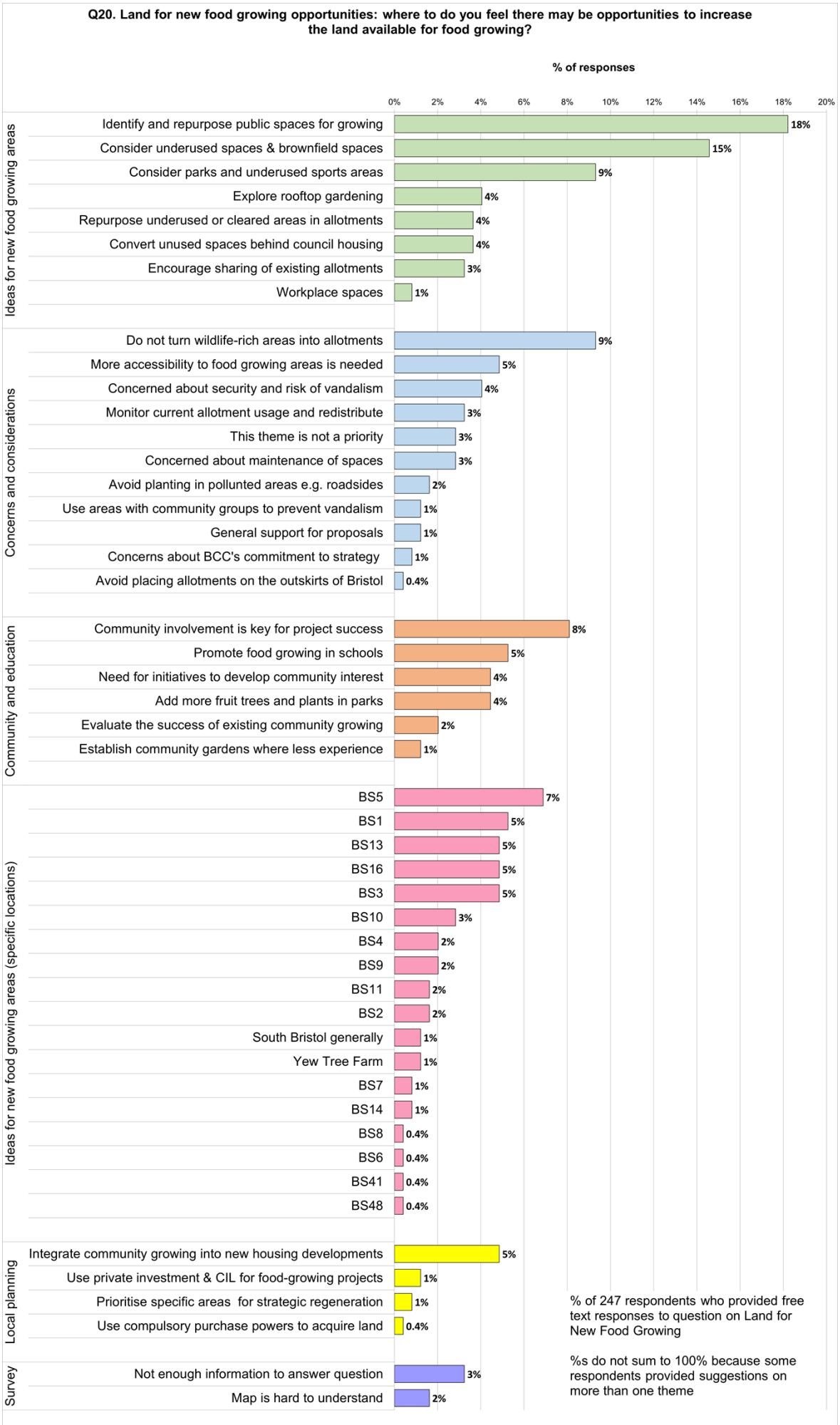
Planning

- Integrate community growing into new housing developments
- Use private investment & CIL for food-growing projects
- Prioritise specific areas for strategic regeneration
- Use compulsory purchase powers to acquire land.

Concerns and considerations

- Wildlife-rich areas should not be made into allotments
- More accessibility to food growing areas is needed
- Concerns about security and risk of vandalism
- Use areas with community groups to prevent vandalism
- Current allotment usage should be monitored and redistributed if necessary
- This theme is not a priority
- Concerns about maintenance of spaces and not having them fall into neglect
- Food growing needs to be done in unpolluted areas, e.g., not on roadsides
- General support for proposals
- Concerns about Bristol City Council's commitment to strategy
- Avoid placing allotments on the outskirts of Bristol due to accessibility issues for disabled people

Figure 34: Opportunities to increase the land available for food growing



4.9 Green Space Provision Standards: Quality, Distance and Quantity

4.9.1 Views on the approach to update minimum standards for publicly accessible open spaces

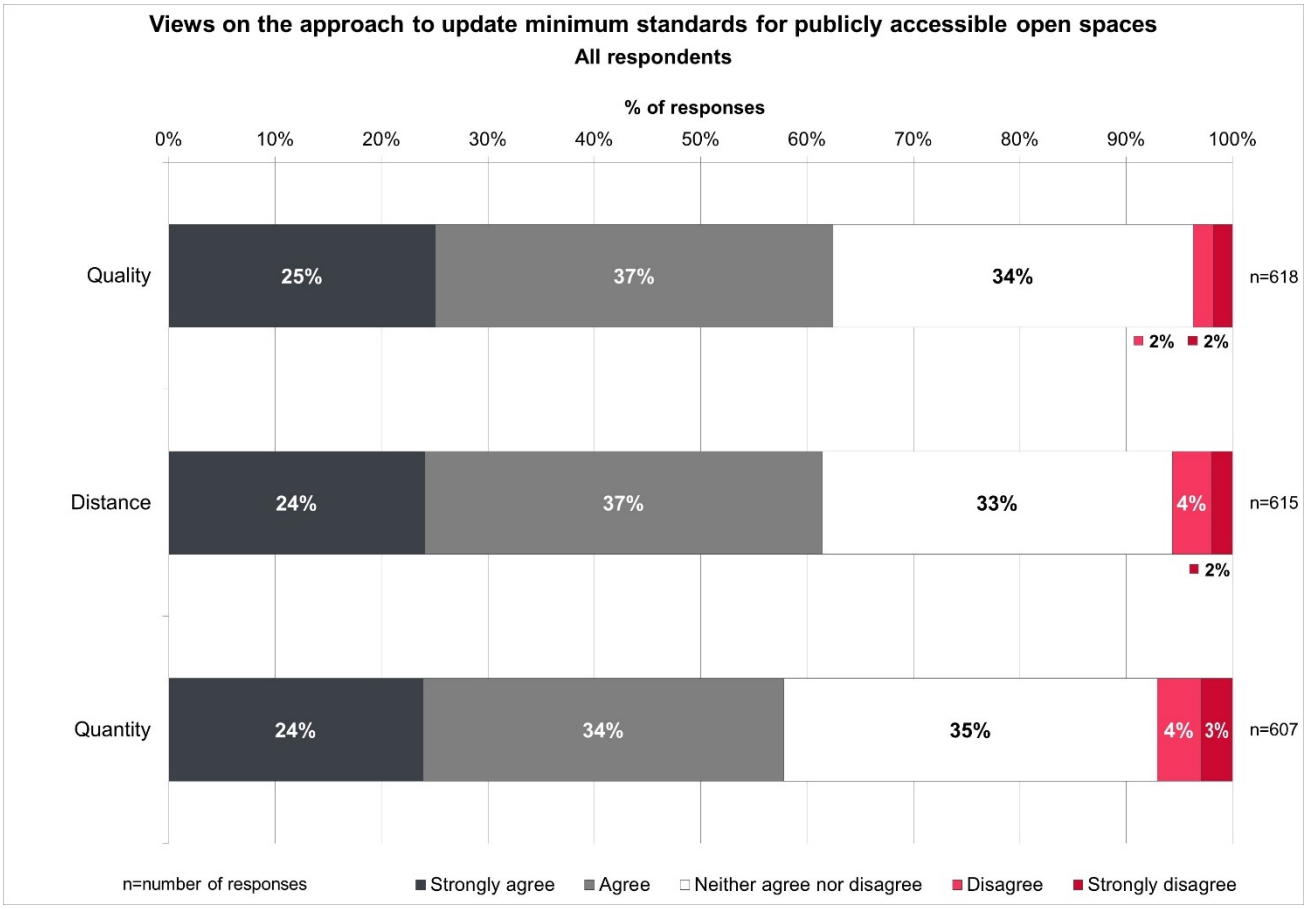
Respondents were asked to give their views the approach to update minimum standards for publicly accessible open spaces for recreation in Bristol.

Over 50% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with each approach:

- 62% agreed or strongly agreed with the approach to **quality**.
- 61% agreed or strongly agreed with the approach to **distance**.
- 58% agreed or strongly agreed with the approach to **quantity**.

Figure 35 shows the percentage of respondents who strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each action, and the number of people who gave views on each.

Figure 35: Views on the approach to update minimum standards for publicly accessible open spaces



Respondents were also asked to provide any comments or suggestions about the approach to provision standards.

We have categorised the comments and suggestions about provision standards into the following themes:

Quality

- Ecological quality needs to be recognised
- Concerns that quality is under threat
- Existing parks need better amenities
- Support for Quality Provision Standard

Distance

- Support for distance standards
- Distance to green areas or pocket parks should be reduced in the city
- Distance needs to have a focus on accessibility
- Free parking should be made available
- Travel distance to green spaces needs to be reduced
- Parks need to be accessible via public transport
- More sports facilities are needed nearby
- Distance standards should include cycling routes
- Believe that individuals will travel further to green spaces than has been accounted for in the distance standards
- Distance standards needs to consider the impact on access to green spaces of traffic and terrain
- The Natural Green Space distance should be greater as most parks are not Natural Green Space

Quantity

- The provision is a good start but needs to be worked on
- The quantity of green space should be increased
- Green space should be increased in proportion to population growth and tourism
- Concerns that green land will be built on

- Spaces need to have a wildlife focus
- Incorporate green spaces within buildings

Accessibility

- Keep green spaces accessible and maintained
- Concerns green spaces will be built on inaccessible land
- Public toilets are needed in green spaces

Provision standards (general)

- Concerns about when the provision standards will be achieved
- The standards strategy does not reflect all concerns, such as how the green space is used, safety, dog fouling
- The new standards are not ambitious enough

Decision making and feedback about the theme.

- Money should not be spent on the proposed plans
- It is difficult to imagine the proposals being implemented
- Agreement with the proposed plans
- Provision will be difficult but worth it
- Need better communication and engagement methods.
- No increase in allotment fees.
- Need better communication/ engagement methods

Housing

- Concerns that developers will impact parks and green spaces
- Green spaces are needed within new housing developments
- High rise buildings should not be built
- Housing developments are being built on green spaces
- Stop building in densely populated areas

Figure 36: Comments and suggestions for Provision Standards

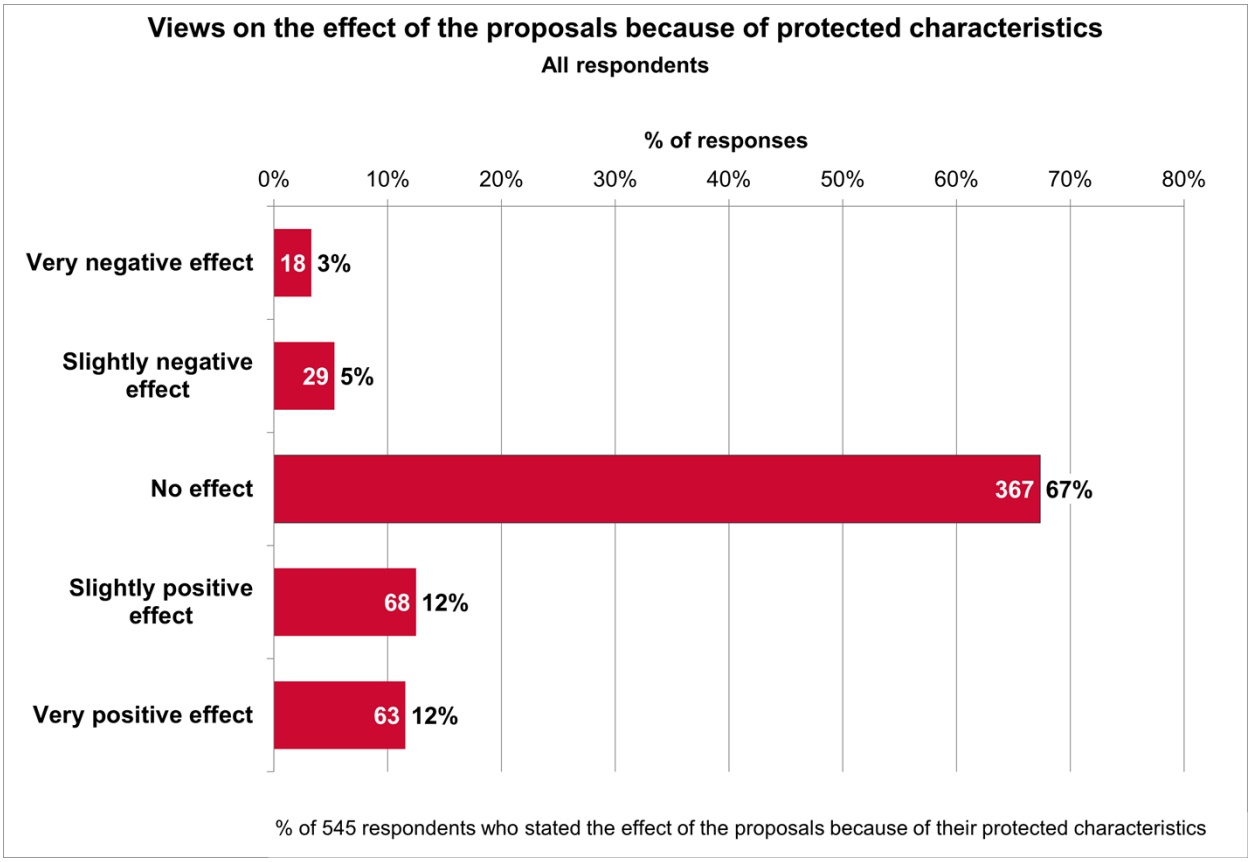
5 Impact of the proposals because of protected characteristics

5.1 Scale of effects

Respondents were asked what effect, if any, the proposals would have on them because of their protected characteristics[6]. Of the 718 respondents to the survey, 545 (76%) answered the question. Of these:

- 18 (3%) said the proposals would have a very negative effect
- 29 (5%) said the proposals would have a slightly negative effect
- 367 (67%) said the proposals would have no effect
- 68 (12%) said the proposals would have a slightly positive effect
- 63 (12%) said the proposals would have a very positive effect.

Figure 37: Views on the effect of the proposals because of protected characteristics



[6] The protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; race including colour; nationality, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sex; gender reassignment; sexual orientation; being married or in a civil partnership; being pregnant or on maternity leave.

5.2 Reasons why the proposals would affect people because of protected characteristics.

Respondents were also asked to explain how they believe the proposals would have an impact on themselves or others. The 84 respondents who provided a free text response highlighted the following impacts:

Positive impacts of proposals

Respondents described the following positive impacts of the parks and green spaces proposals:

- Proposals would result in safer parks.
- Making the parks safer would be beneficial for women.
- Creating more inclusive spaces has a positive impact on everyone.
- Making spaces cleaner is a positive impact.
- Proposals will positively impact older people.
- Better access to green space for walking and engaging with nature and food production is positive for older people's mental and physical health.

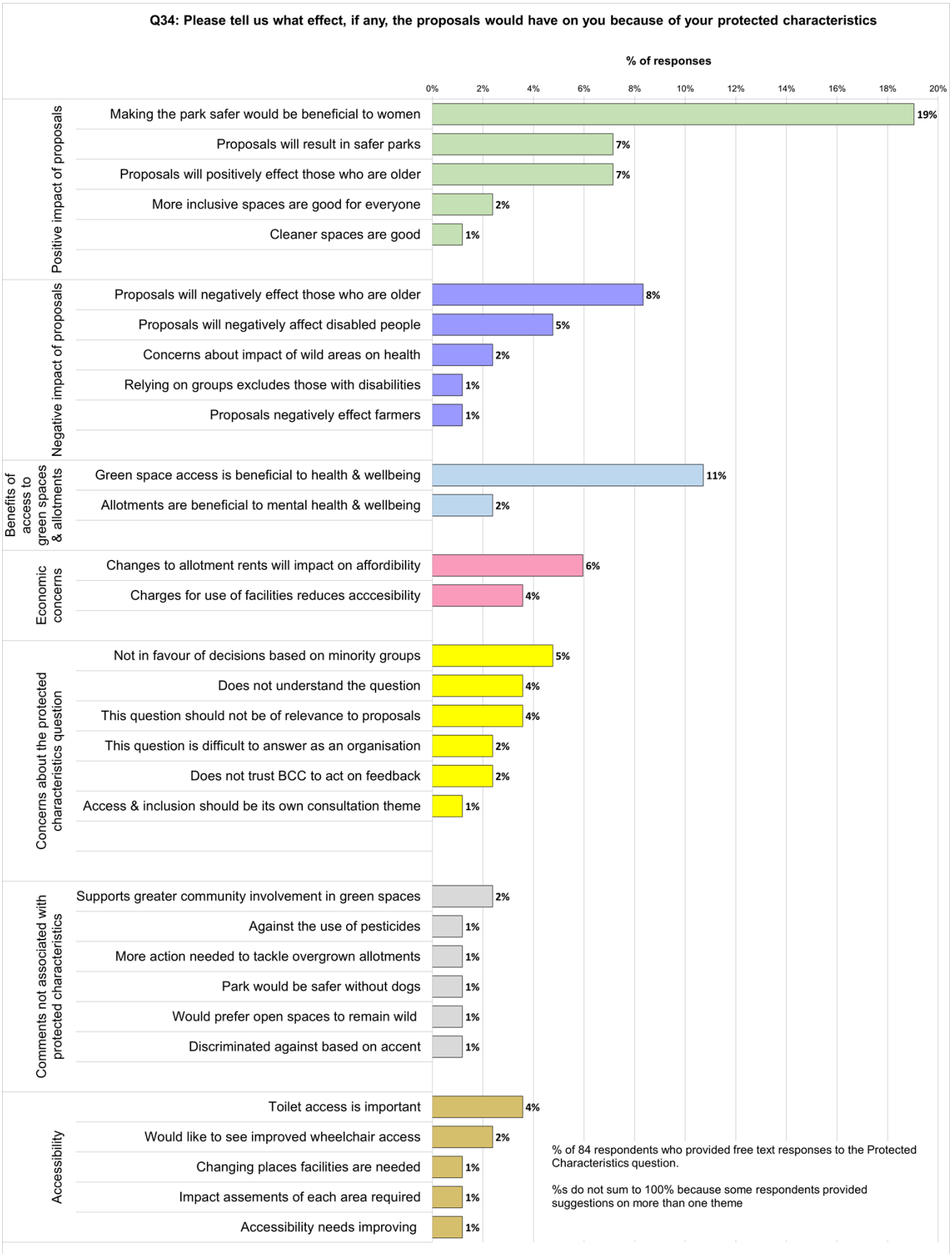
Negative impact of proposals

Respondents described the following negative impacts of the parks and green spaces proposals:

- Proposals would have a negative impact on older people.
- Increasing digitalisation may leave older people behind.
- Lack of free parking makes it harder for older people to access parks.
- Proposals would negatively impact disabled people.
- Proposed that relying on groups excludes those with disabilities.
- Concerns about the impact of wild areas on health.

There were also several comments that did not refer to impacts on protected characteristics. They are summarised in figure 38 below.

Figure 38: Effects of proposals because of protected characteristics



6 Summary of other correspondence

12 emails/letters were received in response to the consultation. 11 of these were from organisations, and 1 was from a member of the public.

The organisations we received correspondence from were as follows:

- Bristol Civic Society
- Bristol Disc Golf Club
- Bristol Parks Forum
- Bristol Tree Forum
- Bristol Walking Alliance
- British Mountaineering Council
- Lawrence Weston Community Farm, Windmill Hill City Farm and St Werburgh's City Farm
- Friends of Lamplighter's Marsh Local Nature Reserve
- Friends of St Andrews Park
- Friends of Troopers Hill
- Natural England
- Northern Slopes Initiative

We have categorised and summarised the feedback in the table below.

Category	Summary
Nature – site specific	Northern slopes – request to manage as mosaic [not just woodland where in woodland network]
Tree planting	Object to tree planting where this harms mosaic of habitats and use for health and wellbeing, loss of view – specific areas identified. Areas flagged to avoid tree planting: - below St Barnabas Church - Stockwood Crescent - Beckham Road on the Bommie - Cavan Walk - Entrance field and top of cycleway on Glyn Vale - Central green space on Kingswear Road - Top and bottom of Novers Steps on Novers Common

	•
Strategy	Welcome strategy
Strategy	Support: - Vision - Engaging range of stakeholders - Emphasis of inclusivity - 5- year review commitment - Many of the actions - Research into park users
Health and wellbeing	Health and wellbeing should be priority (not fourth in list) – everything else is a sub-set
Commercial development	Commercial intents
Health and wellbeing	Walking as an activity and benefit not referenced
Health and wellbeing	Health and wellbeing targets not quantified
Land use priorities	Targets for e.g. nature and food at expense of recreational use (health benefit)
Land use change	Lacks clarify on how 'competing land uses' will be managed
Local plan	Lacks explicit link to Local Plan
GI Strategy	Produced ahead of GI strategy – expecting this to address accessible network linking green spaces
Provision standards	Dramatic reduction in open space availability, especial in centre
Land use	Wildlife, food growing and events reduce walking space
Walking	Support several actions that support walking
Access	Ask for Network of 'green' pedestrian routes
Access	Safe and attractive walking routes
Access	Improved signage and walking routes in destination parks - offer of help via Bristol Ramblers
Maintenance	Maintenance of grass along paths and desire lines
Dogs	Clarity on management of dogs
Engagement	Commitment to consult city wide groups for citywide issues
Definitions of park / green space	Clarify terms – park / green space re ambition / standard [everyone is within 10-minute walk… park' v 15-minute walk… green space']
Inclusion - volunteers	Give more attention to attract non-white volunteers
Inclusion - volunteers	Question inclusivity for volunteers re insurance
Funding	Will parks budget be cut to fund future shortfalls
Strategy	Support strategy overall
Themes	Support themes
Employment and skills	Welcome including of employment and skills theme

Managing for nature – Troopers Hill	Support Troopers Hill within ‘managed for nature’ potential areas
Access (for nature)	Ask that access to nature for all be referenced and actioned in Nature and climate theme
Children and young people	Seek commitment to maintain and repair existing children’s play spaces (alongside creating new to fill gaps)
Green Flag	Welcome proposed use of Green Flag criteria
Collaboration	Priority for service to work with Friends of Groups, Your Park and others to seek additional income to meet PGSS aims’
City farms and land in scope	City farms neither referenced or included in footprint of ‘land that is open to the general public for recreation.
City farms	Acknowledge and celebrate partnership with city farms and contribution made to PGSS aims
Strategy	Support strategy
Collaboration	Offer to participate for common goals
Nature and climate	More ambition and priority to respond to ecological and climate emergency - insufficient space identified for nature or residents (access to nature) - importance of joined up approach for nature. - should include ‘allocation for nature’ for: Novers Hill, Northern Slopes and Bedminster Green- and protect these areas from development. - tree planting lacks ambition
Strategy	Welcome strategy and support ambitions and aspirations – align with BPF vision
Deliverability	Concern that actions do not consistently, clearly or robustly deliver principles, priorities or commitments
Implementation	Key actions should be separate ‘Implementation Plan’ = dynamic approach
Allotments	Remove food growing and allotment strategy from PGSS document
Big conversation	Promised ‘Big Conversation’ is progressed to address future funding
Consultation	Insufficient time to respond to consultation
Deliverability	Unclear whether the strategy is deliverable (resources, staff)
Land use prioritisation	How will competing land uses be managed
Links to Local Plan	Need for more green space – to quality, quantity and accessibility – to be clearly embedded in Local Plan (as only place where new space from development can be required).
Development Growth areas already have plans	Consultation on (listed) ‘development areas’ has already happened – current BPF objection to insufficient provision of new green space.
New green space	Local Plan should state need for ‘large public park’ within inner urban area within St Phillips development area.

Functional size of green space	Minimum size of new public park is not large enough for functional need.
Strategic Principles	Support priority themes
Allotments	Don't support 'food growing and allotments' as a priority theme within the PGSS document – citing that allotments are not providing 'full public access' – as such other similar land is not included.
Stewardship	Concern lack of clarity and fragmentation of long-term responsibility for the stewardship of park and their funding.
Friends of Groups	Support – supporting Friends of Groups' – but within appropriate 'strategic framework'
Provision standards	Land within scope – confusing - allotments do not meet test of inclusion. - 'open space for recreation' criteria should apply to PGSS in entirety
Parks ownership	BPF do not support 'change of ownership of parks and green spaces
Quality - understanding	Quality – suggest more emphasis on education to match management of land to benefits realised
Local priorities v strategic priorities (nature / climate)	Community meaning of 'quality' may conflict with principles and delivery of response to climate and ecological emergencies
Improving quality	Strategic commitment to prioritise improving quality in areas of greater deprivation / low satisfaction – not given priority in commitment / actions
Deliverability – Quality	If volunteers involved in quality assessments – actions need to be seen and delivered
Provision standard – Distance	Distance standard
Provision standard - Quality	Quantity standard What action to ensure new parks / green space is open to the public if not in council ownership
Local plan and enactment of provision standards	New green space must be a must not 'aspirational'. Expectations to be built into the local plan.
Local plan and provision standards	PGSS must be inserted into the Local Plan before 'Examination' takes place
Nature	Explain meaning of 'networked habitat for nature' – consistence of terms – NRN, ecological corridors, wildlife corridors
Nature -blue spaces	Insufficient reference to blue spaces
Missing documents	M4N document not available – from which targets for nature quantified – publish as an annex
Up to date references	Reference most current state of nature report (2023)
Tree planting	Tree Impact Map – clarify to avoid assumption that this is where trees will be planted v intent which is to identify where benefit from planting trees would be greatest – alongside test of whether tree planting is appropriate

Blue spaces	No actions for blue spaces to support nature – add actions
Photo image	Photo on p18 is buddleia – which is invasive -replace with native plant and pollinator
Nature and climate	Commitment to habitats thriving in future climate not addressed in action
Outcomes not actions	Action tables by 2039 are outcomes not actions - clarify
Partners	Partners not clarified in reference approach to nature programme
Tree planting	What scope of land for tree planting target
Tree canopy – ash dieback	Loss of trees to e.g., ash dieback not addressed – concern that this will be significant
Funding	All forms of funding require clarification
Definitions	Define intent and scope of 'biodiversity net gain'
GI Strategy	Ref GI (and Blue) and Tree Strategy in the text
Climate theme	Re-word sentence 'we will explore how we can ensure there are accessible comfortable and shade places of respite in parks and cool corridors for movement between areas of the city'
Children and young people theme	Which partners to work with to provide education activities, partners, or providers?
Park Groups	Are parks groups included in 'communities to … work with'
Case for Change (community)	One tree per child case study not a community space
Community participation	Explain 'Many Neighbourhoods One City' …
Commitments	Don't understand ' Developing opportunities to engage a more diverse range of decision makers will be key to our service deliver in the future'
Your Park +	Strongly support Your Park but not at expense of other potential partners
Devolving responsibility / stewardship	We will seek to design and deliver way to devolve responsibility for the management of spaces to communities – no explanation of degree of responsibility and accountability
The case for change – Caroline House	Case study inappropriate (not relevant) – was guerilla gardening – ie not permitted – remove or represent
Health and well being	Allotments not relevant to PGSS
Allotments	Remove reference to allotments in commitments
Playing pitch – future	Clarify whether sites not currently managed for playing pitches will be removed from forthcoming playing pitch strategy and managed for recreation
Health and wellbeing	Opening parks for health – unhelpful as implies not currently open for heath
Wild and Well	No link between Wild and Well and Your Park
Health and wellbeing delivery	Other health programmes – with e.g., do not rely on funding
Health and wellbeing	Acknowledge and define wider health benefits not directly funded e.g. walking and cycling – intervention programmes don't feel inclusive
Access	Support recognition that access to free quality parks is crucial
Culture	What is 'our spirit of place' approach

Events and impact	Want more explicit about how events impact site functions e.g., nature etc. – what are 'ecological conscious practices
Prioritisation	Want realistic approach and where and what to invest in
Statutory designations and responsibility	Need to reference 'statutory' requirements with respect to legally protected heritage
Description	Identify St Peter's church as being in Castle Park
Employment and skills	Welcome upskilling staff – want reference to specific skills e.g. public outreach, engagement s, ecology, land management to benefit nature
Skills	Welcome upskilling of communities
Ownership and meaning	'ownership' intent is confusing - change to ' enable partners and communities to be more engaged and to take greater responsibility for their spaces
Skills – relevance of actions	First three commitments should go in health and wellbeing section, fourth re allotments should be in separate document – otherwise commitments don't relate to the theme
Case for change Parkwork	Support this case study – but photo is not relevant
Food growing and allotments	Strongly oppose allotments being included in PGSS. Either have a food growing theme or include in health priority
Allotments	Allotments and allotment rules need to align – allotment rules do not align with PGSS priorities of principles
Allotments	Vision – incompatible as allotments are not accessible spaces. allotments are not 'embedded' as rules do not align with PGSS principles with examples.
Allotment – T's and C's	Concern rule is that all trees unless exempted be removed
Allotments	Allotments subject to separate acts of parliament – PGSS land not – another reason to separate
Food growing – reference documents	Reference to Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration not linked to document
Allotments	Reference to aspirations and terms re allotments not relevant to parks and green spaces
Food growing provision	No land in scope for the food growing and allotment strategy is within public parks and green spaces. Noting in strategy about food growing potential actually within parks and green spaces – this to be included in PGSS
Food growing case study not relevant	The Alive Case study is about allotments and not relevant to PGSS
Blaise food growing project is relevant to parks / green space	The Blaise Nursey: communities growing project – is about community growing (not allotments) – yet none of the 60 projects referenced as in parks / green space = Irony.
Community food growing	Strategy could reference community food growing – but doesn't

Land use prioritisation - access	Whilst supporting additional use of green space for some food growing – concern about how this would be accommodated and maintain public access ie not fencing off areas to secure food…
Food growing map	Map in consultation not in PGSS main document is un-helpful
Implementing our strategic vision – key actions	Concern that PGSS lacks sufficient information to achieve implementation
Actions	Actions appear to have been selected to fill a space on page
Outcomes / targets	2039 actions are targets (our outcomes)- inconsistent and confusing
Consultation survey	Survey did not identify whether actions are short, medium or long term
Implementation	Remove 'key action's' to separate implementation plan (as a dynamic approach) with workflow, and clear connection to principles and commitments
Implementation	No workflow to actions – some that require development do not have implementation commitments
Structure – financial actions	Financial actions do not fit overall structure.
Structure – financial actions	Financial actions would be better under relevant themes
Strategy	Welcome and support updated PGSS
Vision	Support vision
Approach	Support focus on collaborative working
Structure	Support structure – principles, themes, commitments
Prioritisation	Support focus on providing access, particularly for people in more deprived areas
Deliverability	Lacks clarity on how the strategy will be delivered - balance of decision making around competing prioritise / principles. Expectation that this is clarified in the strategy.
Parks Service structure	Expectation that to deliver approach (partnership / blended funding) requires new structures – currently silent
Hypothecate income	Ask that income funded go into a trust / endowment of some sort safeguarded for parks
Local plan	Loss of explicit link with local plan – only oblique ref to GI A 'Open Space for Recreation' – looking for explicit reference (in Local Plan) that local plan uses the revised PGSS standards
Open space / green space definitions	Difference in definition of open space between PGSS and the supporting paper – open space standards do not apply to all land within scope of PGSS (e.g. allotments, active cemeteries, land used for grazing) – confusing
Provision standards – implementation	Reduction in per capita provision over time, very small area of new open space. More work needed to clarify what the standards mean across the city.
Land use priorities	Loss of open space to new infrastructure (low carbon cited) and big events – how ambition to increase events can be reconciled without undue harm.
Provision standard - Quality	Say more about quality and quantity of green space within wider council strategy – strategy sets out 'direction of travel on quality' – but is not a clear plan

Missing documents	Missing documents- GI / Blue strategy, revised quality standard, playing pitch strategy
EV charging points	Argue not to provide EV charging points – hardware and encourages driving
Provision standards	Make explicit reference in PGSS main doc to supplementary report on provision standards
Ambition	Strategy does not set out how govts or one city ambitions will be met (15 minute / 10 minute distance).
Provision standards	Supports review of provision standards within context of change
Provision standard - Quality	Non use of Natural England's Quality standard not referenced or explained e.g., urban Greening Factor not mentioned
Provision standard - Quantity	Quantity standard not based on evidence of 'sustainability or need' – it's just what is considered can be delivered. Large reduction in space per person at odds with what the strategy sets out to achieve.
Provision standards -equity	Noting no projected increase in new open space for outer deprived areas across the city
New green space	Include specific requirements for new open space to inform central / inner Bristol development areas
Provision standard - Quantity	No public discussion about minimum quantity standards or comparison with other cities
Provision standard - Distance	No commentary that outside of regeneration areas there will be no additional green space to address gaps in provision by distance
Food growing and allotment strategy	Sits uneasily in PGSS – because includes land (allotments) not open to the public
Allotment fees	Concern that allotment fees will disproportionately affect people on low incomes in more deprived areas -review subsidies
Provision for nature	Overall PGSS is well aligned with national ambitions and targets for the natural environment.
Nature designations	PGSS should be clearer about the importance of nationally and local protected (nature) sites.
Engagement	Support focus on community engagement and ownership
GI standards	Offer of support to align council approach, including standards to NE's 'Green Infrastructure Framework -noting constraints in areas of the city – noting that improving quality can increase carrying capacity
New green space	Strong support to seek new green space in central areas through major regeneration
Health and wellbeing	Welcome acknowledgement of health and wellbeing benefits in PGSS – noting opportunity to build on success of Green Social Prescribing pilot – recommending strengthening partnerships with local health system
Food growing and allotments	Charging for wildlife benefits counterproductive – ask for review.
Actions for nature	Support 30% by 2030
Actions for climate change	Support delivery against Keeping Bristol Cool framework
Information	Support development of an info hub -highlighting Green Community hubs initiative for England as model.

Pesticides	Support action to reduce use of pesticides by tenants on council land
Tree planting	Support increasing tree canopy and mix of planting and natural regeneration
Tree planting	Caveated support to EV charging points – not taking new green space to provide
Criteria for tree planting	Support criteria for identifying sites for tree planting
Approach	Support intention to provide a framework for development of Bristol's parks as a leisure amenity, to push back on crisis for nature and reduce climate change stress.
Equity	Support measures to address inequity
Green travel and access	No reference to access to parks and green space by public transport Ask for Access to be a new priority theme.
Avon Gorge	Ask for specific measure for Avon Gorge – coherent plan, access etc.
Communities of interest	Ask that Parks Service maintains a 'Stakeholder Register'
Nature and climate	Support Frome Valley sites to become 'Managed for Nature' and increase in tree cover
Missing information	Ask to see Managed for Nature report
Access	Would object to restriction to access where nature recovery is initiated
Seawalls	Support area at Seawalls becoming fully wooded
Pesticides	Target to reduce pesticide use by 50% by 2030 is derisory
Children and young people	Ask for safe paths through Avon Gorge linking Downs to Portway
Volunteering	Offer to undertake volunteering activities
Volunteering	Question how BMC volunteers could support tasks in parks / green space
Funding streams	Ask to understand BCC discretionary / S.106 / CiL funds – offer to link BCC to potential sponsors
Health and wellbeing	Ask that informal exercise be given greater emphasis
Climbing	Ask to install artificial climbing surfaces
Employment and skills	Suggest employing suitable person relating to 'communities of interest'
Parks Service structure	How will 'parks be re-structured to fulfil nature recovery strategy'
Financial sustainability and investment	Ask for maintain, upgrade and expansion of toilet facilities
Provision standards – local plan	Open space standards to be written into the Local Plan
Provision standard - Quantity	Figures (quantity) for Central and inner Urban are 'far too small' – Plus question how developers can demonstrate Biodiversity Gain required by Planning Regulations
Delivering actions	Goals are not SMART but should be

Advisory not statutory	PGSS is advisory only. Concern that PGSS adopted using discretionary powers is vulnerable to alteration or abandonment
Protection by designation	Of 416 PGSS sites, 69 are neither local green space or Reserved Open Green Space – so considered vulnerable to development
Risk of disposal or loss	Impossible to say what criteria would be applied when deciding whether a site is 'no longer required for its open space function' or 'a deficiency of open space would not be created through its loss'. Local Plan GI A only relates to new development. ROGS and unprotected sites deemed vulnerable to disposal / loss.
No clarity on delivery	Document lacks clarity on how vision / aims etc will be delivered
New green space – deliverability	Achieving new green space provision in growth areas not set out. Does not address need for more green space in more deprived areas
Missing documents	Not certain BCC will adopt One City tree and woodland strategy. No Green / Blue infrastructure strategy Revised quality standard not produced Playing pitch strategy out of date England Trees Action plan 2021-24 – unclear when this will happen.
One City Plan	Unclear how reference to One City targets and plans become BCC plans
City office	General point about role of City Office and its going forward
Provision standards	No explanation of how the minimum provision (quantity) of green space will be achieved
Priorities for nature and protection of green space	Hard to justify allocation of land for development (including brown field and green belt) against aspirations in the PGSS (nature commitments/ protect 'green belt and green spaces'
Trees	Provision for trees is unrealistic against city target to add 795 ha tree canopy.
Data / factual statements	Statement: a quarter of Bristol is covered by over 400… parks and green spaces – but data suggests 17%
Plans to achieve nature target	No new sites are identified for creation or enhancement (for nature) in the short term [against 771 ha potential to enhance / create land for nature.
Climate	Response to climate emergency inadequate – tree strategy not adopted, no progression of Keep Bristol Cool mapping tool.
Nature – tree equity	No proposal to adopt Woodland Trust's Tree Equity scores
Nature -site reference	St Andrew's Park is a nature 'stepping stone' site of significance to 'winged' species. There have been recent interventions in the park to benefit nature.
Park Keepers	No reference in strategy to role of Park Keepers and their contribution to park quality,
Resources and role of Friends of Groups	Has BCC the resources to manage competing land use options? Don't believe that 'Friends of Groups' are sufficiently representative to provide this capacity.

Blue spaces	Little mention of blue space and their high contribution to nature and wellbeing.
Lighting	Concern that lighting in parks may be added for safety without consideration of harmful impact on nature.
Dog waste	Noting increase in dog ownership in recent years – is cost to council in collecting dog waste accounted for?
Fragmented nature spaces in more deprived areas	Noting more fragmented nature spaces in more deprived areas – suggesting 'Building green connecting strips? Land purchase and greening' – but questioning resources to do this.
Strategy	Aims are laudable – but not all competing land uses can be accommodated and some are in conflict – can everything be accommodated?

7 How will this report be used?

The consultation feedback summarised in this report has been taken into consideration by officers when developing the final version of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

The final proposals are included in a separate report which, together with this consultation report, will be considered by Cabinet on 5 March 2024.

How can I keep track?

You can find the latest consultation and engagement surveys online on the council's Consultation and Engagement Hub (www.ask.bristol.gov.uk). You can also sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations and engagement at www.bristol.gov.uk/askbristolnewsletter

Decisions related to the proposals in this consultation will be made publicly at the Cabinet meeting on 5 March 2024.

You can find forthcoming meetings and their agendas at democracy.bristol.gov.uk.

Any decisions made by Full Council and Cabinet will also be shared at democracy.bristol.gov.uk