

State of the Market 2019

Allotment Services



Why do allotments Matter

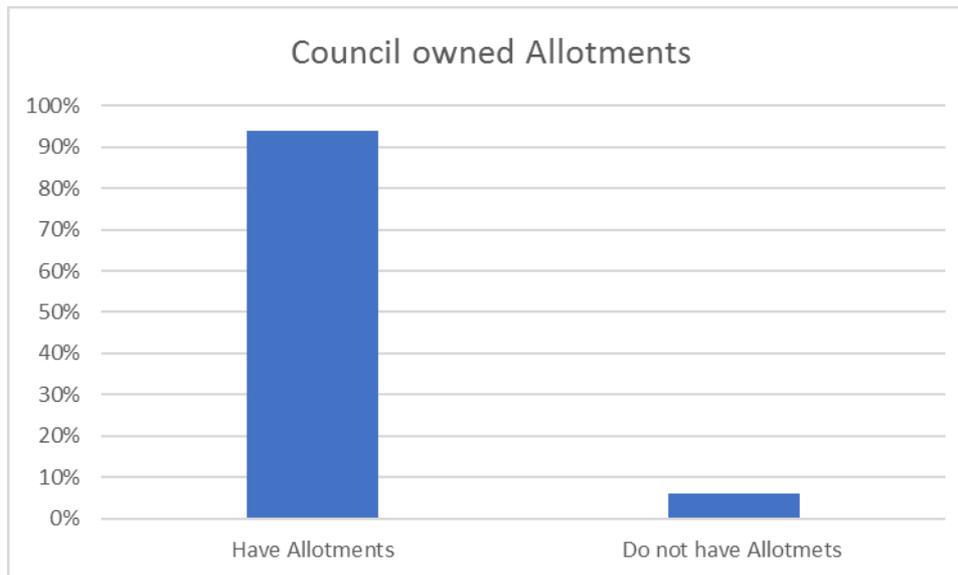
The value of allotments recognised on several fronts including

- Healthier lifestyles
- Promoting biodiversity
- Protecting green spaces
- Reducing air miles for local food production
- Providing valuable soakaways in times of heavy rain
- Having a value to pollinators and other wildlife

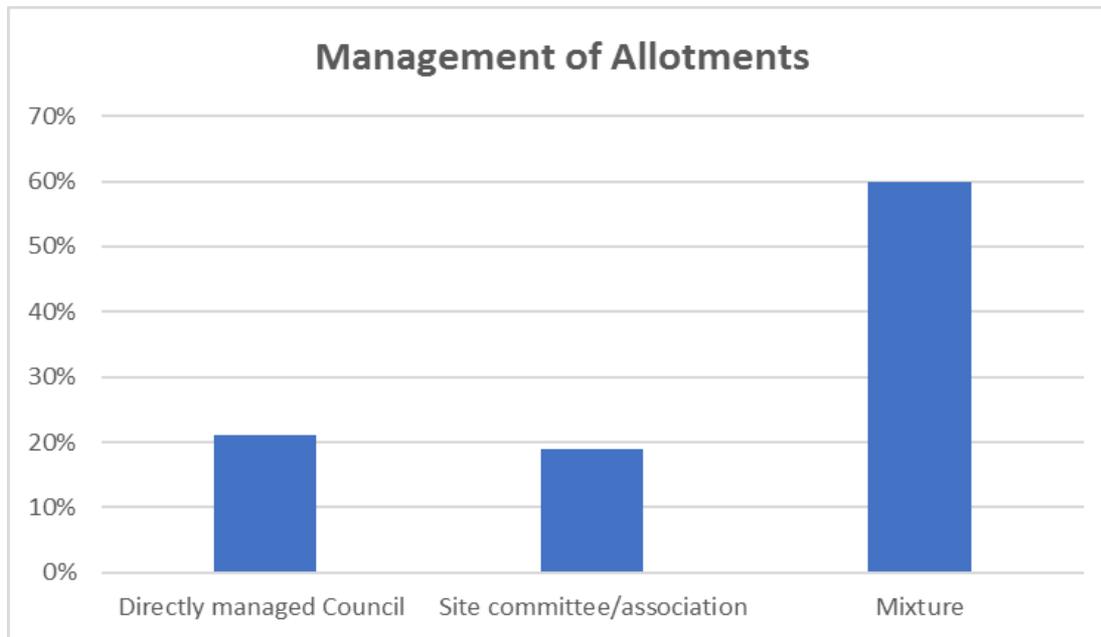
Results and Comments

State of the Market in Local Authority Allotment Services 2019

Number of Allotments

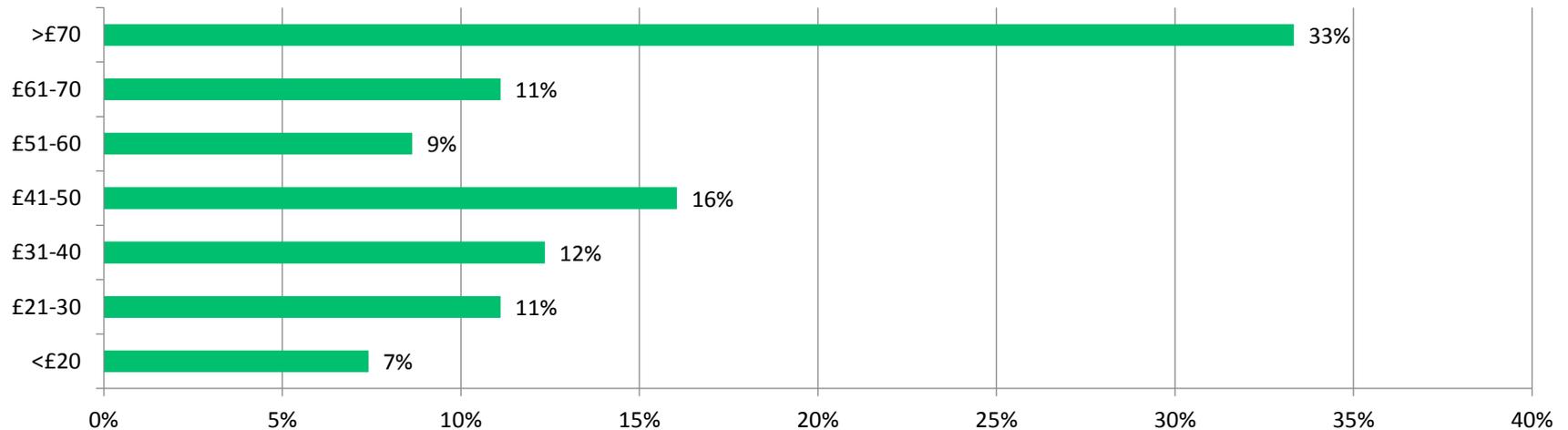


Management of Allotments



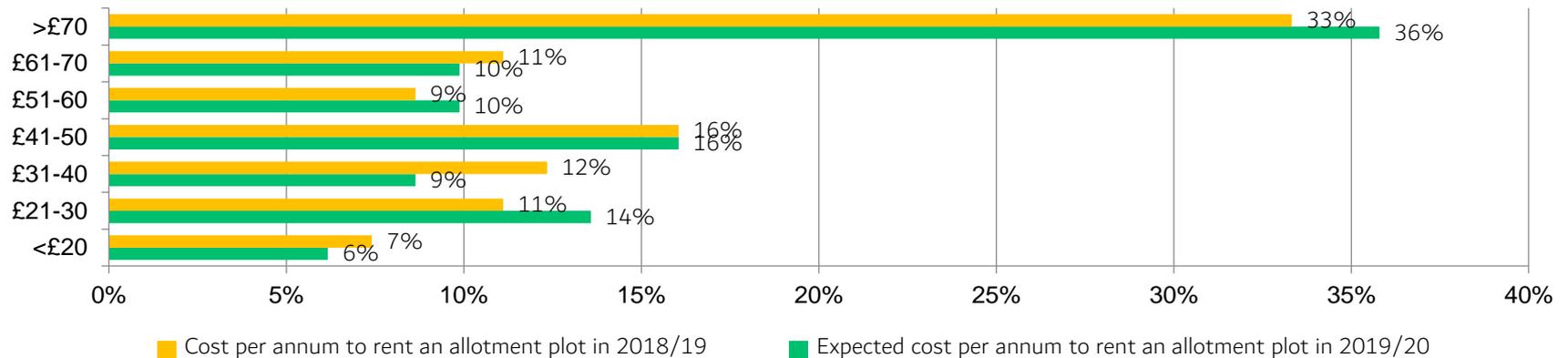
Cost of allotments

Cost per annum to rent an allotment plot in 2018/19

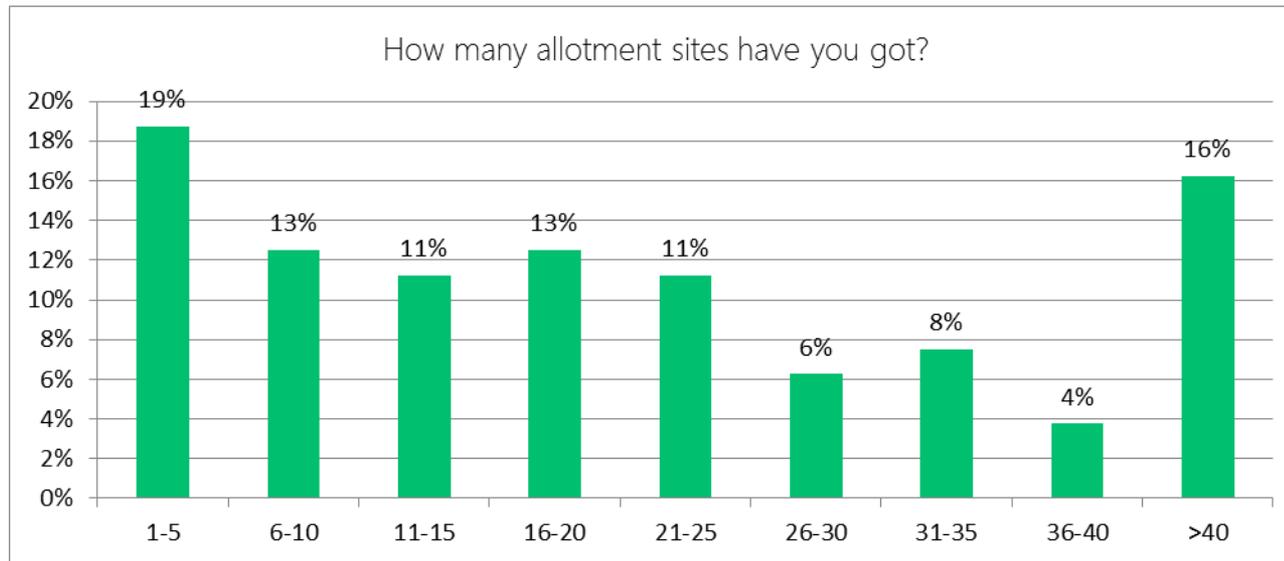


Expected levels of increase in 2019/20

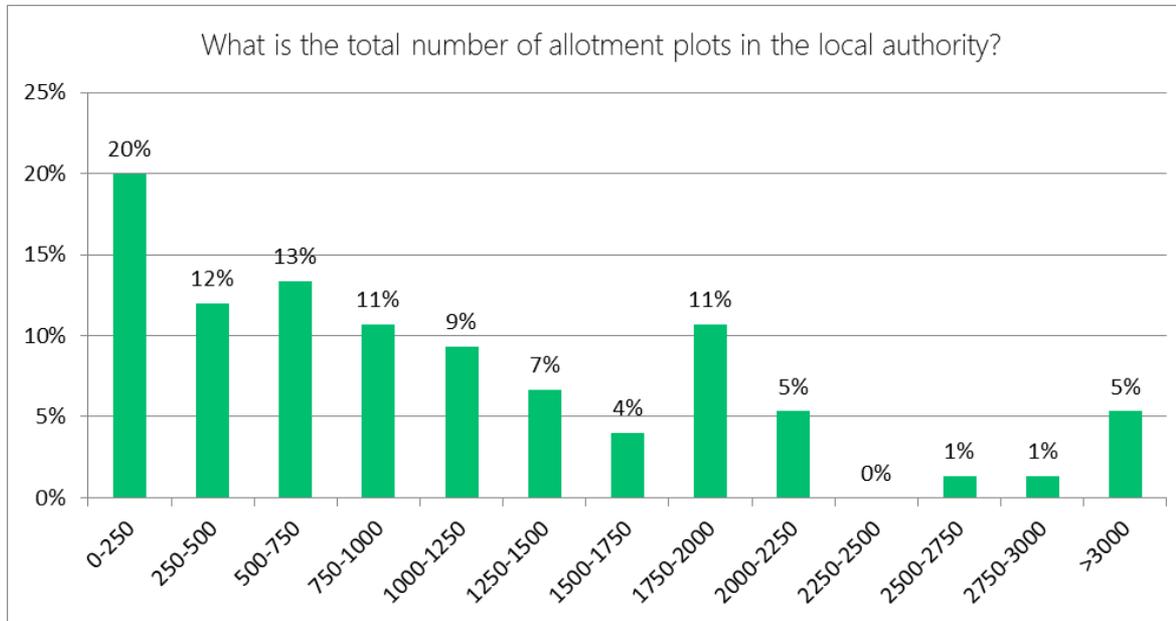
Comparison of allotment cost 2018/19 and expected cost per annum to rent an allotment plot in 2019/20



Number and size of allotments



Number of actual plots available



Waiting lists

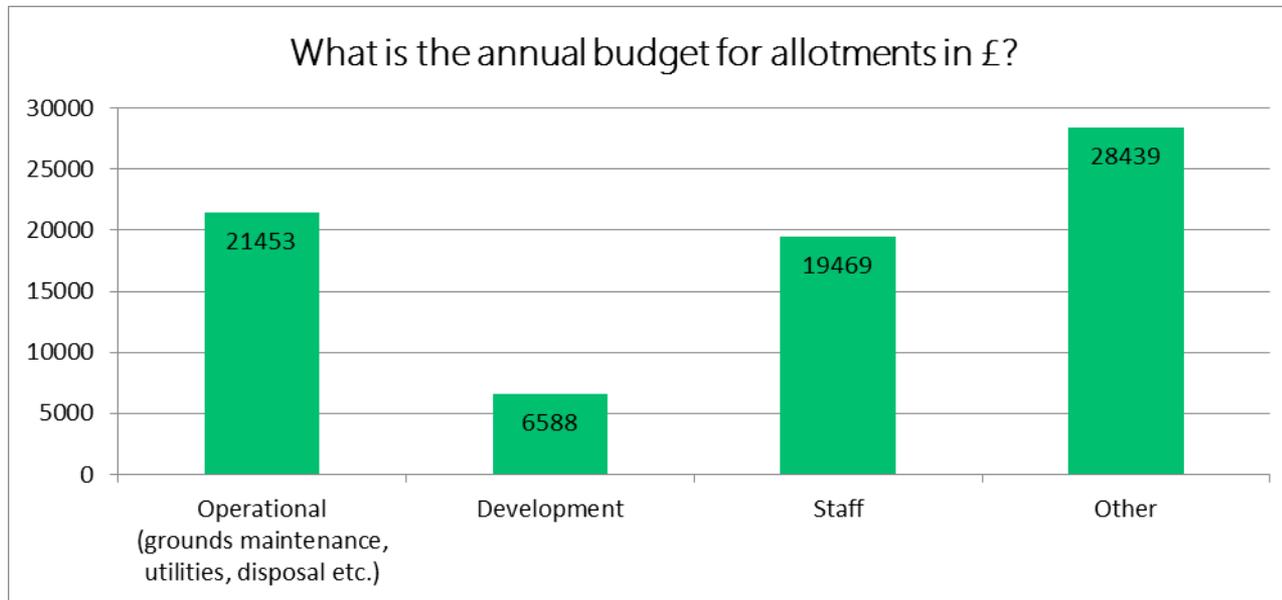
- 69% of respondents have 100-400 people on waiting lists for an allotment compared to 75% in 2018 which shows a slight improvement.
- 8% of respondents claim they have over 1000 people on their waiting list which was the same percentage in 2018.
- over 49% stated that over 18 months was the average, which is a rise of 9% on 2018 when the figure was 40%.
- 12% of respondents could guarantee a plot within 6 months which is a 3% improvement on 2018 when the figure was 9%.
- The average waiting time is now between 6-18 months (51%).
- 8 % of respondents can offer an allotment plot within 3 months, again a 3% improvement on 2018.

Future increases in the number of allotments

Direct provision by the council for additional plots	52%
Provision by builders/developers as part of a housing/planning policy	76%
Provision by community groups supported/facilitated by council	43%
Provision by other council departments (e.g. Education, Social Work) as part of a healthy lifestyles/eco-schools/health type project	24%
Other	5%

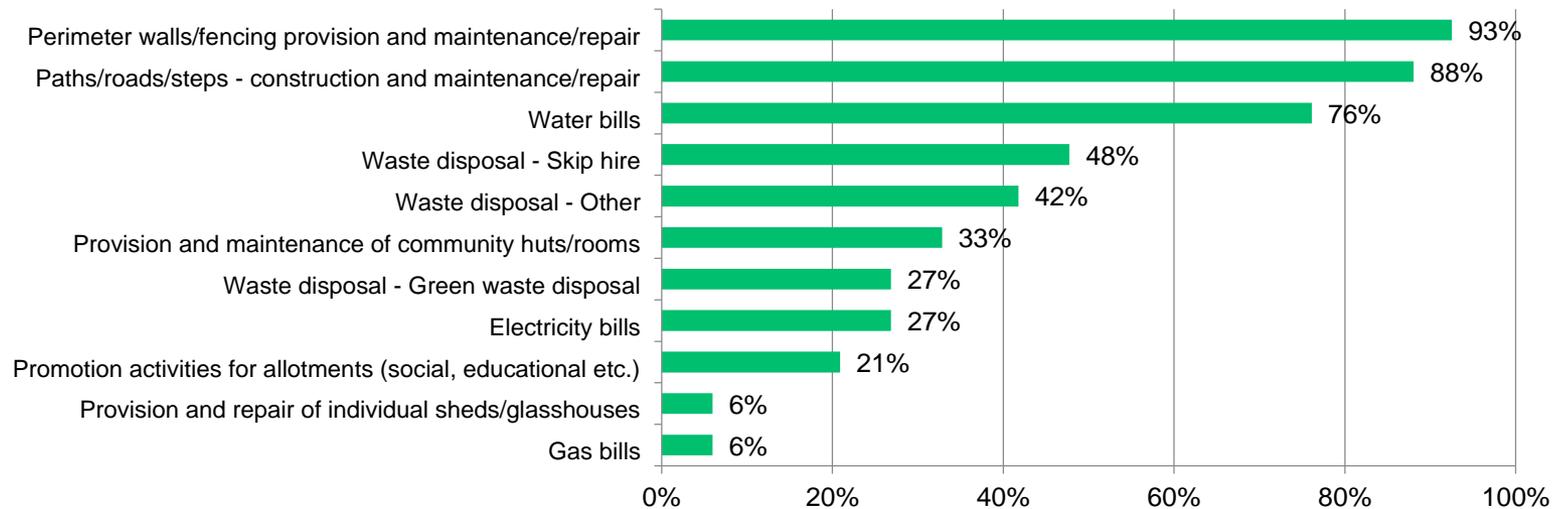
Budget for allotments

The average annual budgets for allotments were stated as below



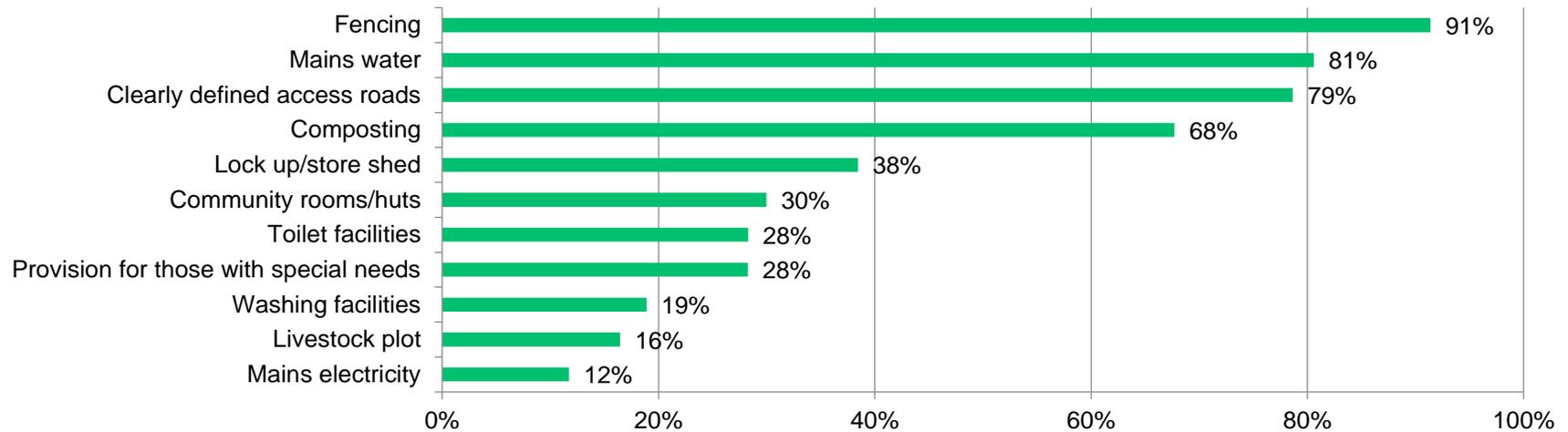
Budget responsibility

Respondents stated that their budget includes responsibility for the following:



Facilities at allotment sites

What is the approximate percentage of allotment sites with:



Site maintenance

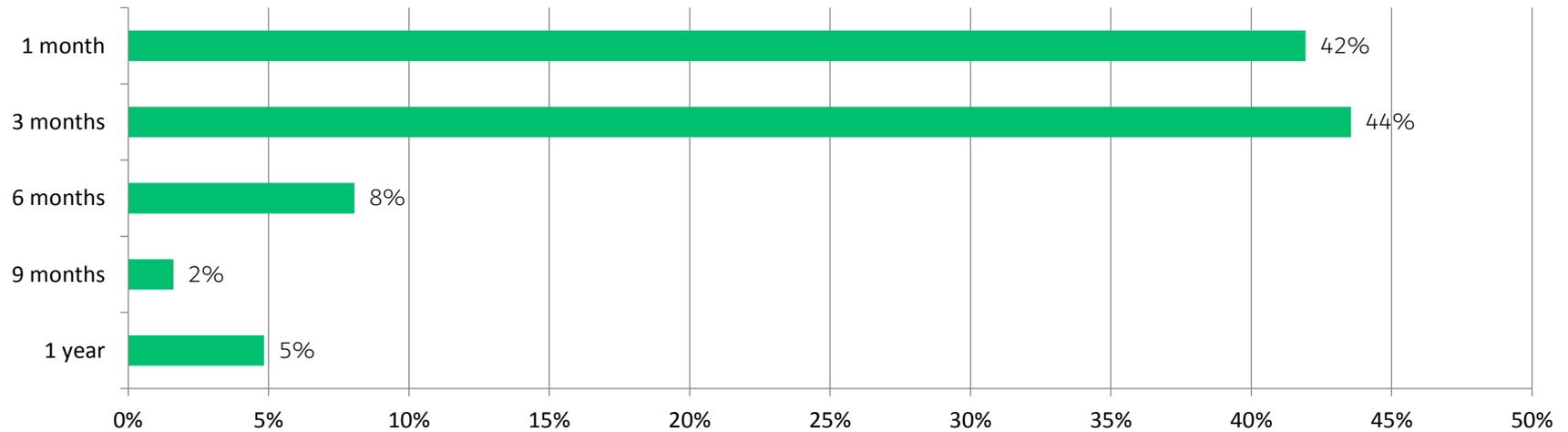
As an integral part of grounds maintenance operations/contracts	56%
By the plot holders/site association	12%
By volunteers	28%
By a dedicated allotments team/person	61%
As part of rehabilitation programmes (health, offenders etc.)	19%
No grounds maintenance is carried out on the sites	3%
Other	16%

Monitoring allotments

- Through inspections/site visits by an allotment officer (51%).
- 47% a council officer or site representative

Time before taking action

What length of time do you allow a plot to be uncultivated before you take actions?



Security

- 66% Plot-holders themselves generally manage the security on allotment sites
- 39% don't actively manage security.
- 9% have a 'plot watch' scheme or something similar.
- 5% stated that park rangers manage security.
- 3% stated that community wardens manage security

Allotment strategy

- 42% have an allotments strategy and of 58% that haven't currently got a strategy 30% stated that the council is planning to develop one within the next 2 years.
- 54% stated that their health and wellbeing strategy recognises the value of allotments.
- 53% of Local authorities have a Friends Group/ Forum or similar.
- 67% of respondents now include allotments into their Local Plans and 54% have the value of allotments recognised within their Health and Well-Being strategies.

Biodiversity

Areas being set aside for wildlife	77%
Information on how to improve biodiversity	53%
Planting pollinator friendly species	53%
Promoting native crops	17%
Other	32%

Closing Comments

- Reductions in council budgets is having an impact on the ability to maintain sites.
- Local authorities are continuing to provide and manage allotment sites.
- Allotment holders able to apply for funding which is not available to local authorities.
- Many allotment sites are now moving to self-management models, with a slight increase in the number of sites which are now self-managed by allotment holders themselves often with the continuing support of the local authority.
- Help through partnership working with agencies such as the NHS, who see the therapeutic value of green space and are willing to invest in such facilities.

Thank you

Contact details

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