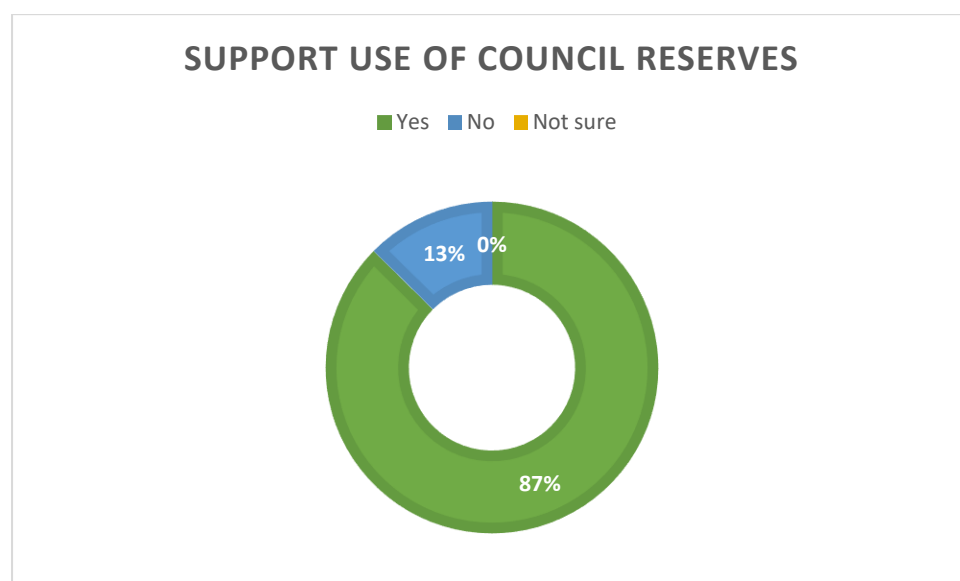


# Budget survey to inform service planning for 2023/24

## Use of council reserves

The COVID-19 Pandemic, labour shortages and inflation increases have caused significant cost pressures for the council, while parking income, leisure centre income and theatre ticket sales are still recovering from the pandemic. It is very difficult to predict how the economy will move into 2022/23, but we currently have a draft budget gap of £2 million, on net revenue costs of £14.7m.

The 2021/22 budget provided for £3m of reserves to be used to balance the revenue budget, but government grants and one-off cost savings have enabled us to halve this. The council therefore still has sufficient reserves to fund a budget shortfall of £2 million for 2022/23, but it does mean that investment in council assets will no longer be possible. The alternative is to cut services, but at a time when residents still need help, the economy is unstable and the pandemic is still making consultation with residents more complex, we would like to know if you would support the use of reserves through 2022/23 to meet these budget pressures.



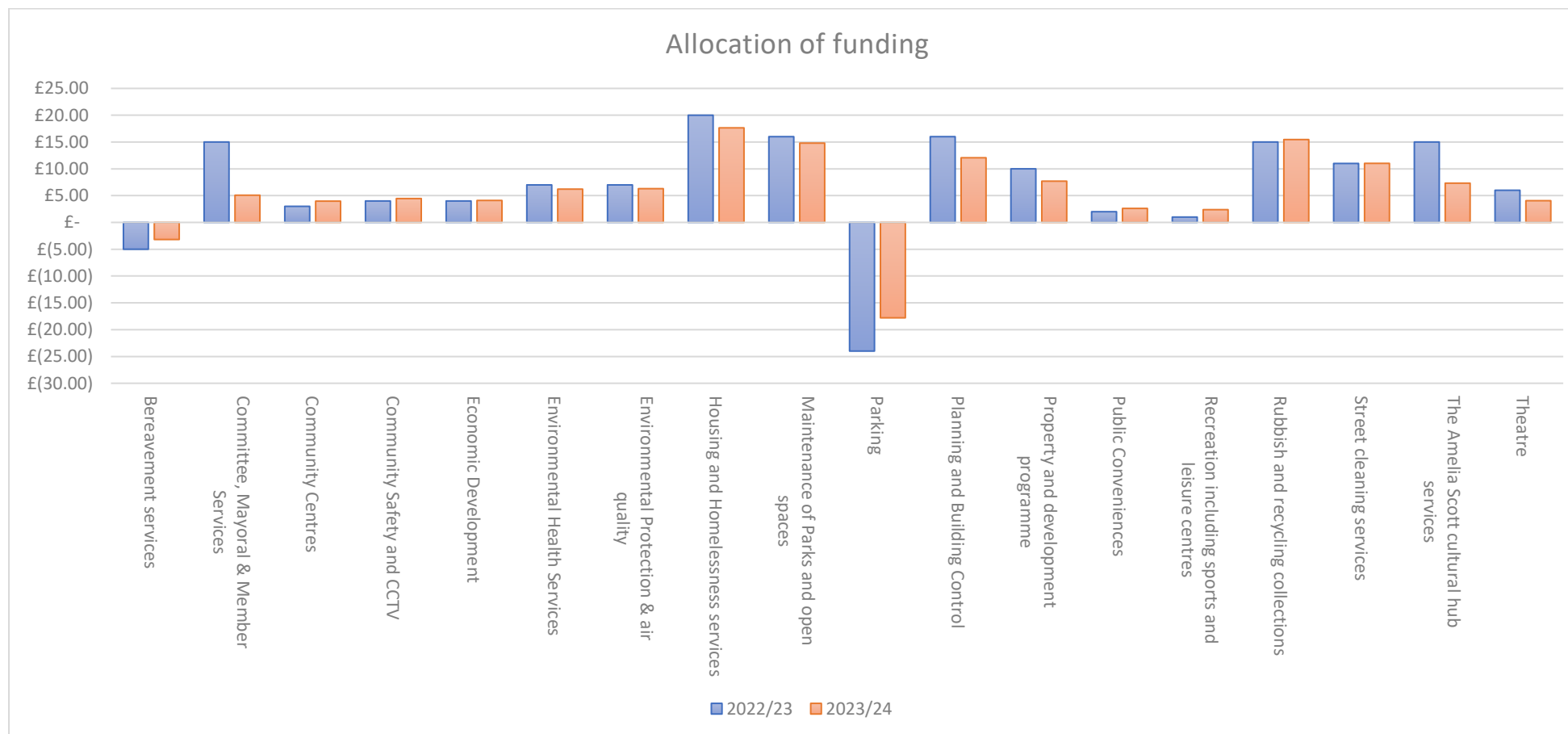
## How would you allocate £100 across these services in 2023/24?

The table below shows the draft budget for 2022/23.

Budgets with a minus (-) sign indicate an income contribution. You will see that £19 in every £100 will be funded from reserves in 2022/23.

The council would like to know which services you would like us to protect into 2023/24 and which services you would be prepared to manage without.

In the 'Your budget' column below, enter amounts to show where you would allocate £100 of council expenditure or income to save or generate £19.



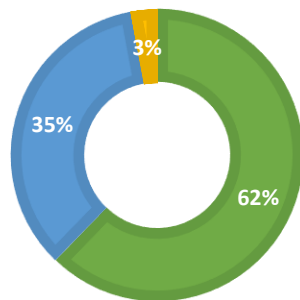
## Council Tax increase

The basic amount of Council Tax in the borough is currently the fourth lowest in Kent at £188.75 for a Band D property (52p per day).

The amount by which Council Tax can increase is set by government at a maximum of 2% or £5, whichever is greater. The council has thus far assumed an increase of £5 (under 10p per week) in the budget for 2022/23.

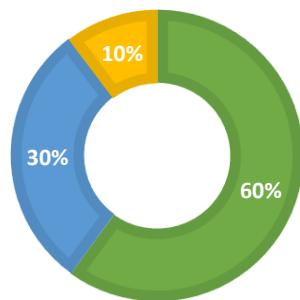
### SHOULD THE COUNCIL INCREASE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2022/23

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure



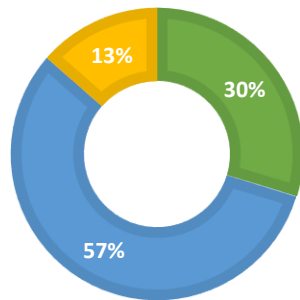
### SHOULD THE COUNCIL INCREASE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2023/24

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure



## WOULD YOU SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN COUNCIL TAX OF MORE THAN £5

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

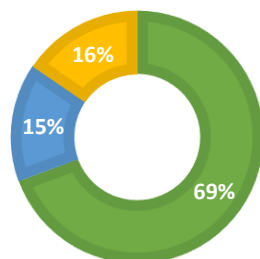


## Fees set by central government

Some services do not cover their costs as the fees and charges for these services are set by government.

## WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE COUNCIL BEING ABLE TO SET CHARGES LOCALLY FOR SERVICES

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

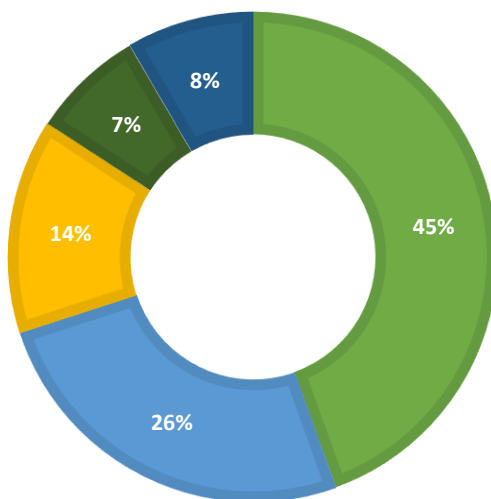


## Climate change

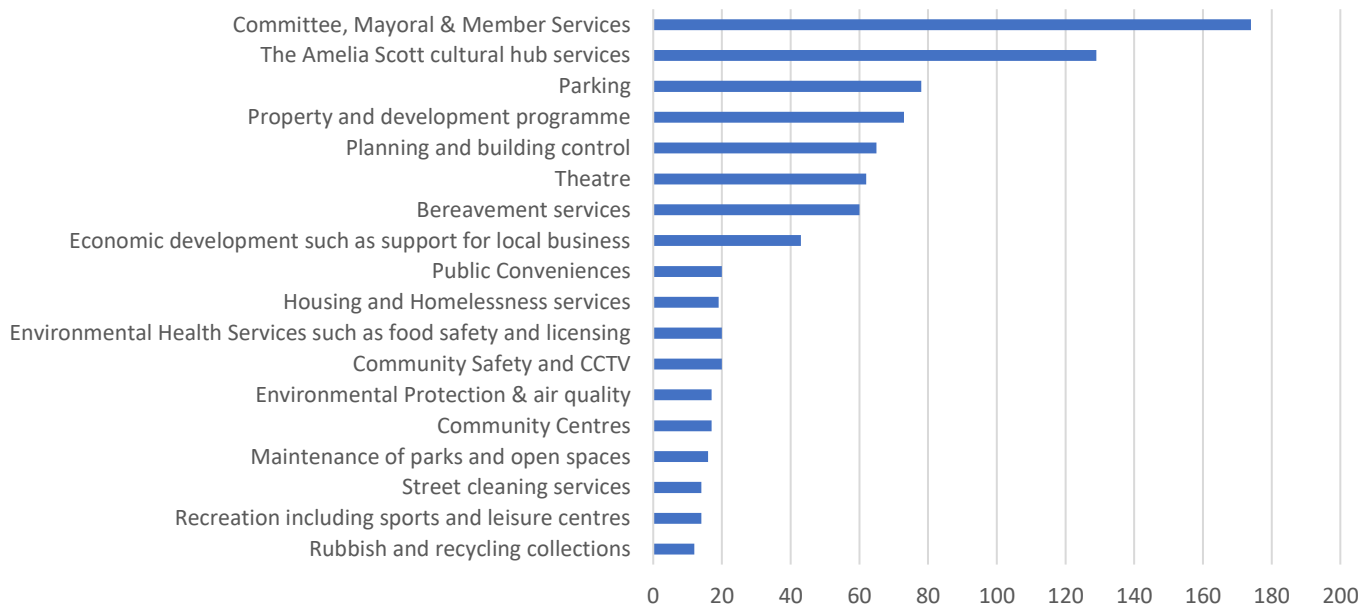
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have acknowledged the climate change emergency and wish to ensure that the council is carbon neutral by 2030.

### HOW IMPORTANT OR UNIMPORTANT IS THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO YOU PERSONALLY?

Very important Fairly important Neither important nor unimportant Fairly unimportant Very unimportant

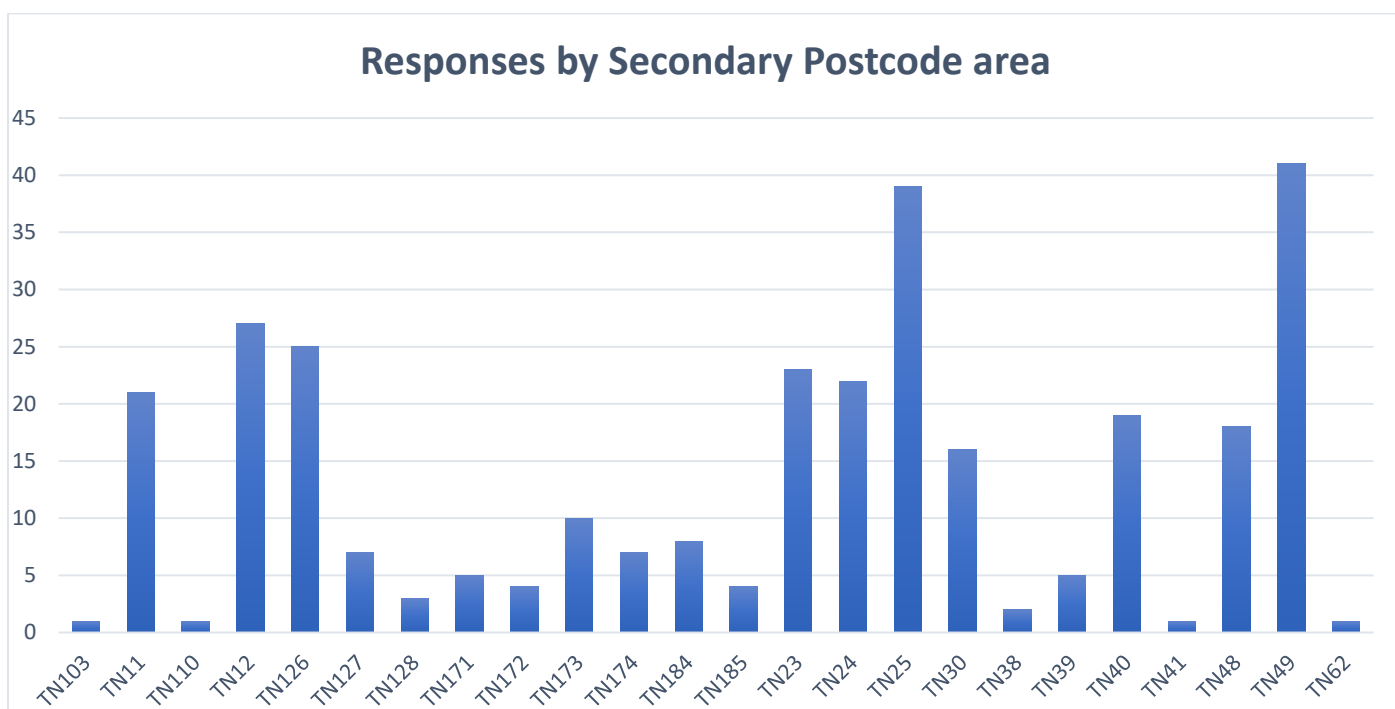
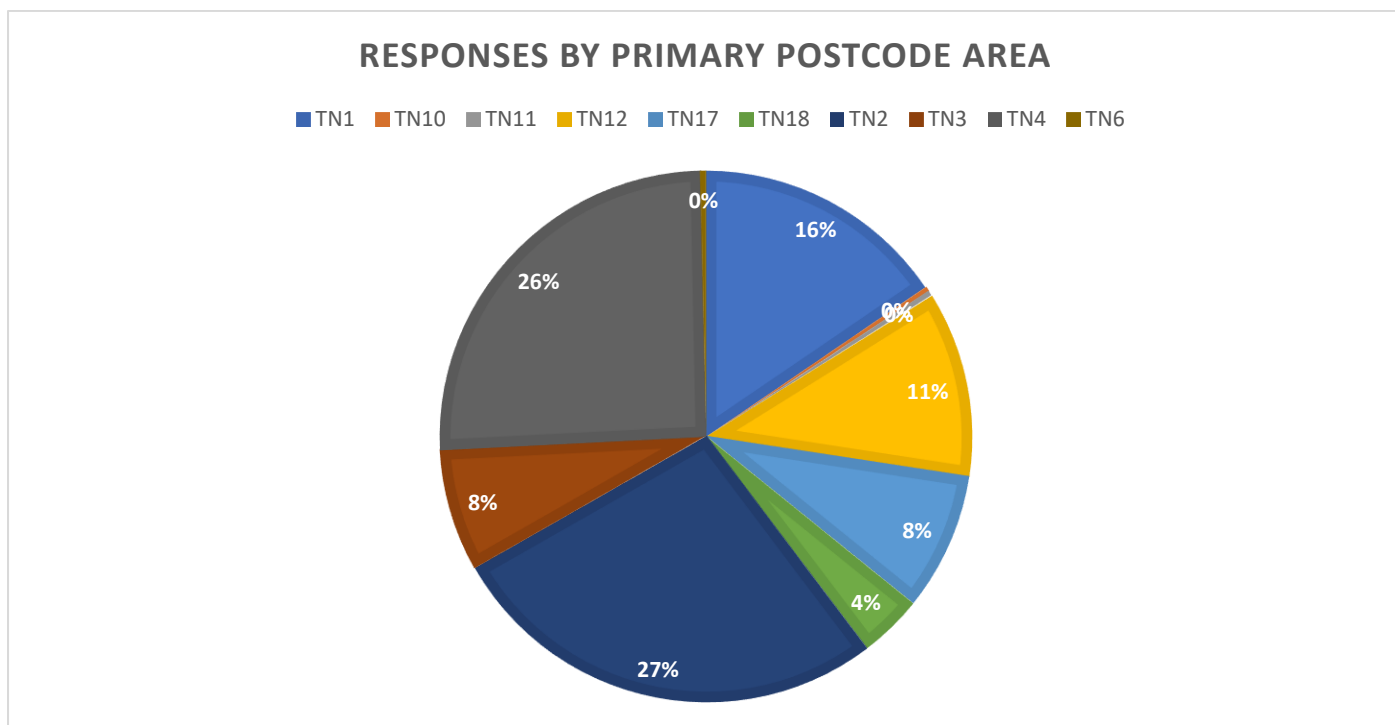


### Which services would you be willing to reduce/remove or increase the prices for, in order to redirect funds to support climate change initiatives?

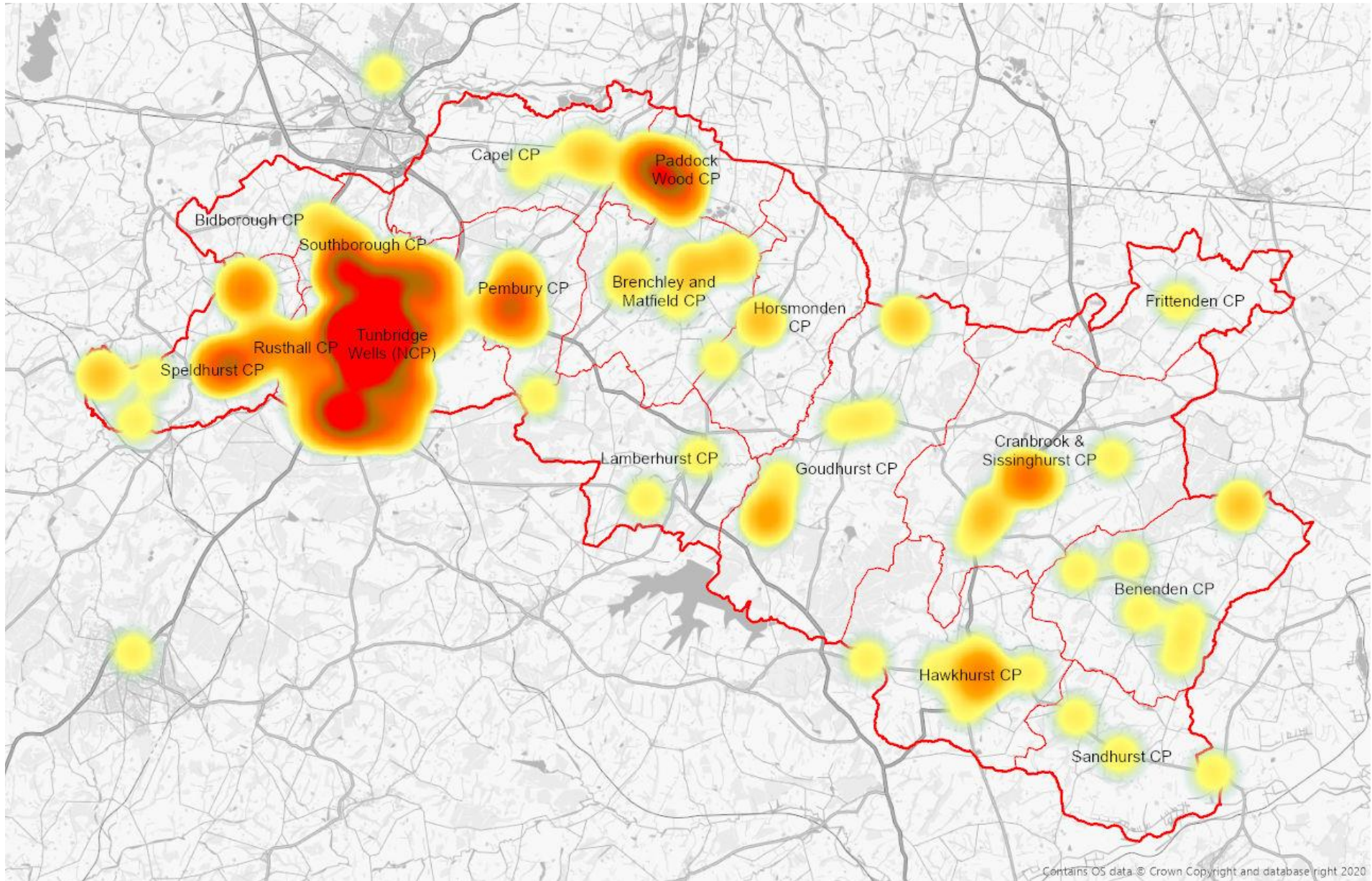


## What is your postcode?

This will enable us to understand if we have received representative responses from across the borough.



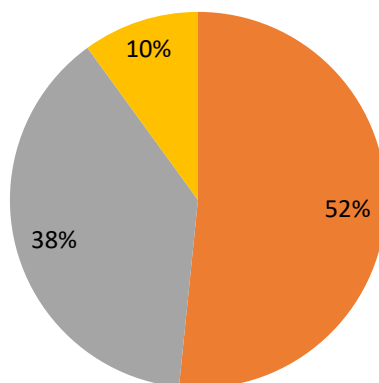
## Responses by area



## Demographics

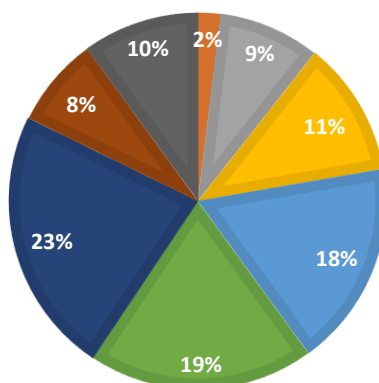
### SEX

■ Sex ■ Male ■ Female ■ Prefer not to say



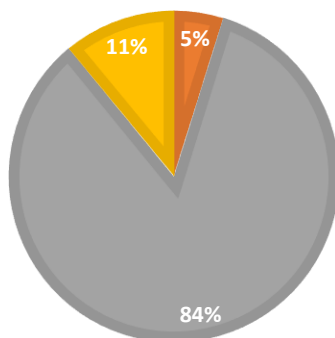
### AGE

■ Age ■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65-74 ■ Over 75 ■ Prefer not to say



### DO YOU CONSIDER THAT YOU HAVE A DISABILITY UNDER THE DISCRIMINATION ACT DEFINITION?

■ Disability ■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to say





### Which ethnic group do you belong to?

