

## Doncaster Talks: Environment (Oct/Nov 2020) - Localities

In the current situation with the pandemic and the climate and biodiversity crisis, there are some big decisions to be made. We are developing strategies and plans for Doncaster's future and did an engagement exercise to gain resident opinions, which will help inform the strategies and plans.

One of the key areas of focus for the Restart, Recovery and Renewal plan in the Borough is addressing Climate Change and the Biodiversity Crisis. Doncaster declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019. Part of the work that has been going on since then has included a Local Commission on Climate Change and the Biodiversity Crisis, the development of an Environment and Sustainability Strategy and a plan to improve Council Environment services. Responses to the following questions informed the development of the strategy and will inform plan.

### Summary

- More than 65% of respondents are "Extremely aware" of 'climate change' and 'global warming' in all localities.
- More than 60% of respondents in all localities said tackling climate change is "Extremely important" to them
- More than 70% of respondents in all localities said they have enough information about how they can take action in response to climate change:
  - Most requests for further information fell into the "Non-specific" category (including "Easy access information", "Realistic advice", "How to reduce my carbon footprint" and "Any information available"), with the next highest theme being "Waste/recycling" for all four localities.
  - Other notable themes for more information include "Travel/transport" in the South, "Local initiatives" in the North and "Business/products" in Central.
- When asked how important benefits that may come from lifestyle changes linked to addressing climate change are, respondents in all four localities had over 60% response of "Extremely important" for "Better physical and mental health", "Better air quality" (highest for Central, South and East), "Enjoyment of nature" (highest for North and South) and "Doing the right thing for future generations".
- All four localities ranked "Health and Wellbeing" as the most important policy area, with the next two most important for each locality being:
  - "Environment & Climate Change" and "Education and Skills" (Central)
  - "Economy" and "Community Safety" (East)
  - "Education & Skills" & "Environment & Climate Change" (North)
  - "Education & Skills" and "Economy" (South)
- When asked how likely they are to make changes in response to climate change, all localities had the highest response (over 60%) of "Already doing a lot" in the "Waste and recycling" theme. The next two highest responses for all localities was "Already doing some" in both the "Food you buy" and "Non-food things you buy" categories.
- When asked how willing they are to spend money on certain measures in response to climate change, all four localities provided the following top three responses (over 50% for all) - "Willing but not able to" on "Solar panels" and "Buy an electric vehicle", and "Already have" on "Improve the insulation of your house".

Conversely, the highest response for "Not willing nor able to" was also for "Buy an electric vehicle" in all localities.

If they chose the "Other" category, respondents were asked to elaborate and the most common themes were "Travel/transport" in Central and East, "Business/products" in the South, and joint "Energy/utility usage" and "Waste/recycling" for the North.

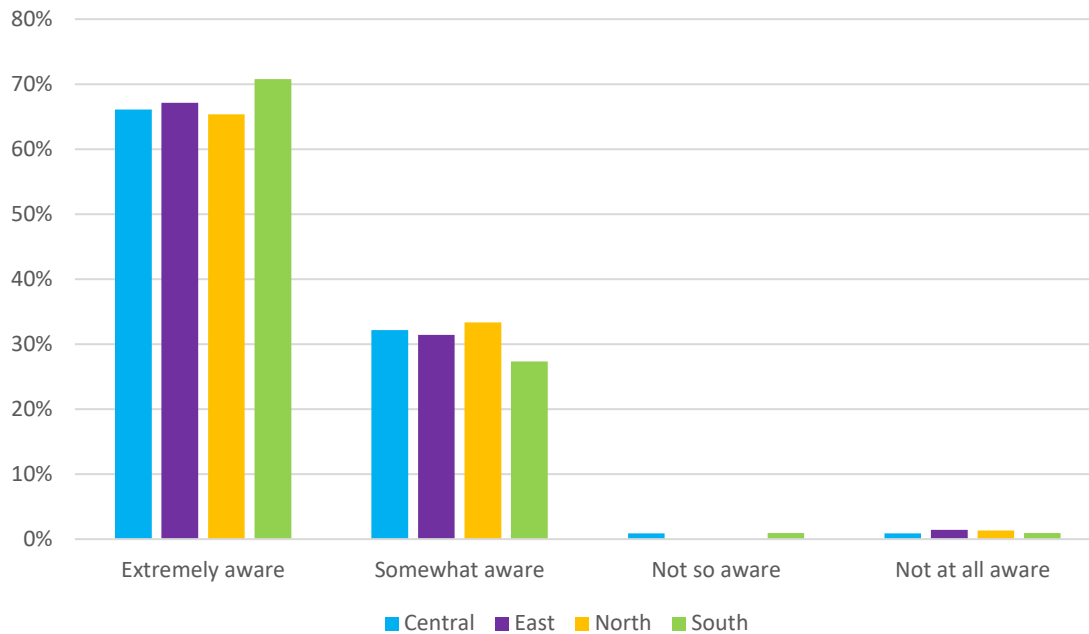
- In response to a question about balancing priorities, with house building given as the example, more than 50% of respondents from all localities think the council should focus on improving energy efficiency of existing homes and building new homes to high environmental standard, as well as saying no to developments that are not at the highest environmental standards even if this results in developments not happening.

- More than 65% of respondents from all localities strongly agree with the trial of allowing grass to grow in certain areas and changing land maintenance strategies.
- Almost half of respondents from all localities chose "A focus on community spirit and communities working together to address local issues" as the approach which would best help reduce fly-tipping across the Borough. When asked what other approaches should be considered, HWRCs and waste disposal was the most common theme for all localities (including changes to opening times and restriction at HWRCs).
- When asked how they could contribute to improving Doncaster, the most common response related to "Waste/litter/recycling", specifically litter picking. The second most common response for Central and South was "Local initiatives/groups" while it was "I don't know" for East and North.
- When asked what would encourage them to offer their time to help keep the local area cleaner and improve the environment, the highest category was "Already do/would do" for Central respondents, "Organised activity in the community" for South, "Others to act or be held accountable" for North and "Won't/Can't/Not sure" for East.
- A set of statements was given for respondents to indicate their current behaviours and the following top three emerged for each locality:
  - Central - "Always" "Recycle my waste" and "Care about the natural environment", and "Often" "Buy locally when I can".
  - East - "Always" "Recycle my waste" and "Care about the natural environment", and "Often" "Reduce/limit energy consumption and water usage in my house".
  - North - "Always" "Recycle my waste" and "Care about the natural environment", and "Often" "Take care to not produce unnecessary waste".
  - South - "Always" "Recycle my waste", "Care about the natural environment" and "Spend time in my local natural environment".

## Breakdown of responses

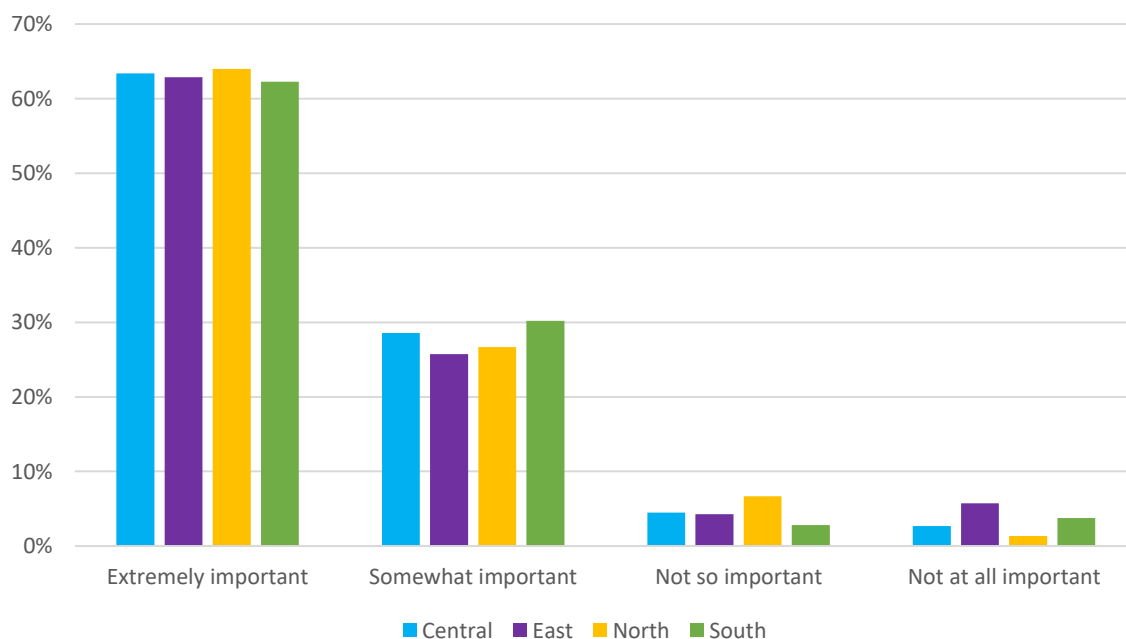
1. How aware are you of 'climate change' and 'global warming'?

	Extremely aware	Somewhat aware	Not so aware	Not at all aware
<b>Central</b>	66%	32%	1%	1%
<b>East</b>	67%	31%	0%	1%
<b>North</b>	65%	33%	0%	1%
<b>South</b>	71%	27%	1%	1%



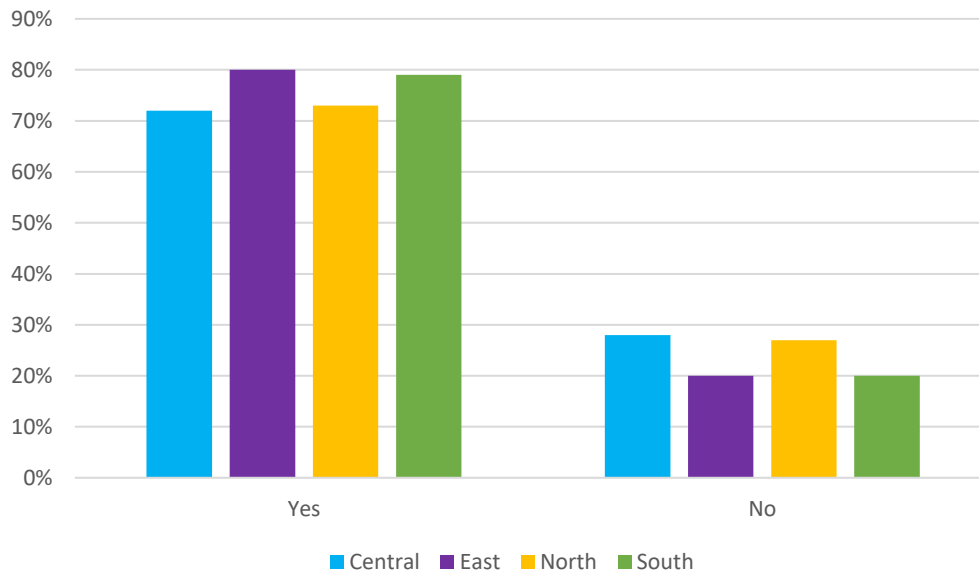
2. How important is tackling climate change to you?

	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important
<b>Central</b>	63%	29%	4%	3%
<b>East</b>	63%	26%	4%	6%
<b>North</b>	64%	27%	7%	1%
<b>South</b>	62%	30%	3%	4%

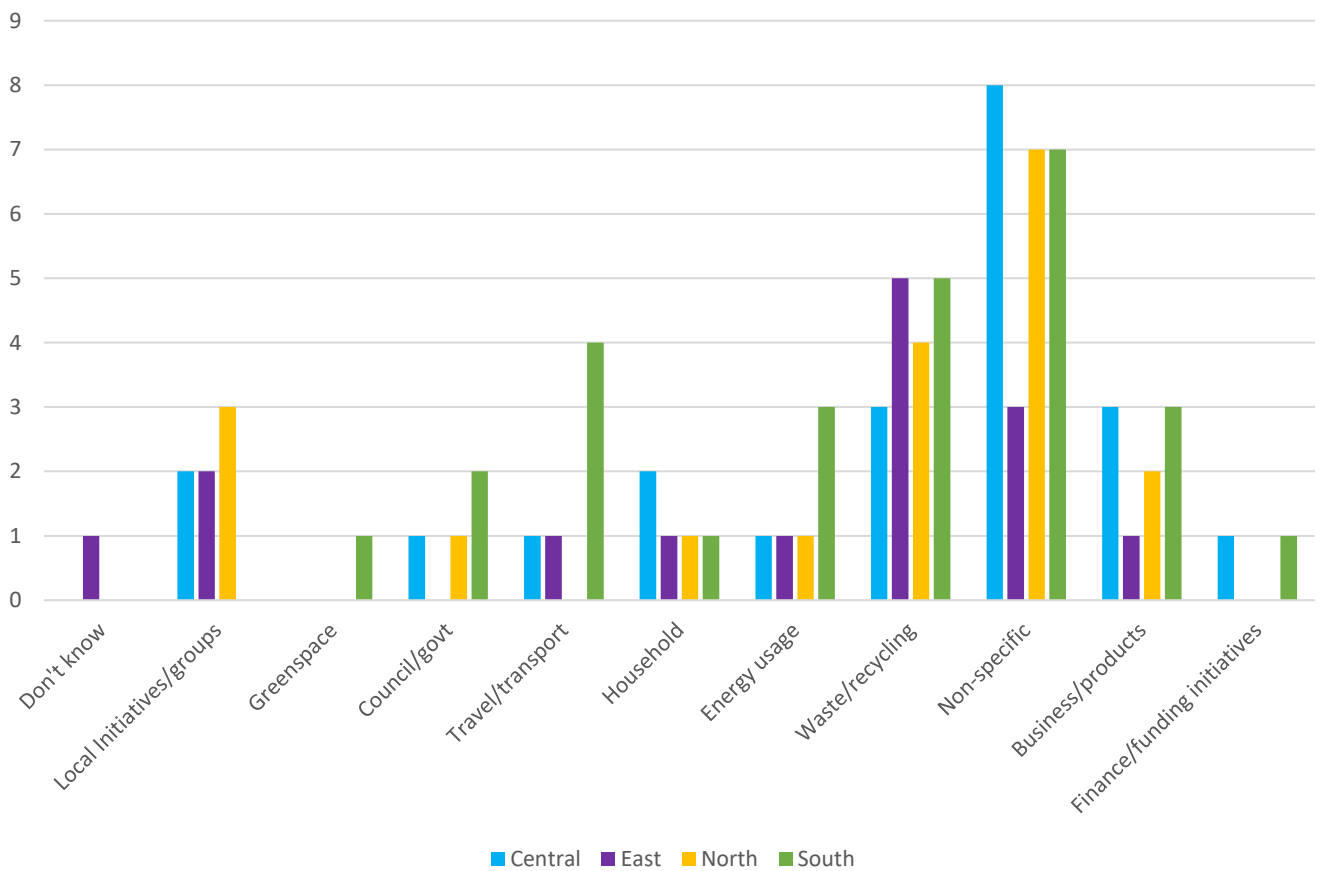


3. Do you have enough information about how you can take action in response to Climate Change?

	Yes	No
<b>Central</b>	72%	28%
<b>East</b>	80%	20%
<b>North</b>	73%	27%
<b>South</b>	79%	20%

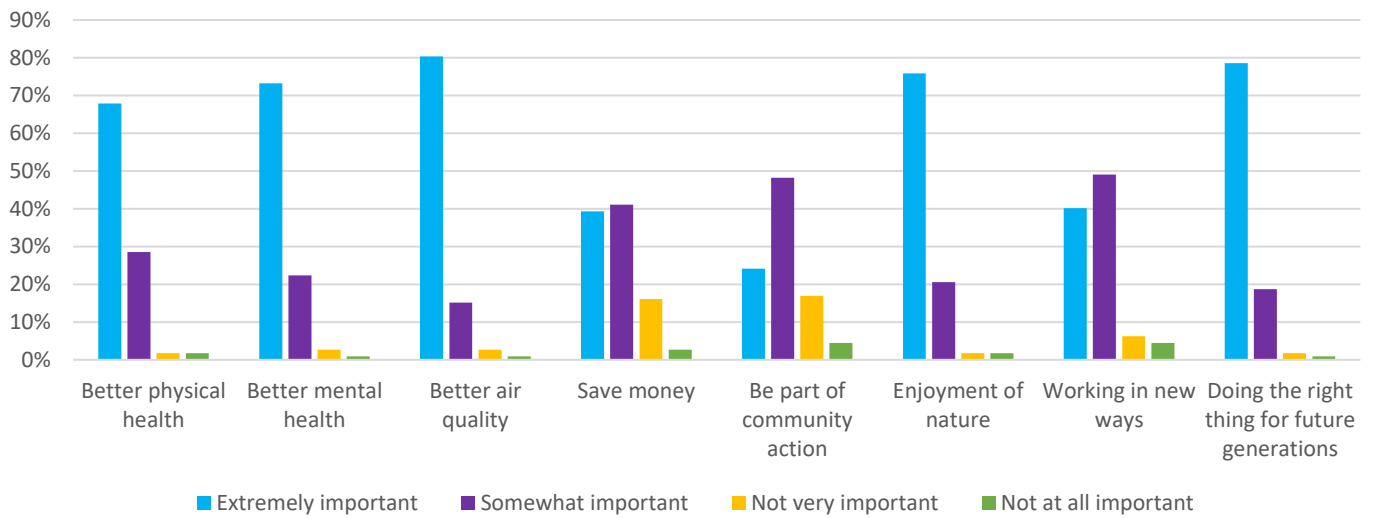


When asked to explain what information they would like, responses were given in the following spread across the themes which emerged:

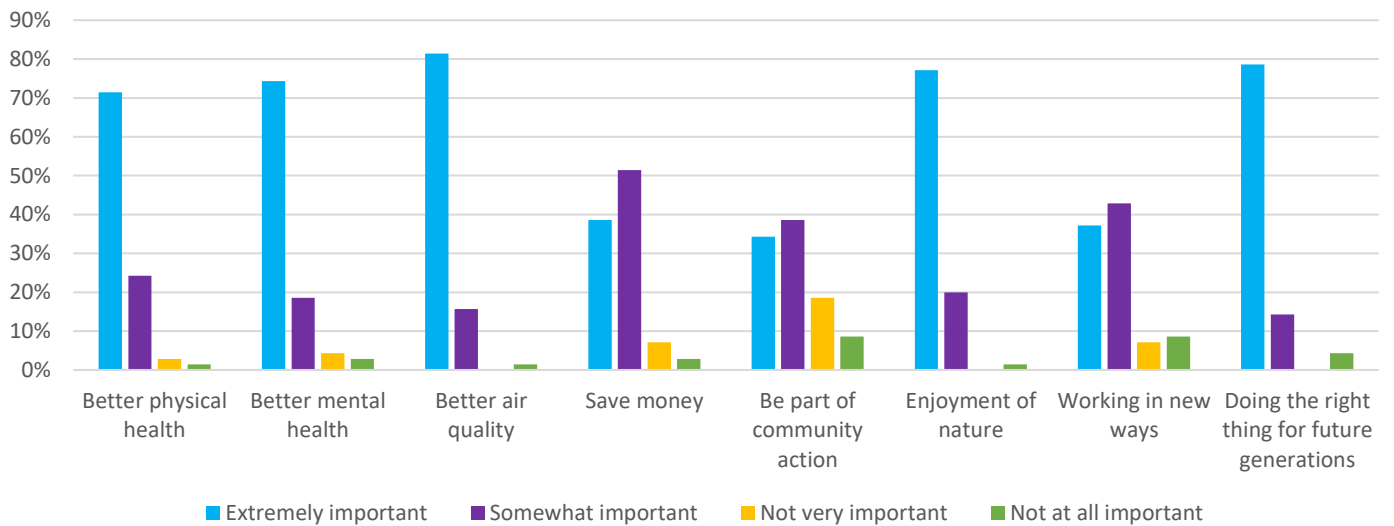


4. How important to you and your family are the following benefits that may come from lifestyle changes linked to addressing climate change?

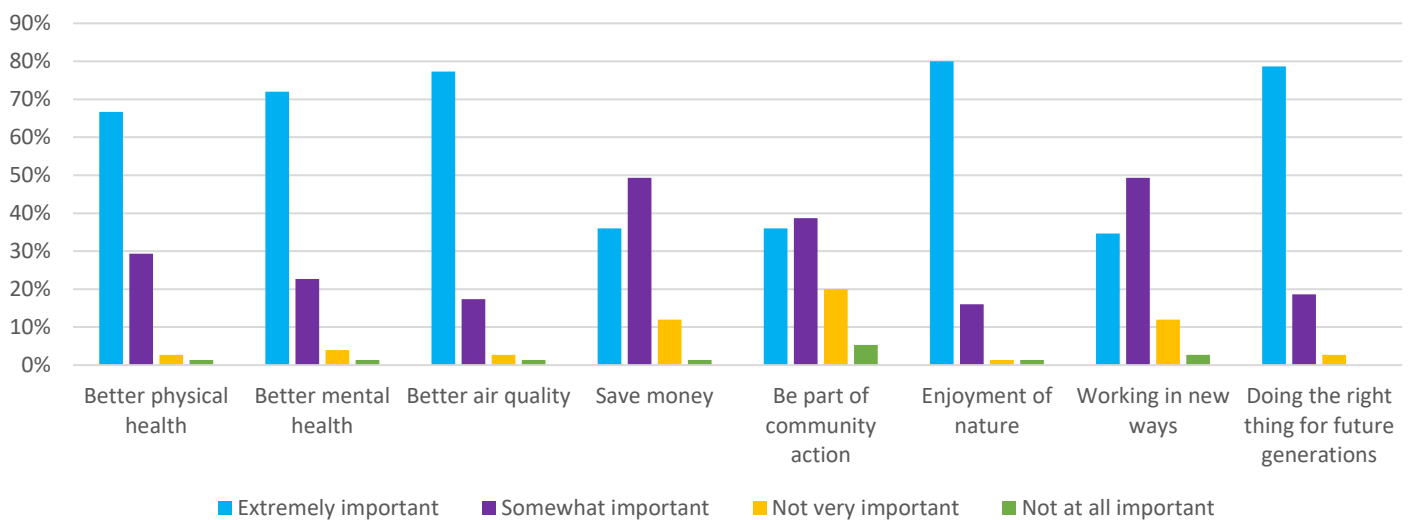
Central



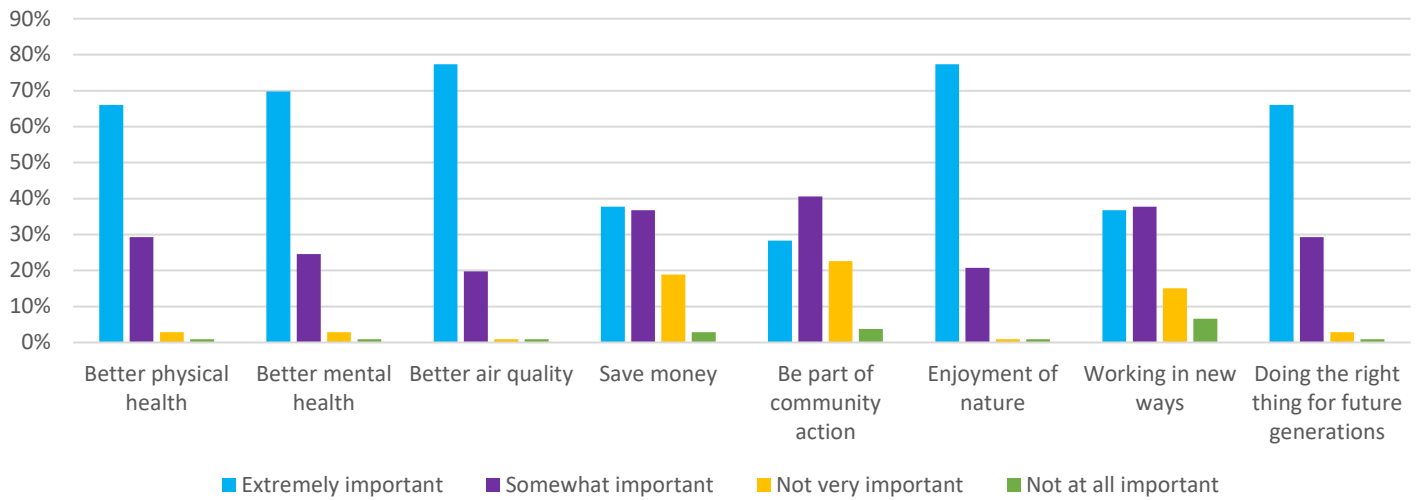
East



North

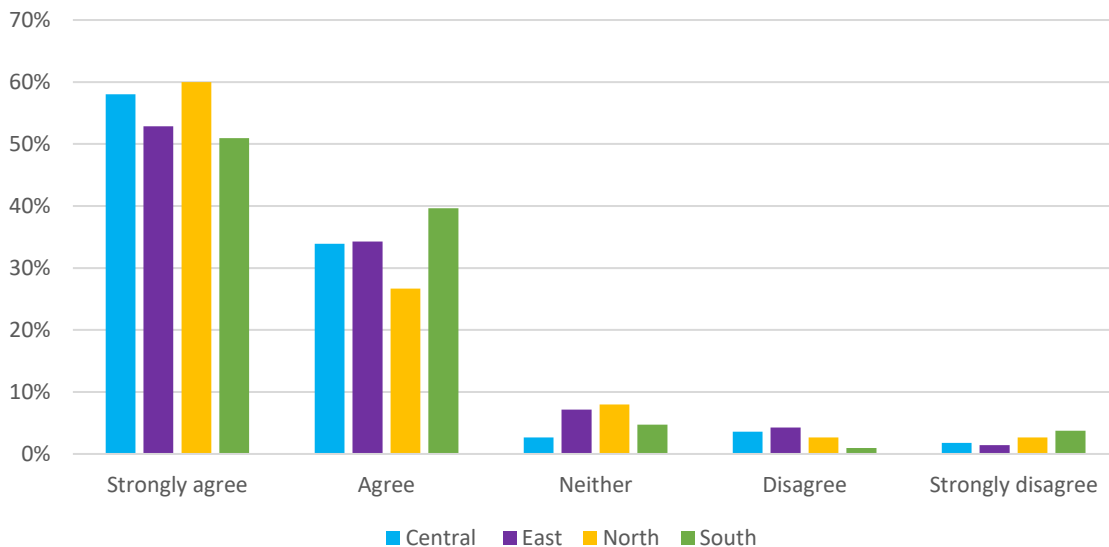


## South



5. You may be aware of discussion and debate in the media of the need for 'big changes' to address climate change. Do you agree with the need for big changes?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Central</b>	58%	34%	3%	4%	2%
<b>East</b>	53%	34%	7%	4%	1%
<b>North</b>	60%	27%	8%	3%	3%
<b>South</b>	51%	40%	5%	1%	4%



6. We may need to prioritise what we focus on. With this in mind, please rank the following policy areas in order of importance for you:

Category	Rank			
	Central	East	North	South
Health & Wellbeing	1	1	1	1
Education & Skills	3	4	2	2
Economy (Business & Jobs)	5	2	5	2
Community Safety	4	2	4	4
Environment & Climate Change	2	5	3	5
Housing	6	7	6	6
Transport and infrastructure	7	6	7	7
Arts & Culture	8	8	8	8

7. There are difficult decisions to be made. In general terms, should Doncaster:

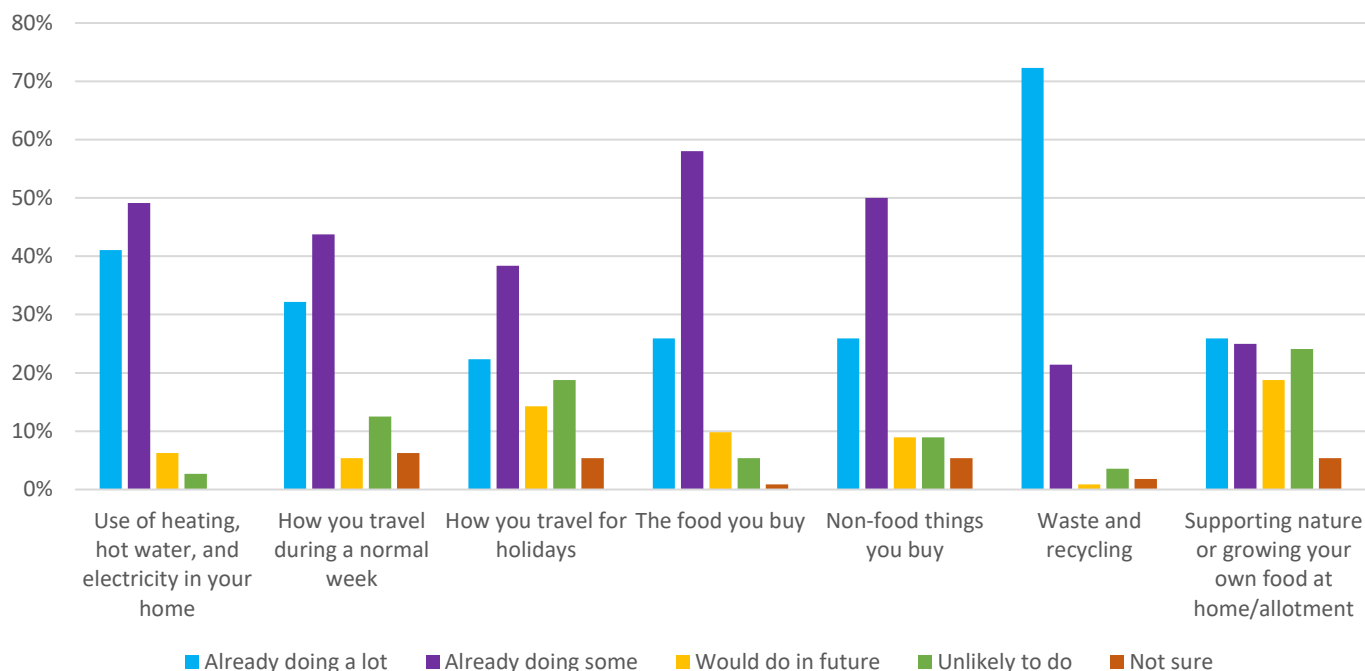
Target resources on a few specific areas in the borough (0) to (100) Spread resources evenly across all areas of the borough:

	Average number
Central	51
East	56
North	53
South	58

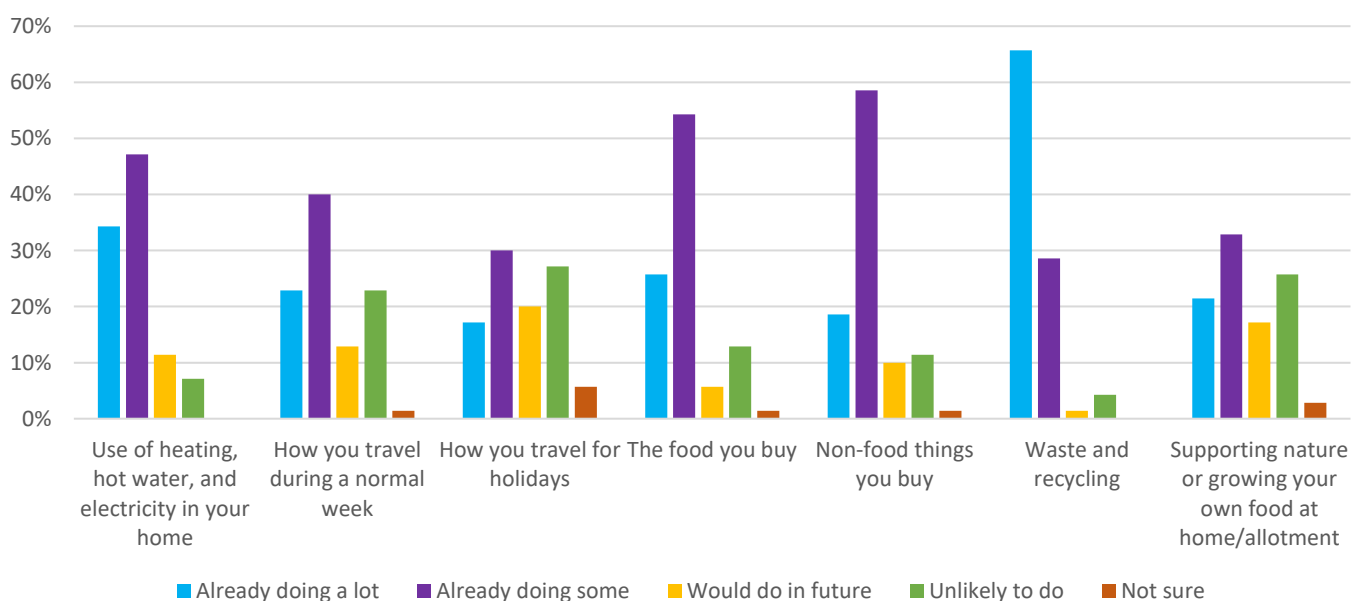
Average response for all localities was slightly closer to “Spread resources evenly across all areas of the borough”

8. How likely are you to make changes to the following in response to climate change?

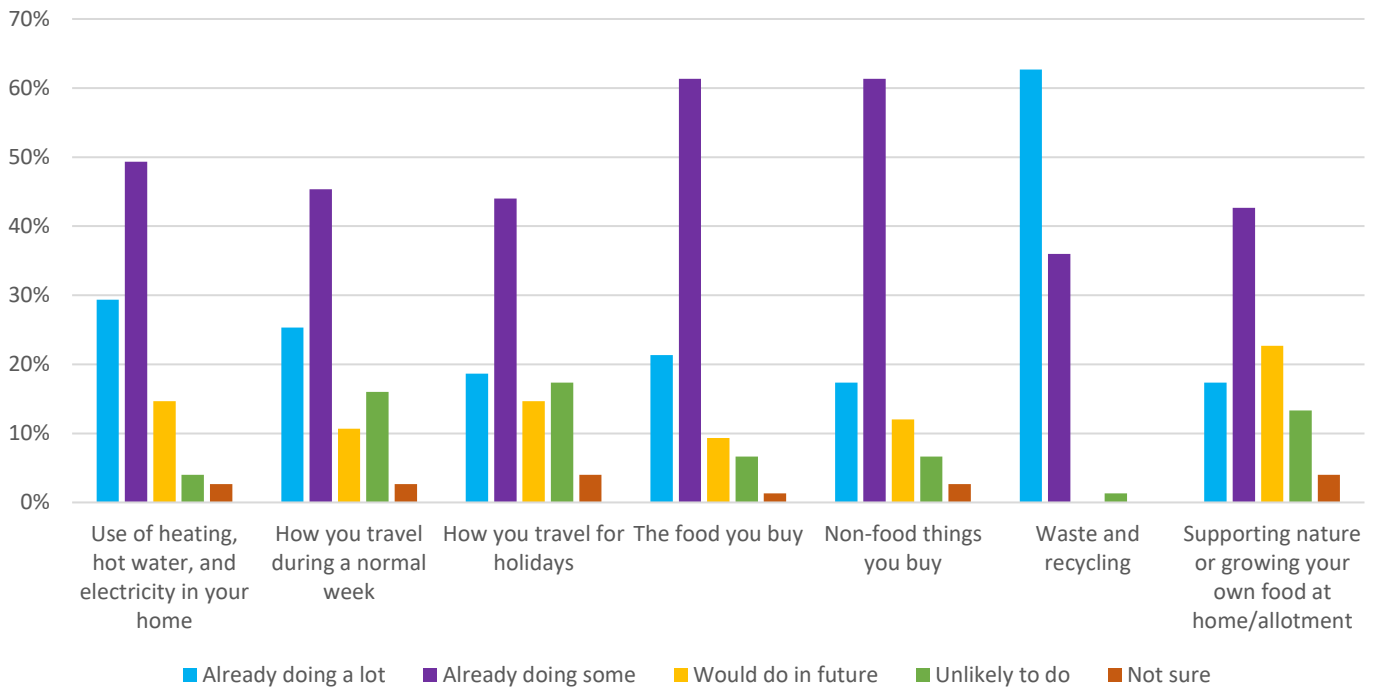
### Central



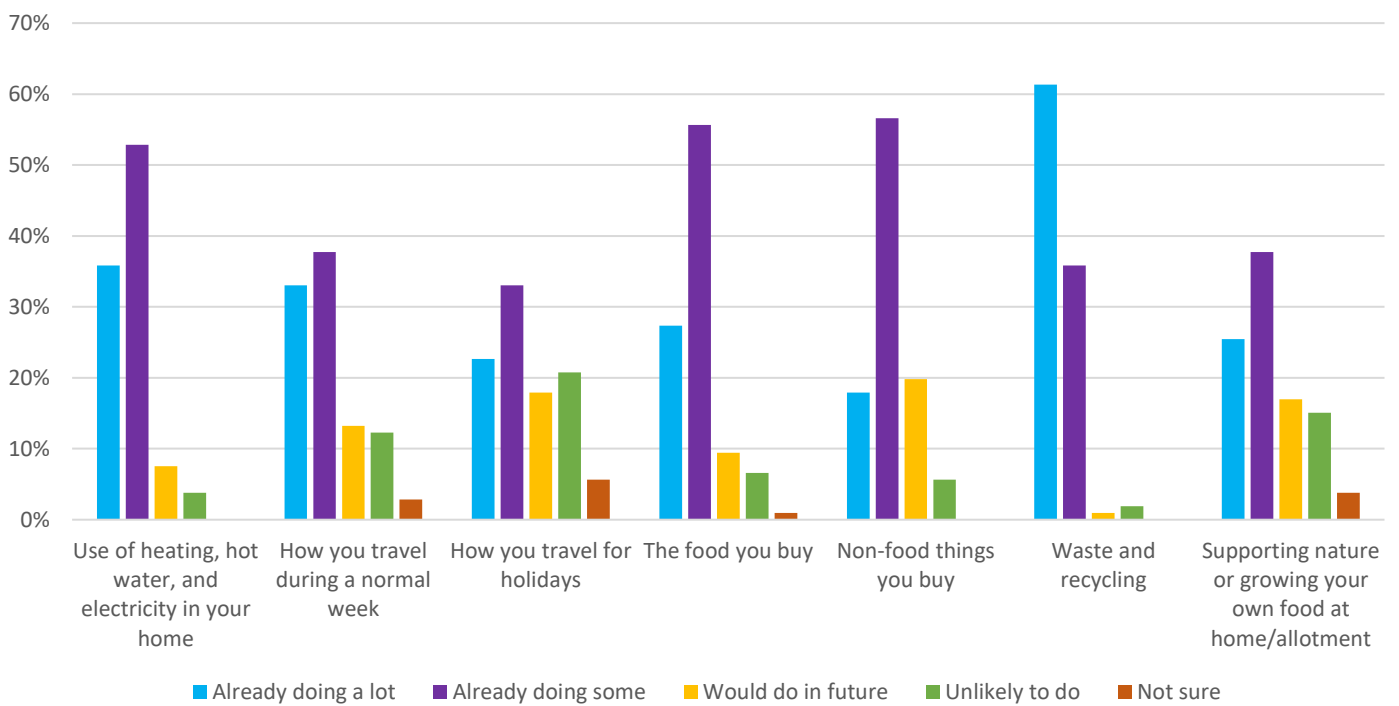
### East



## North



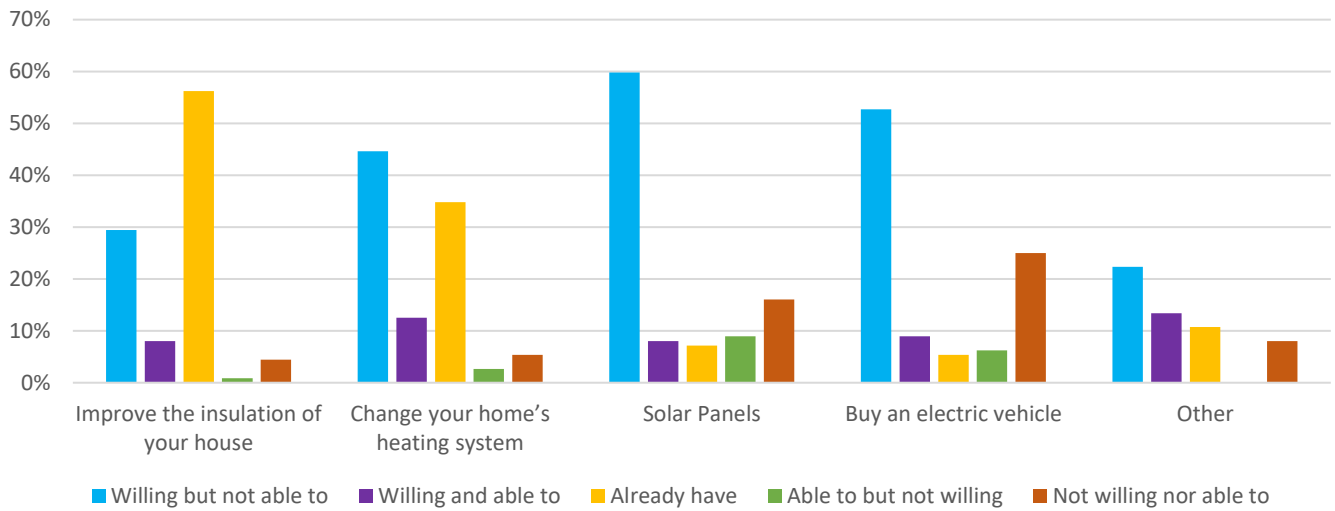
## South



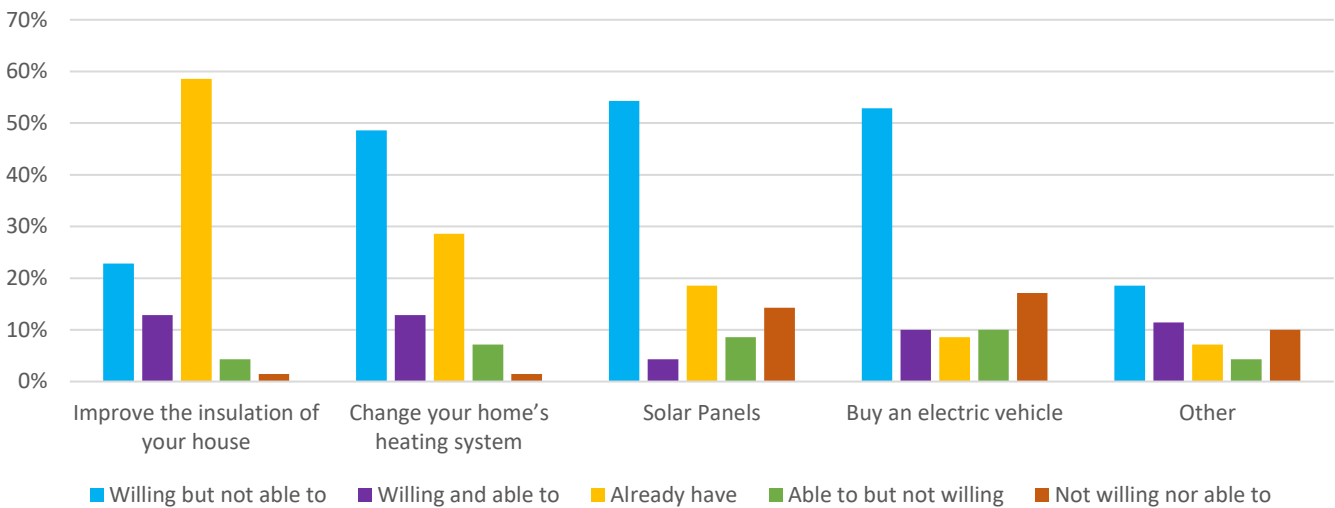


9. How willing are you to spend money on the following in response to climate change?

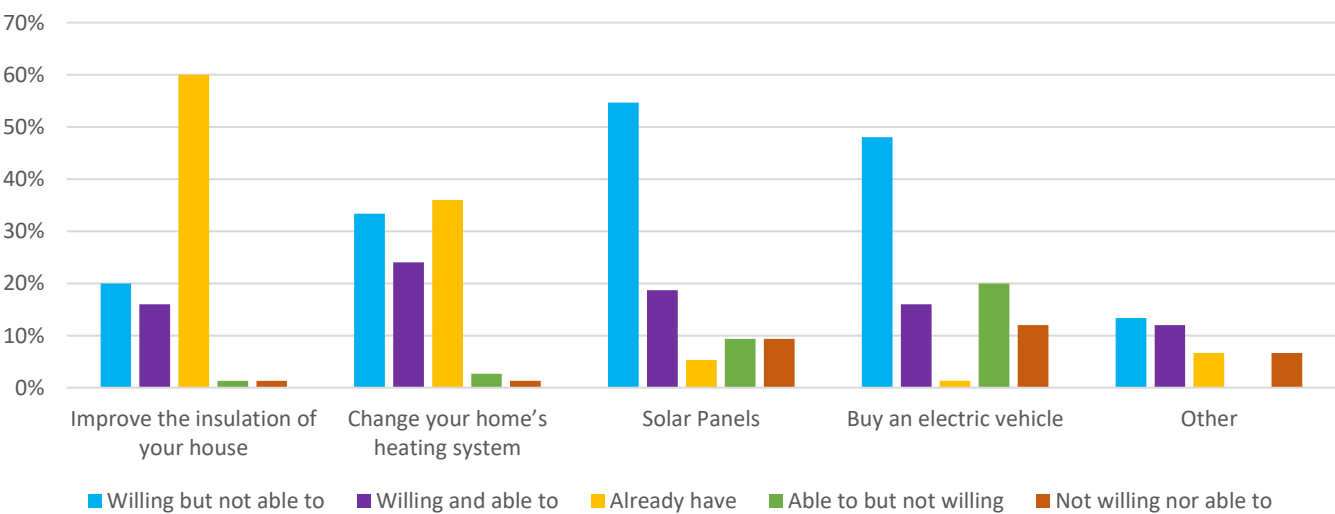
Central



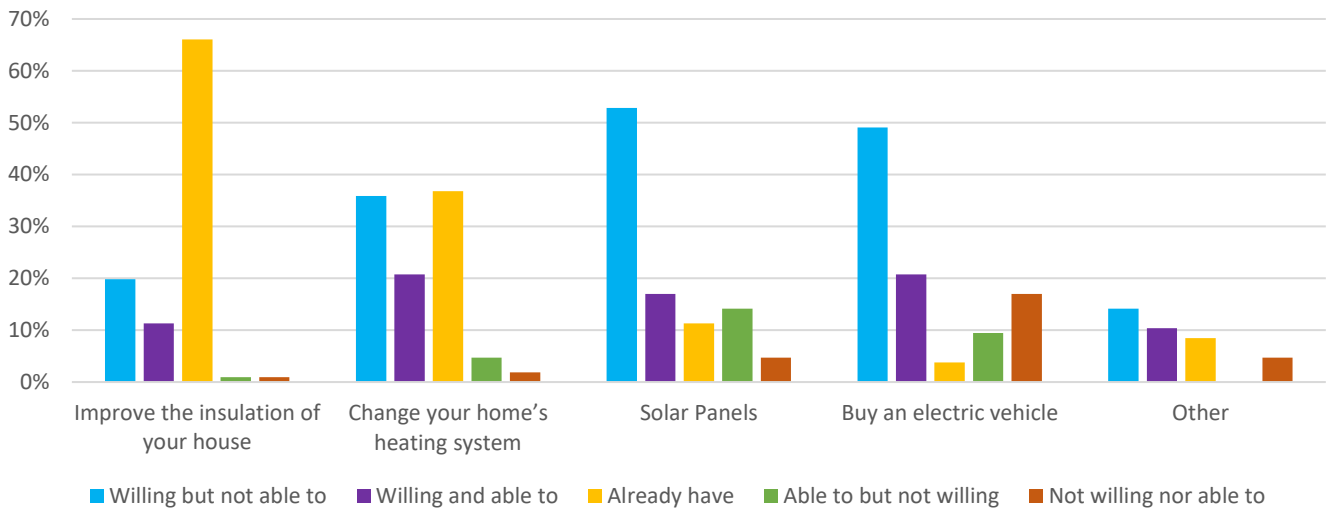
East



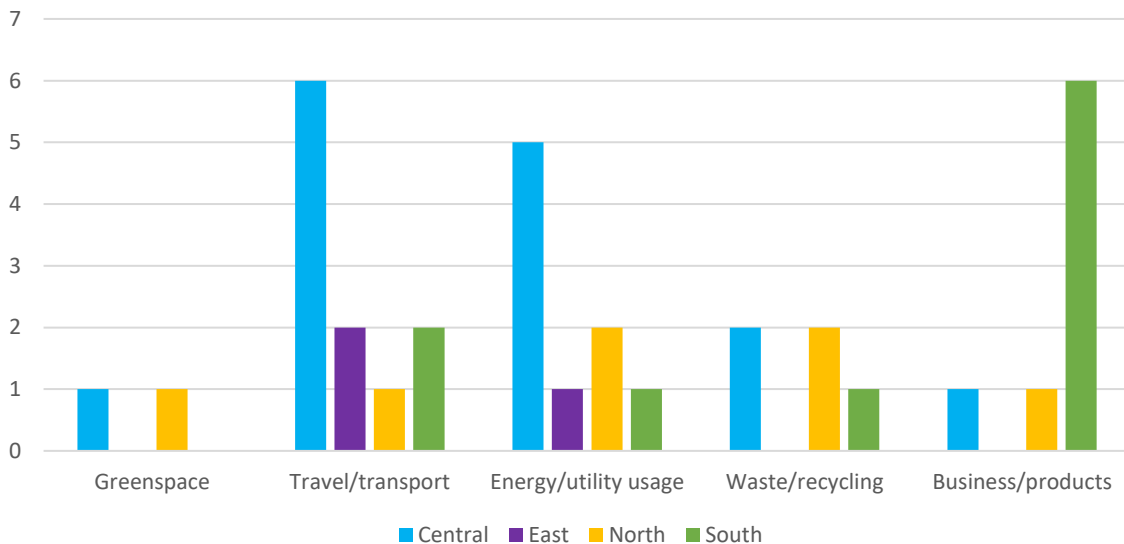
North



## South



When asked to elaborate on what “Other” things they would be willing to spend money on, respondents highlighted the following themes:

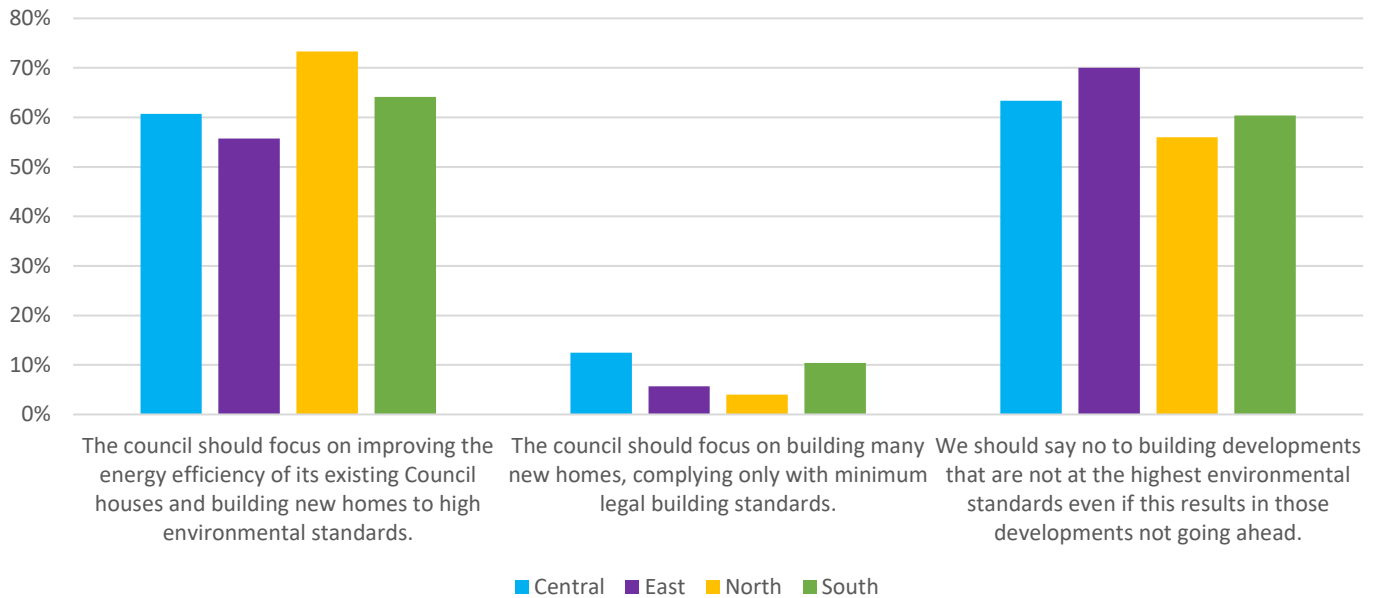


10.Improving housing energy efficiency (such as insulation, windows) will play a major part in tackling climate change.

This is likely to come at great cost to households and organisations, and have other knock-on effects, for example, cost and ability to deliver new housing developments, number of homes built, the price of homes to buy or rent. Some difficult decisions will therefore need to be made.

Considering the above statement, please choose all of the following that you agree with:

	Central	East	North	South
The council should focus on improving the energy efficiency of its existing Council houses and building new homes to high environmental standards.	61%	56%	73%	64%
The council should focus on building many new homes, complying only with minimum legal building standards.	13%	6%	4%	10%
We should say no to building developments that are not at the highest environmental standards even if this results in those developments not going ahead.	63%	70%	56%	60%



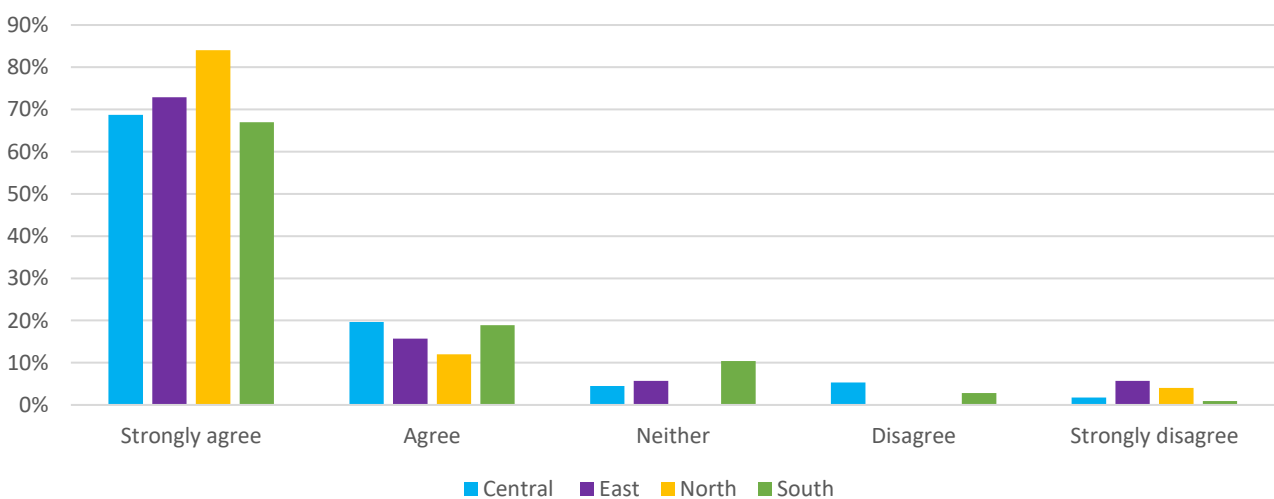
11. We are currently running a trial of allowing the grass to grow in certain areas that we manage, and changing the way we maintain some of our land.

This will:

- Increase pollinators such as bees and butterflies,
- Improve Doncaster’s natural environment
- Help native species to regenerate and thrive
- Reduce our carbon footprint

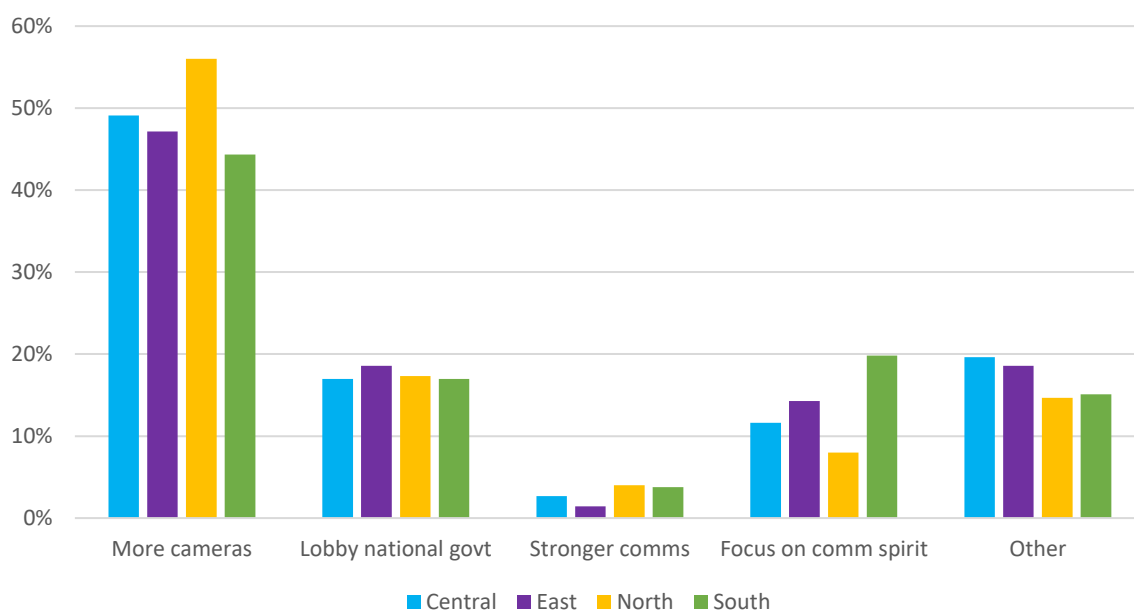
Do you agree with this new approach?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Central</b>	69%	20%	4%	5%	2%
<b>East</b>	73%	16%	6%	0%	6%
<b>North</b>	84%	12%	0%	0%	4%
<b>South</b>	67%	19%	10%	3%	1%

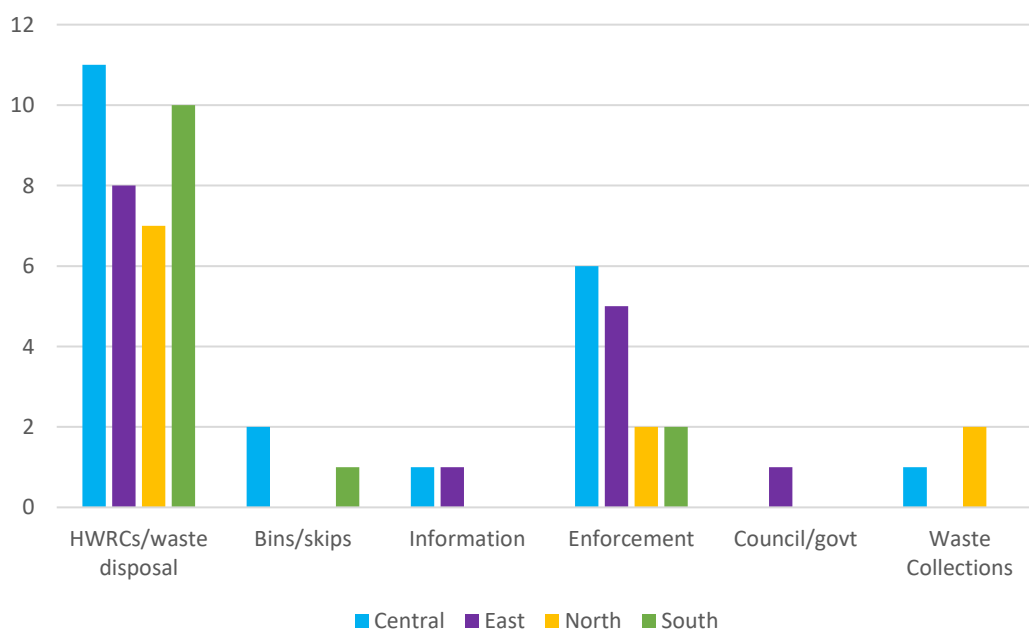


12. Fly-tipping is an illegal activity. Which approach do you think would be best to help reduce fly-tipping across Doncaster?

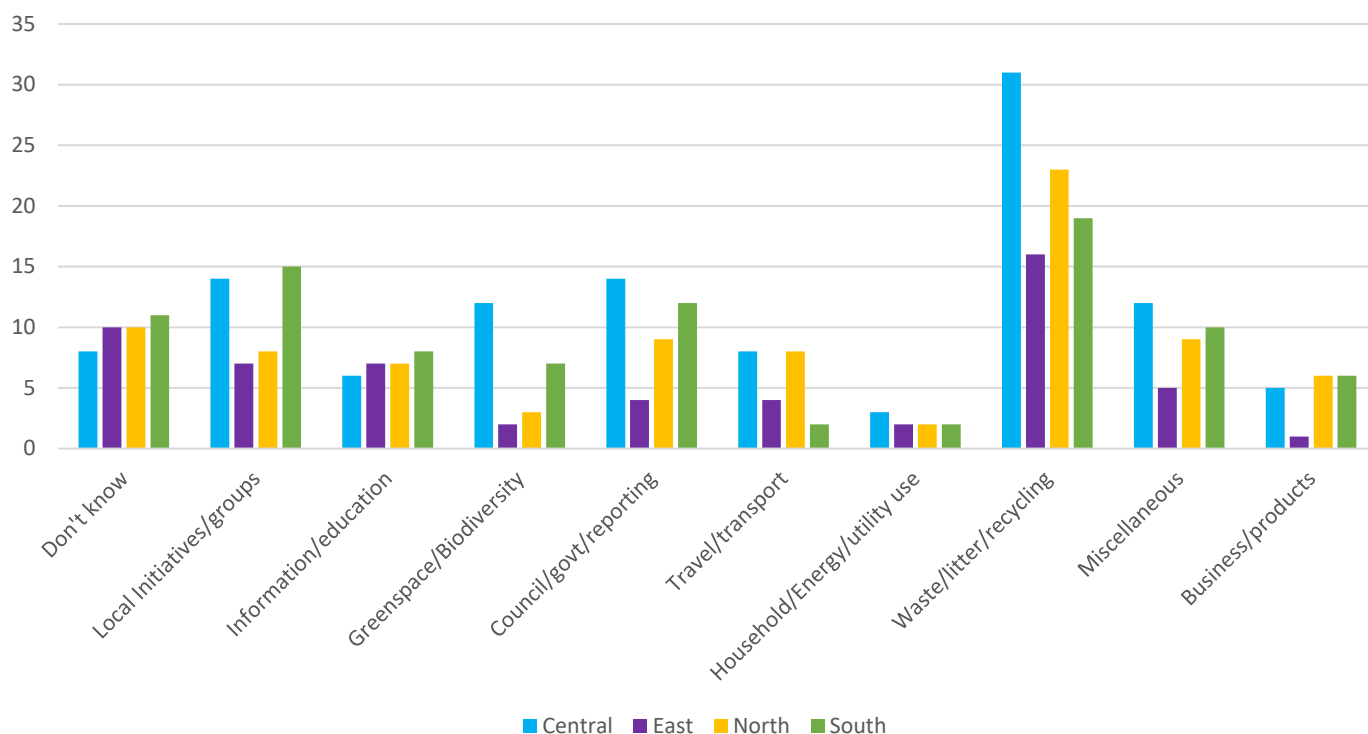
	Central	East	North	South
A focus on community spirit and communities working together to address local issues	49%	47%	56%	44%
Stronger communications campaign	17%	19%	17%	17%
More cameras in 'hotspot' areas	3%	1%	4%	4%
Lobbying national government for stronger penalties for offenders	12%	14%	8%	20%
Other	20%	19%	15%	15%



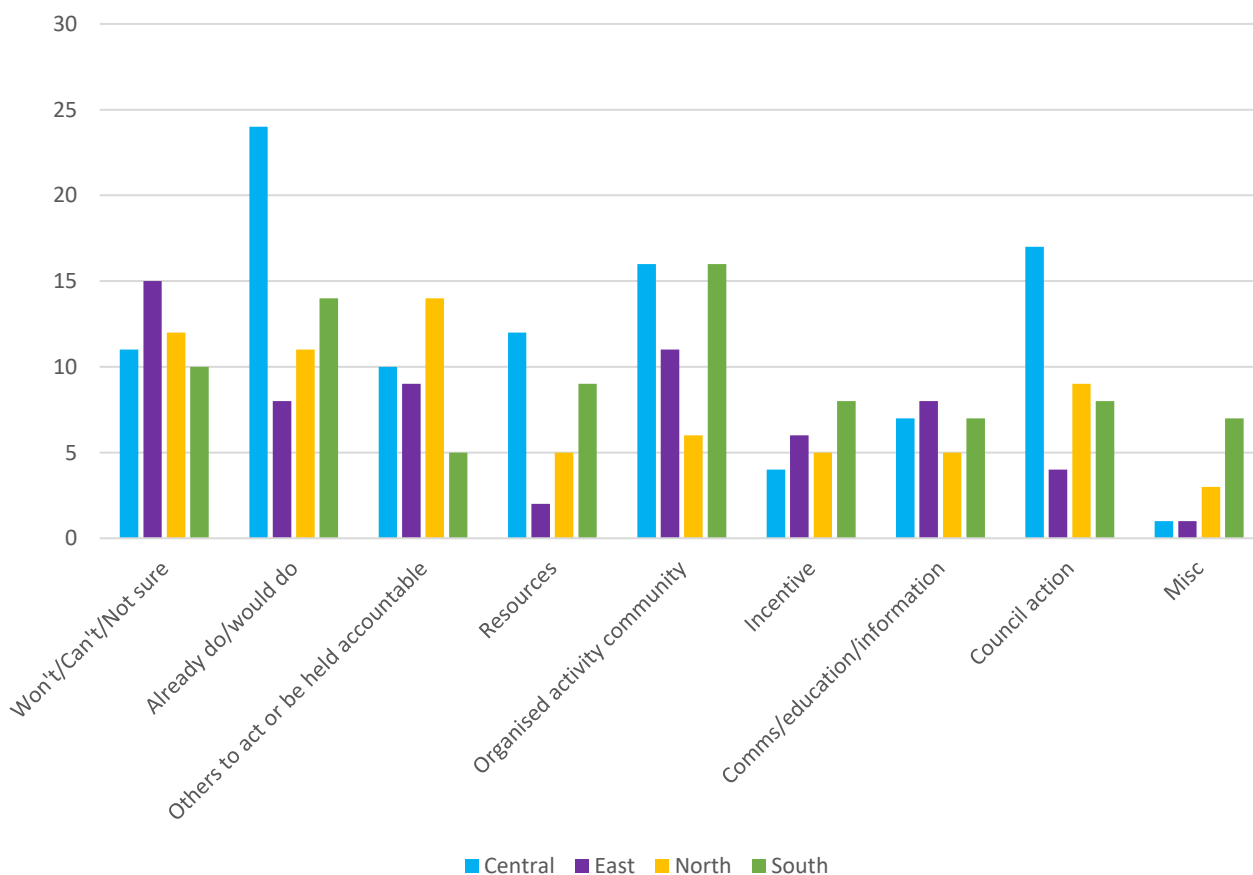
When asked to elaborate on what "Other" approaches should be taken to help reduce fly-tipping, respondents highlighted the following themes:



### 13. How could you contribute to improving Doncaster?



### 14. What would encourage you to offer your time to help keep your local area cleaner and improve the environment?



15. We are keen to involve the people of Doncaster in shaping our work across a number of key areas.

Areas include:

- a. Highways
- b. Waste and Recycling
- c. Environmental Health
- d. Trading Standards
- e. Licensing
- f. Planning Enforcement
- g. Environmental Enforcement
- h. Parking Enforcement
- i. Emergency Planning and Resilience
- j. Street Cleaning
- k. Grounds Maintenance

We would like to understand the level of interest there is to get involved - this may include participating in focus groups and consultation groups. Would you be interested in being a part of this?

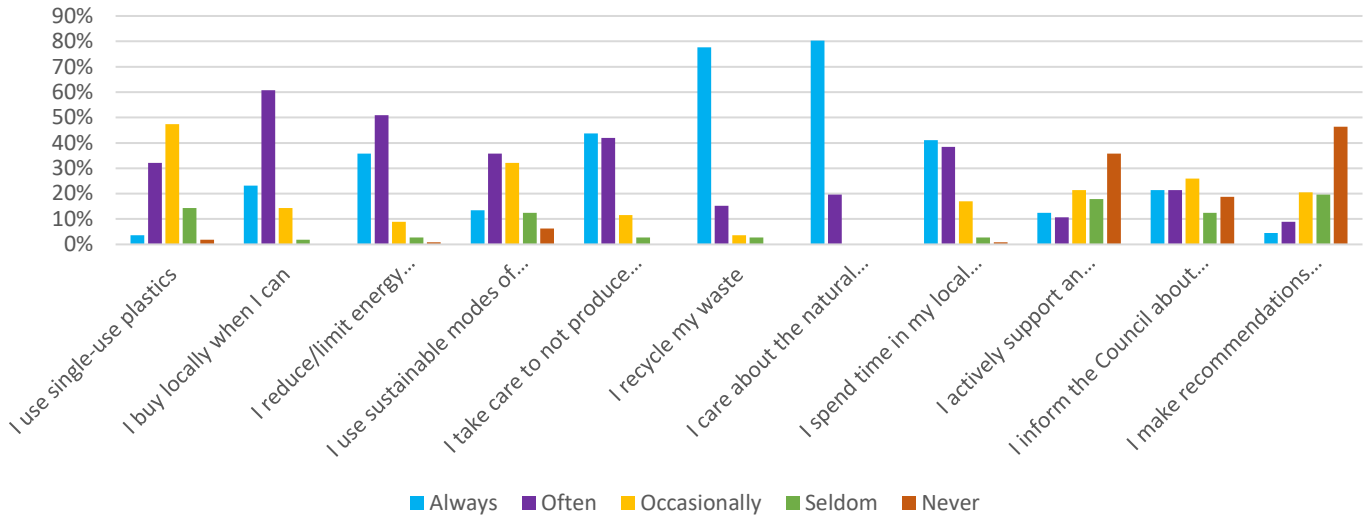
	Yes	
<b>Central</b>	60	54%
<b>East</b>	30	43%
<b>North</b>	41	55%
<b>South</b>	50	47%

16. Below are a series of statements regarding your behaviours.

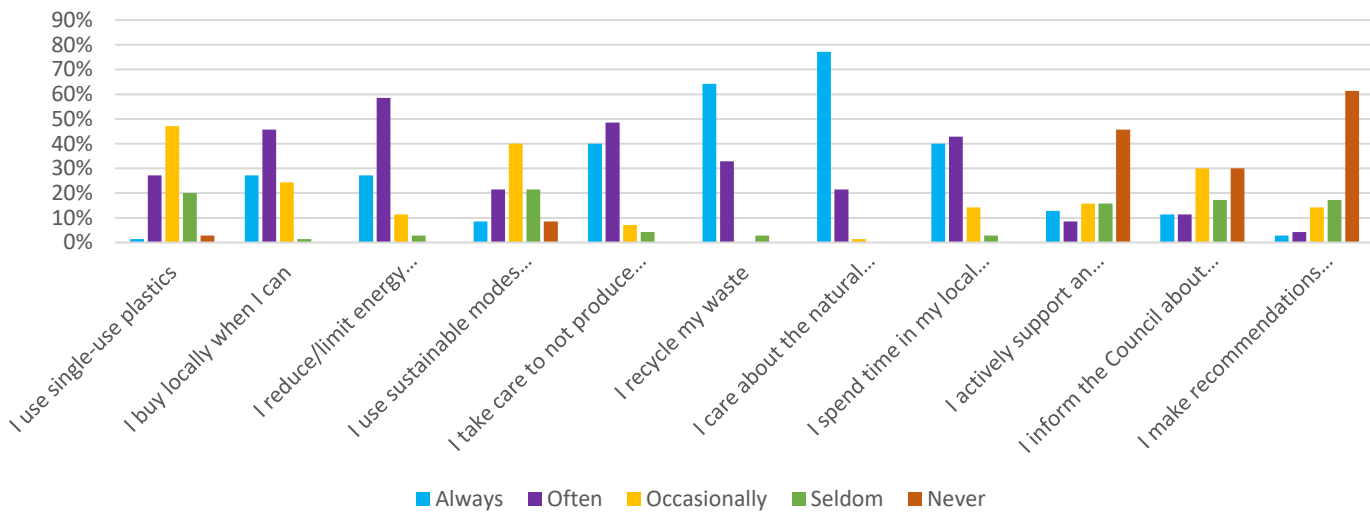
Please tick the box that best reflects what you do for each of the following:

I use single-use plastics
I buy locally when I can
I reduce/limit energy consumption and water usage in my house
I use sustainable modes of transport
I take care to not produce unnecessary waste
I recycle my waste
I care about the natural environment
I spend time in my local natural environment
I actively support an environment action group
I inform the Council about environmental issues (e.g. fly tipping)
I make recommendations about the environment to the Council or elected officials

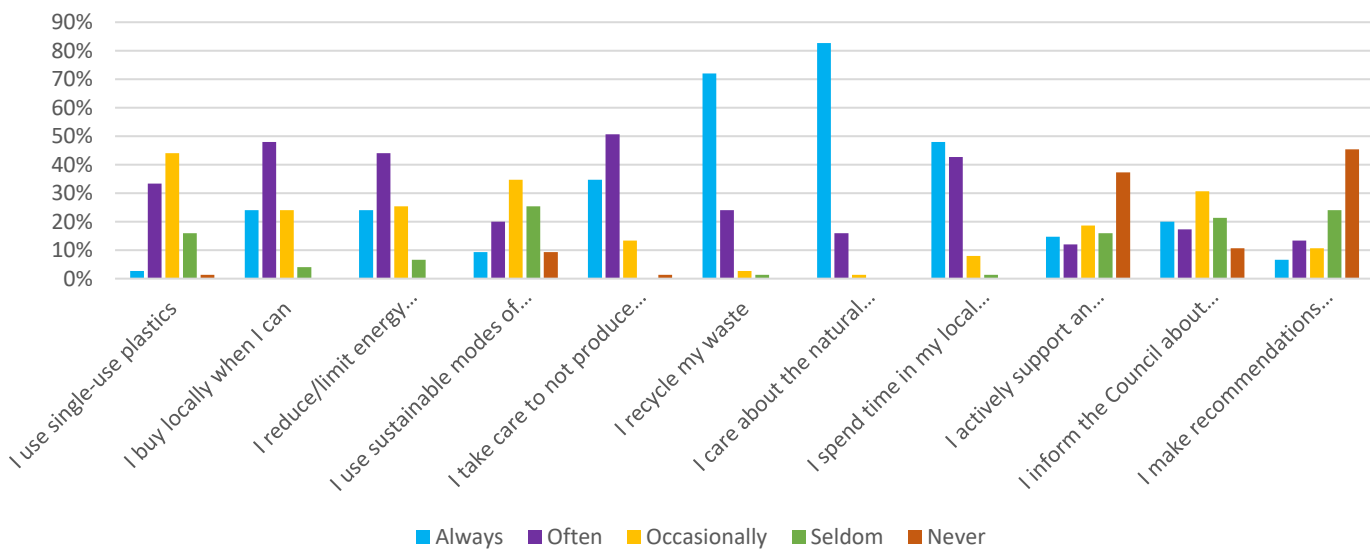
### Central



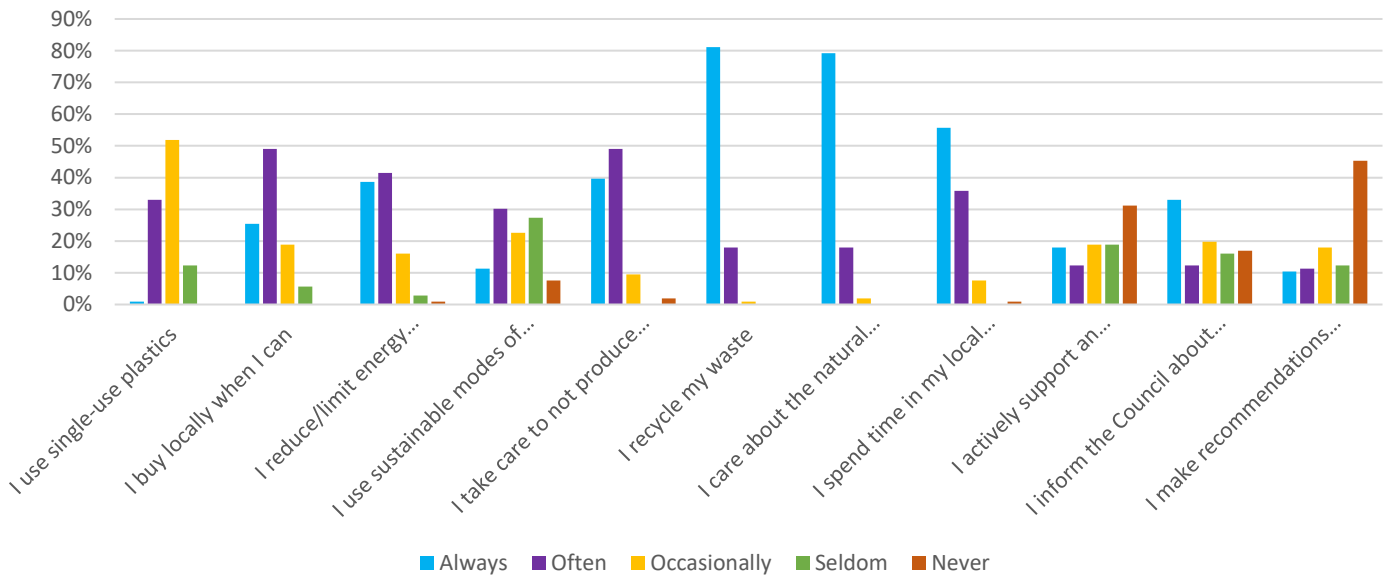
### East



### North



## South



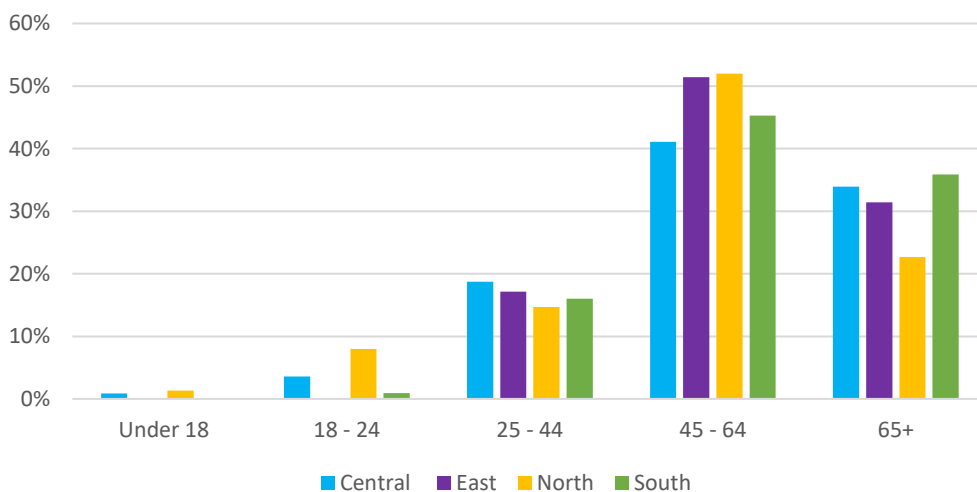
Finally, we would like to capture a little more information to help us understand how your answers relate to the area where you live, how old you are and your personal characteristics.

17. What do you consider to be your ethnic group?

	White British	White other	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Other ethnic group
<b>Central</b>	95%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
<b>East</b>	97%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
<b>North</b>	93%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
<b>South</b>	95%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

18. What age group do you belong to?

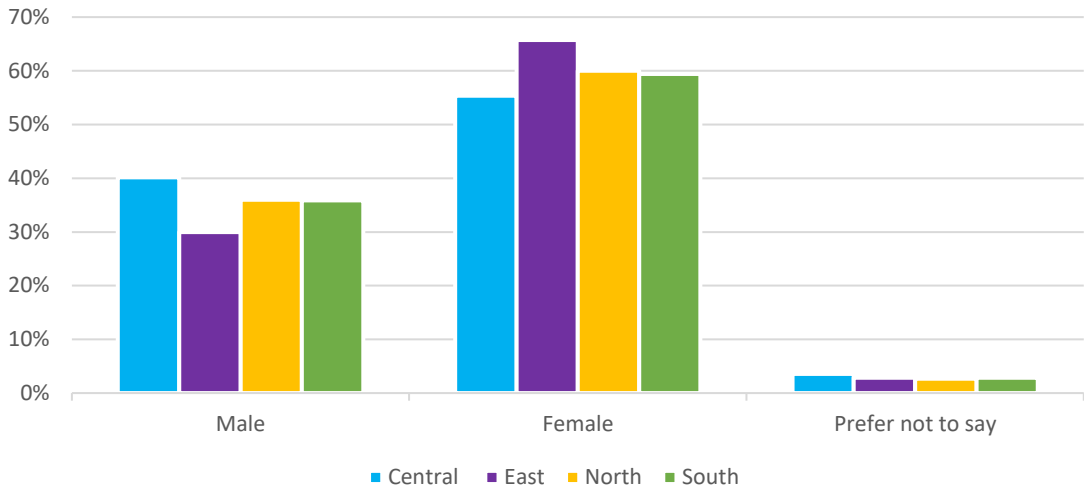
	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65+
<b>Central</b>	1%	4%	19%	41%	34%
<b>East</b>	0%	0%	17%	51%	31%
<b>North</b>	1%	8%	15%	52%	23%
<b>South</b>	0%	1%	16%	45%	36%





19. What gender do you identify most with?

	Male	Female	Prefer not to say
<b>Central</b>	40%	55%	4%
<b>East</b>	30%	66%	3%
<b>North</b>	36%	60%	3%
<b>South</b>	36%	59%	3%



20. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
<b>Central</b>	18%	77%	4%
<b>East</b>	13%	83%	4%
<b>North</b>	12%	79%	8%
<b>South</b>	18%	78%	3%

