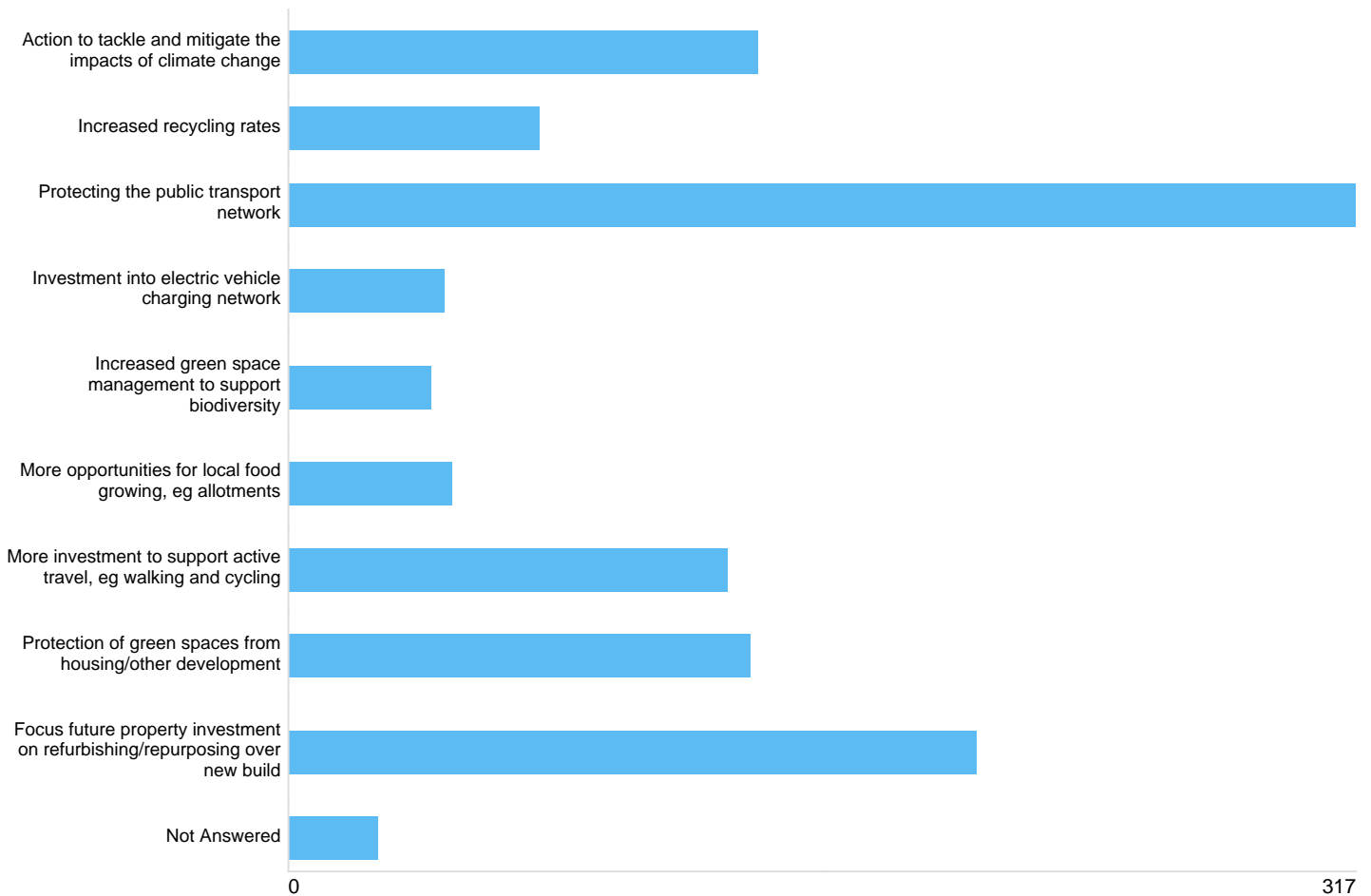


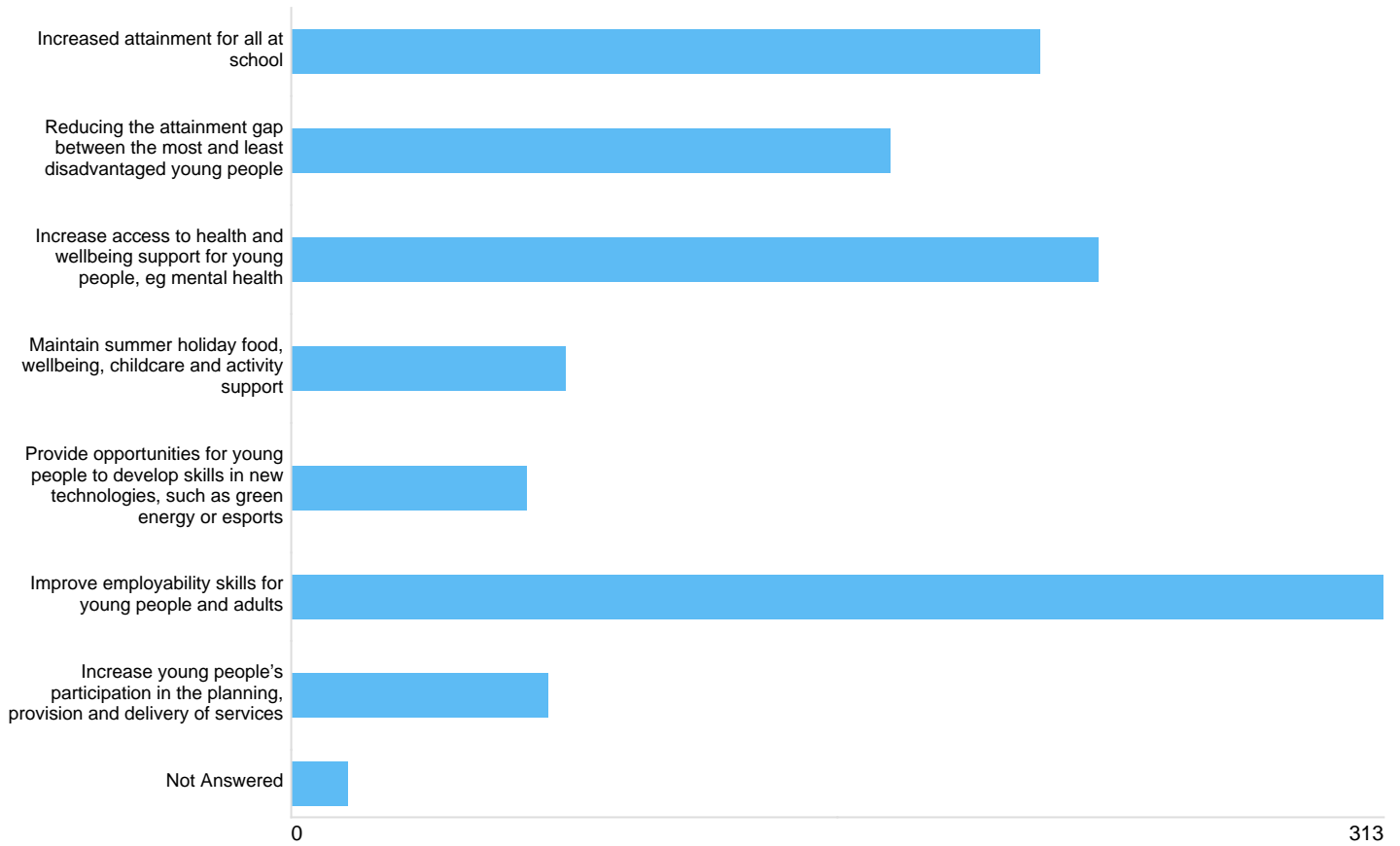
Question 1: The Council is committed to increasing the opportunities for people and communities to have a say in how we invest and support jointly agreed priorities within their community. Select your top priority within each of our six current Council Plan themes. Please bear in mind the current financial challenges which are impacting on all local authorities and mean that in many cases additional investment in one area can only happen when balanced against reduced funding for another area.

Priority - Clean Green Future



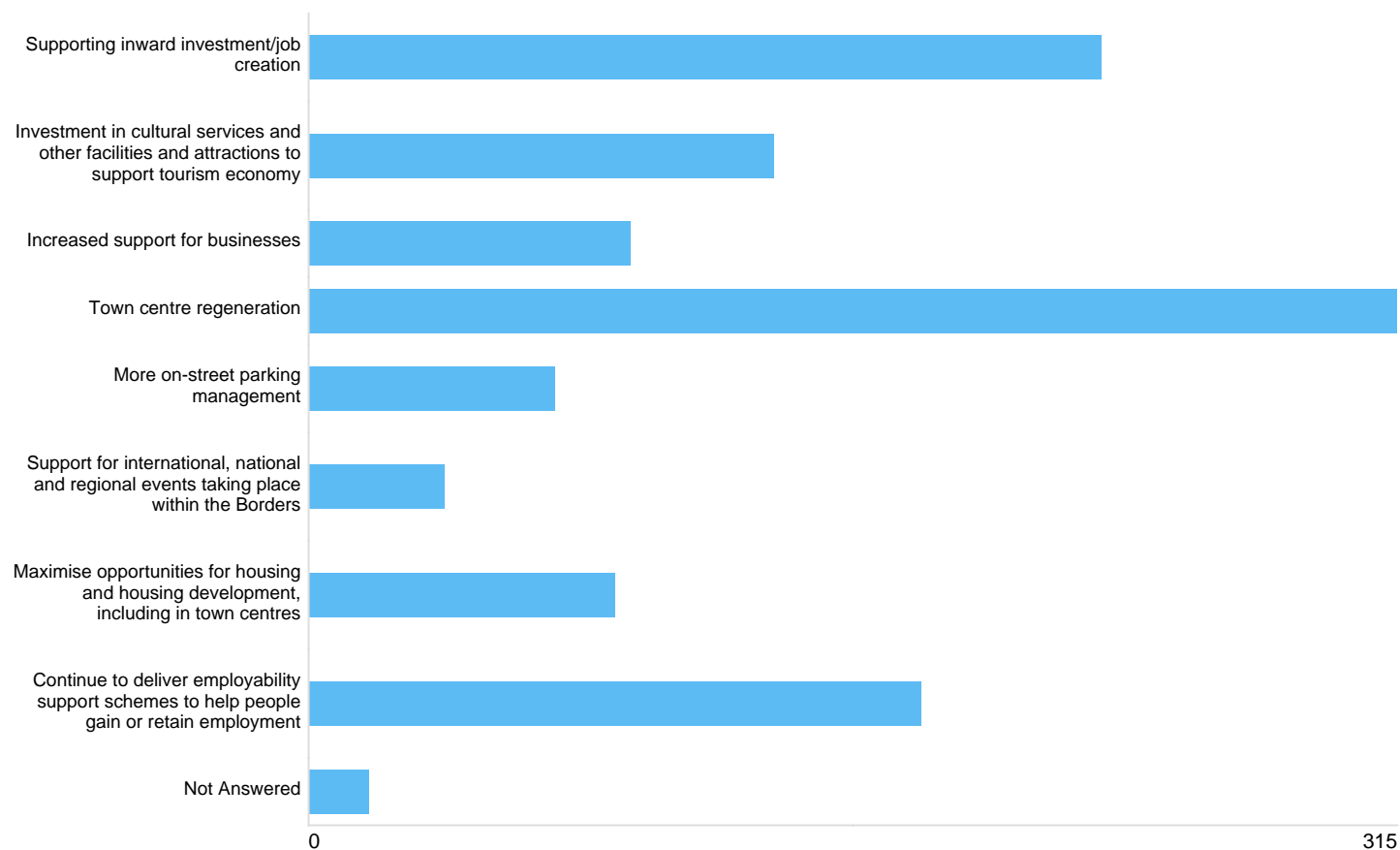
Option	Total	Percent
Action to tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change	139	11.95%
Increased recycling rates	74	6.36%
Protecting the public transport network	317	27.26%
Investment into electric vehicle charging network	46	3.96%
Increased green space management to support biodiversity	42	3.61%
More opportunities for local food growing, eg allotments	48	4.13%
More investment to support active travel, eg walking and cycling	130	11.18%
Protection of green spaces from housing/other development	137	11.78%
Focus future property investment on refurbishing/repurposing over new build	204	17.54%
Not Answered	26	2.24%

Priority - Fulfilling our potential



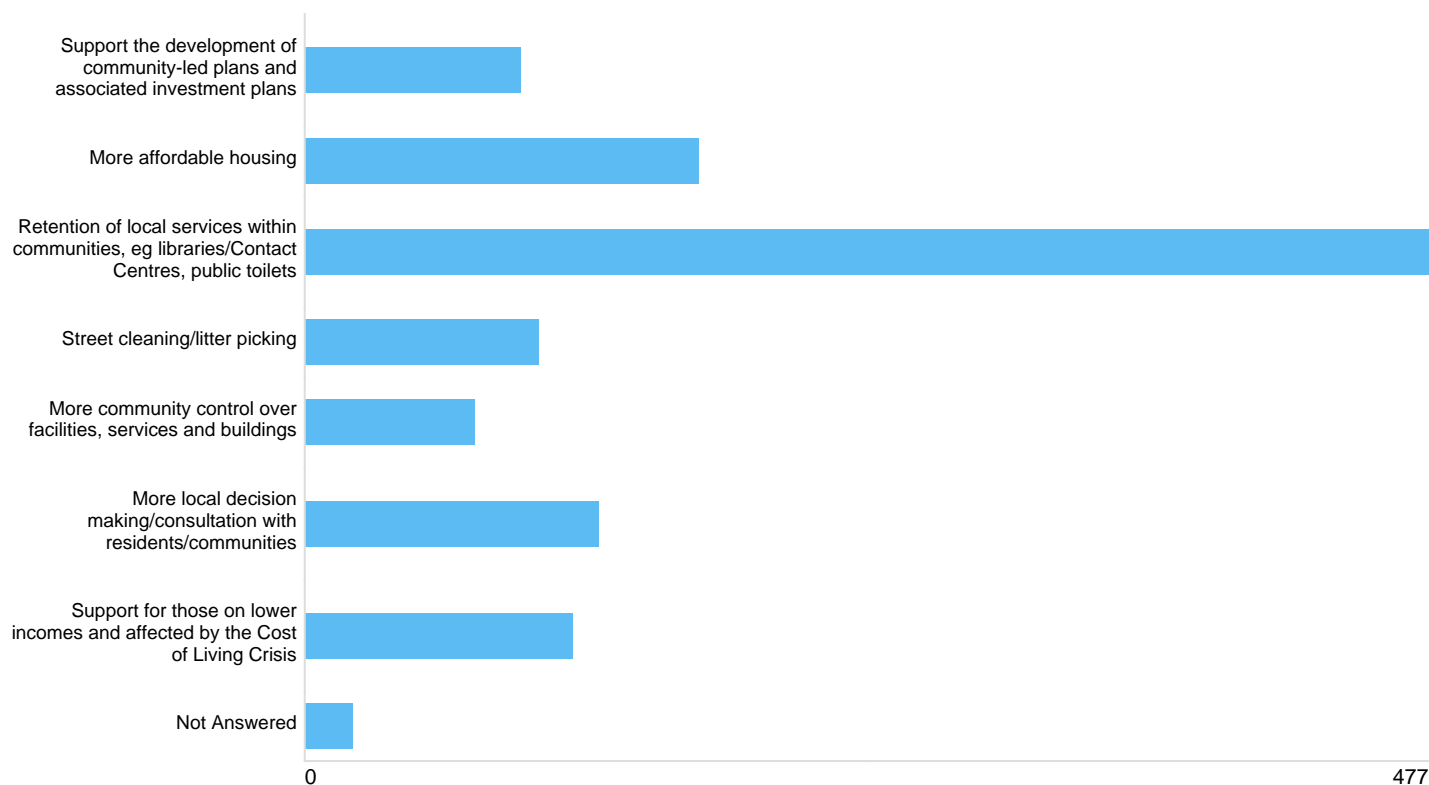
Option	Total	Percent
Increased attainment for all at school	214	18.40%
Reducing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged young people	171	14.70%
Increase access to health and wellbeing support for young people, eg mental health	231	19.86%
Maintain summer holiday food, wellbeing, childcare and activity support	78	6.71%
Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills in new technologies, such as green energy or esports	67	5.76%
Improve employability skills for young people and adults	313	26.91%
Increase young people's participation in the planning, provision and delivery of services	73	6.28%
Not Answered	16	1.38%

Priority - Strong inclusive economy



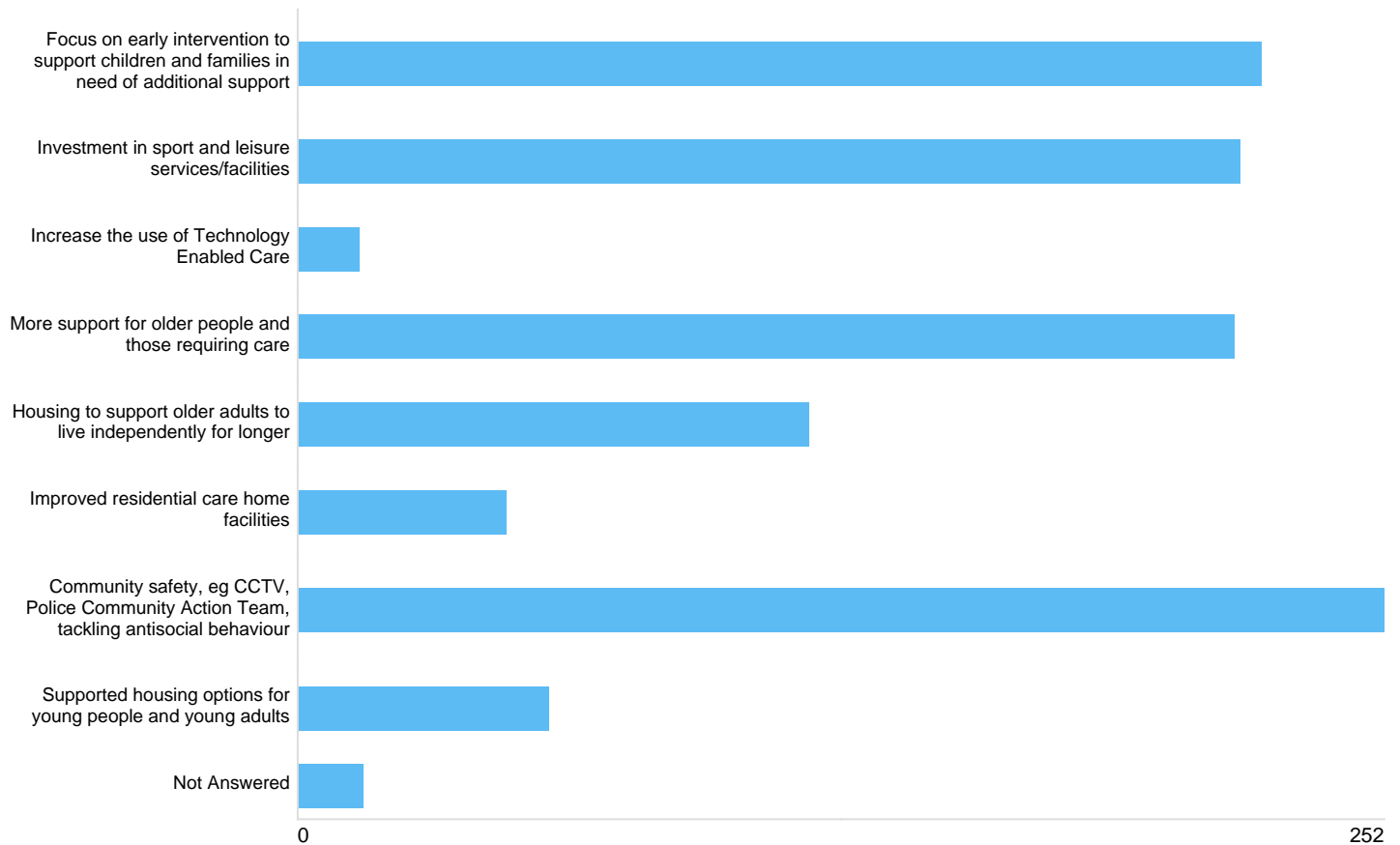
Option	Total	Percent
Supporting inward investment/job creation	229	19.69%
Investment in cultural services and other facilities and attractions to support tourism economy	134	11.52%
Increased support for businesses	93	8.00%
Town centre regeneration	315	27.09%
More on-street parking management	71	6.10%
Support for international, national and regional events taking place within the Borders	39	3.35%
Maximise opportunities for housing and housing development, including in town centres	88	7.57%
Continue to deliver employability support schemes to help people gain or retain employment	177	15.22%
Not Answered	17	1.46%

Priority - Empowered vibrant communities



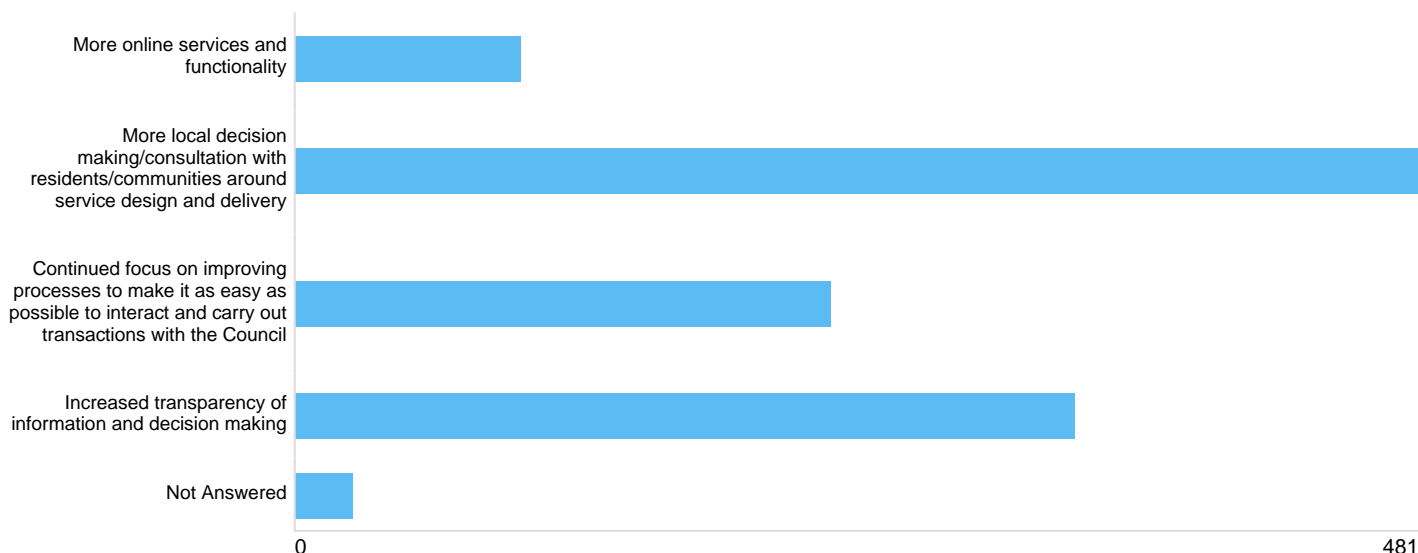
Option	Total	Percent
Support the development of community-led plans and associated investment plans	91	7.82%
More affordable housing	167	14.36%
Retention of local services within communities, eg libraries/Contact Centres, public toilets	477	41.01%
Street cleaning/litter picking	99	8.51%
More community control over facilities, services and buildings	72	6.19%
More local decision making/consultation with residents/communities	124	10.66%
Support for those on lower incomes and affected by the Cost of Living Crisis	113	9.72%
Not Answered	20	1.72%

Priority - Good health and wellbeing



Option	Total	Percent
Focus on early intervention to support children and families in need of additional support	223	19.17%
Investment in sport and leisure services/facilities	218	18.74%
Increase the use of Technology Enabled Care	14	1.20%
More support for older people and those requiring care	217	18.66%
Housing to support older adults to live independently for longer	118	10.15%
Improved residential care home facilities	48	4.13%
Community safety, eg CCTV, Police Community Action Team, tackling antisocial behaviour	252	21.67%
Supported housing options for young people and young adults	58	4.99%
Not Answered	15	1.29%

Priority - Working together improving lives



Option	Total	Percent
More online services and functionality	96	8.25%
More local decision making/consultation with residents/communities around service design and delivery	481	41.36%
Continued focus on improving processes to make it as easy as possible to interact and carry out transactions with the Council	229	19.69%
Increased transparency of information and decision making	333	28.63%
Not Answered	24	2.06%

Question 2: Do you have any suggestions?

Suggestions

There were **545** responses to this part of the question.

Question 3: What would you prefer, the Council pays for Christmas trees for our communities or maintains funding for local festivals/events?

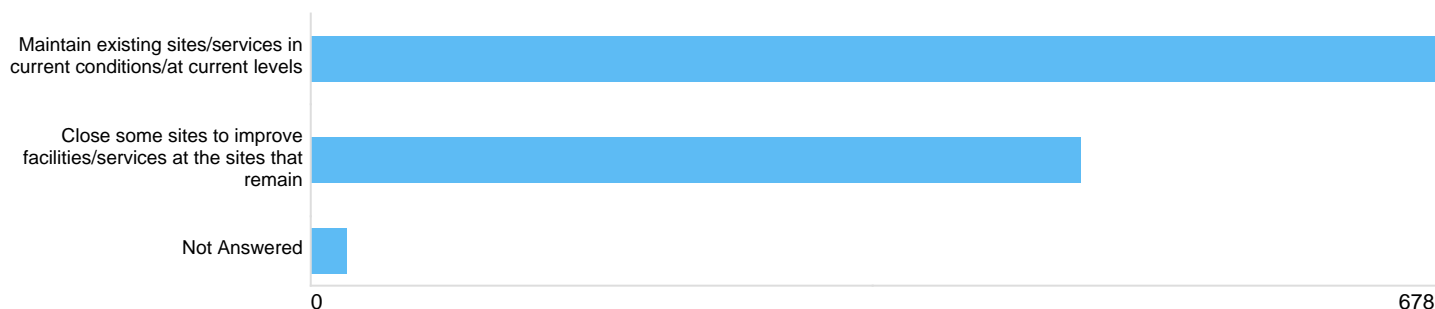
Balancing 1



Option	Total	Percent
Christmas trees	232	19.95%
Festival/local event funding	906	77.90%
Not Answered	25	2.15%

Question 4: Would you like to see services continue to operate from all existing sites, or some close to allow investment into the services and remaining buildings they would operate from (eg libraries/contact centres/sport centres)?

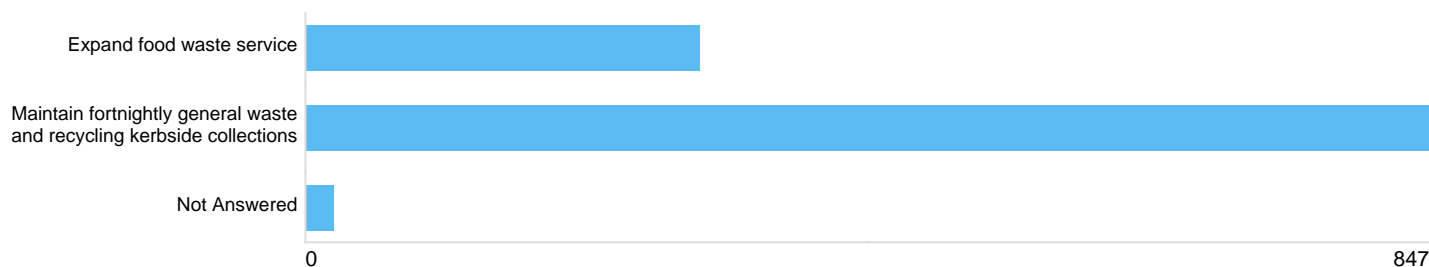
Balancing 2



Option	Total	Percent
Maintain existing sites/services in current conditions/at current levels	678	58.30%
Close some sites to improve facilities/services at the sites that remain	464	39.90%
Not Answered	21	1.81%

Question 5: Would you prefer an expansion of the food waste collection service to all households (which would help to increase recycling rates and remove waste from black bins) or maintain fortnightly general waste and recycling collections?

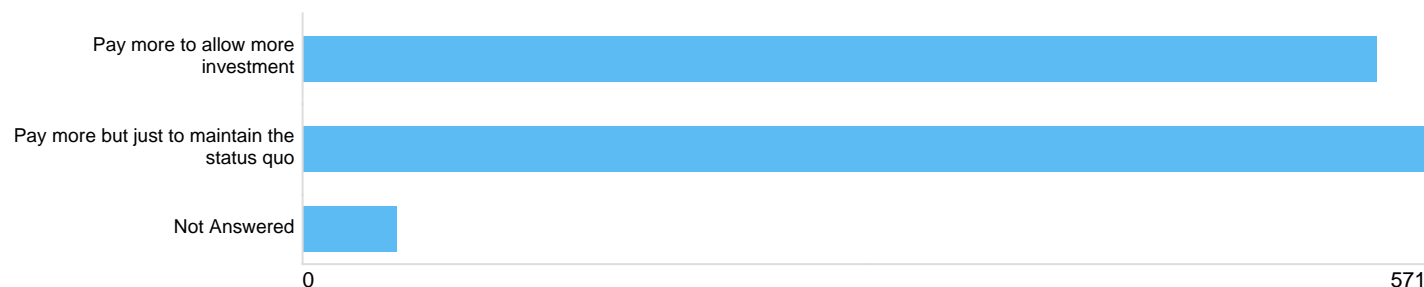
Balancing 3



Option	Total	Percent
Expand food waste service	296	25.45%
Maintain fortnightly general waste and recycling kerbside collections	847	72.83%
Not Answered	20	1.72%

Question 6: When we can increase Council Tax again, would you prefer a smaller increase, eg 6%, which would at best keep things as they are, or prefer a larger increase, eg 10%, to enable more investment into priority areas?

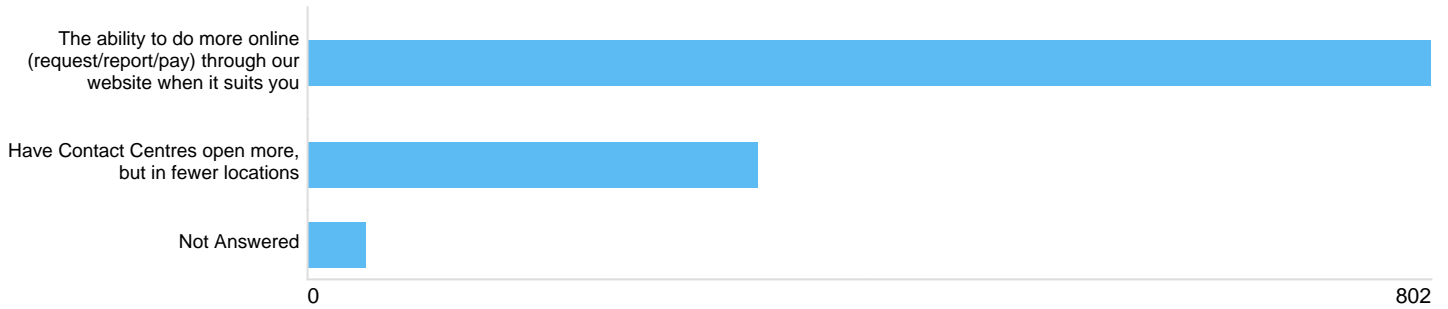
Balancing 4



Option	Total	Percent
Pay more to allow more investment	545	46.86%
Pay more but just to maintain the status quo	571	49.10%
Not Answered	47	4.04%

Question 7: Which of the following would be your preference?

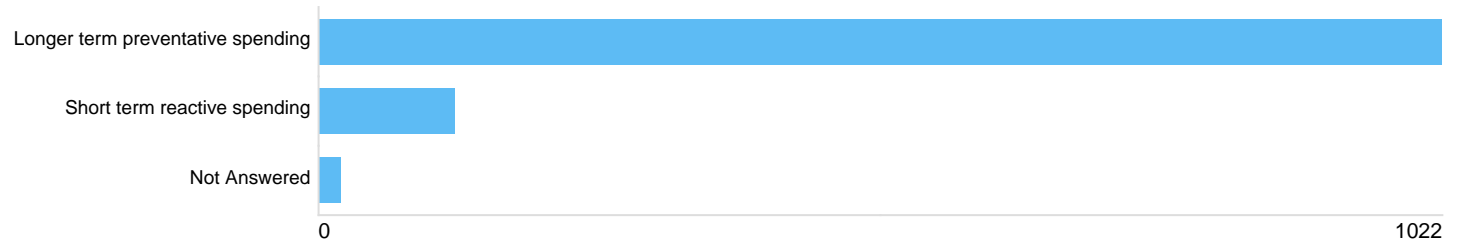
Balancing 5



Option	Total	Percent
The ability to do more online (request/report/pay) through our website when it suits you	802	68.96%
Have Contact Centres open more, but in fewer locations	320	27.52%
Not Answered	41	3.53%

Question 8: Would you prefer more money to be spent over a longer period of time to resolve issues or short term reactive spending on immediate problems which may not fix the issue permanently?

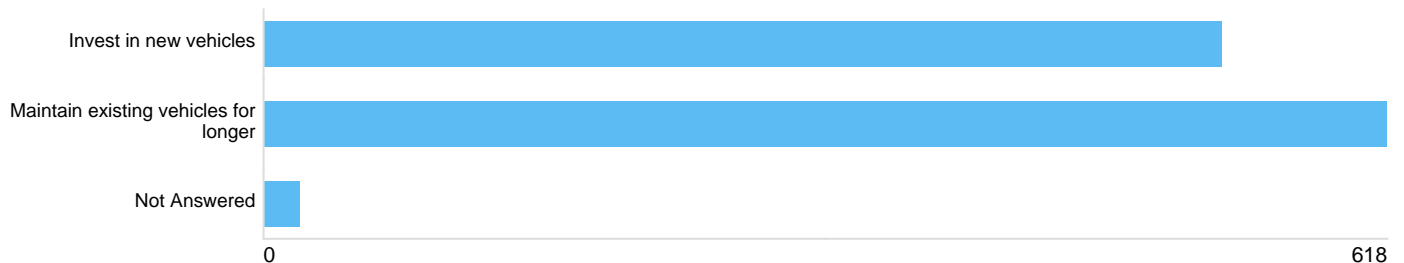
Balancing 6



Option	Total	Percent
Longer term preventative spending	1022	87.88%
Short term reactive spending	122	10.49%
Not Answered	19	1.63%

Question 9: Would you rather the Council invested more money into newer service vehicles (inc hybrid/electric to help reduce carbon emissions) or tried to maintain existing vehicles for longer to reduce capital costs, but which may result in more breakdowns/delays to service delivery?

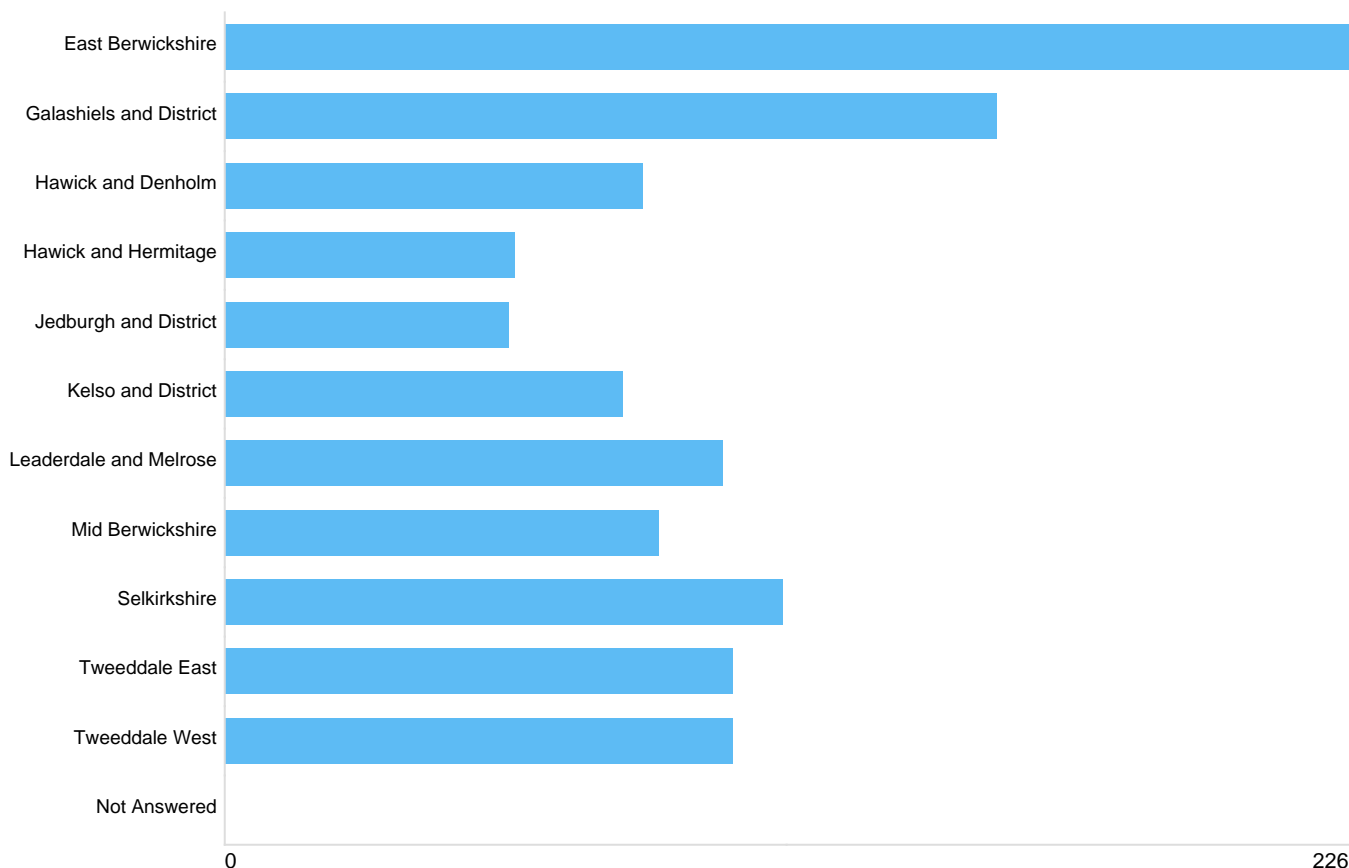
Balancing 7



Option	Total	Percent
Invest in new vehicles	526	45.23%
Maintain existing vehicles for longer	618	53.14%
Not Answered	19	1.63%

Question 10: What Council ward do you live in?

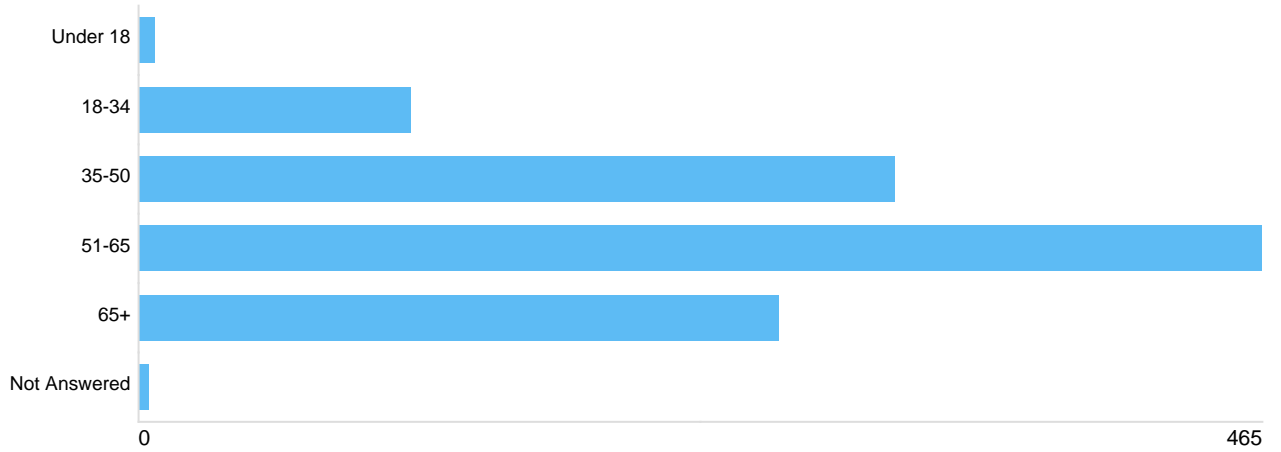
Ward



Option	Total	Percent
East Berwickshire	226	19.43%
Galashiels and District	155	13.33%
Hawick and Denholm	84	7.22%
Hawick and Hermitage	58	4.99%
Jedburgh and District	57	4.90%
Kelso and District	80	6.88%
Leaderdale and Melrose	100	8.60%
Mid Berwickshire	87	7.48%
Selkirkshire	112	9.63%
Tweeddale East	102	8.77%
Tweeddale West	102	8.77%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Question 11: Your age group

Age group



Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	6	0.52%
18-34	112	9.63%
35-50	312	26.83%
51-65	465	39.98%
65+	264	22.70%
Not Answered	4	0.34%