

# Comprehensive Spending Review Impact Study Interim Main Findings

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# Why did we undertake the research?

- Understand the financial impact of the Coalition's CSR based on history
- How delivery and quality of services will be affected by public spending cuts
- Focus primarily on 2011/12 Financial Year
- Approaches being made to reduce expenditure
- Staffing implications
- Longer term strategies to deliver services
- Evidence and advocacy- Communities Minister Andrew Stunell MP

# Structure of Survey

- Survey Monkey Questionnaire
- March 2011- clear idea on impact in 11/12
- 63 completed responses built into interim report
- Ongoing- still brief opportunity to complete
- Currently 77 responses

# What did you tell us?

## The Headlines

Vast  
Majority-  
(82%)  
Budgets  
reduced

Significant  
skills  
shortages

Cuts greater  
than local  
authority as  
a whole

A Third  
reductions  
in excess of  
20% in Year  
1

Decline in  
Quality  
Green  
Space

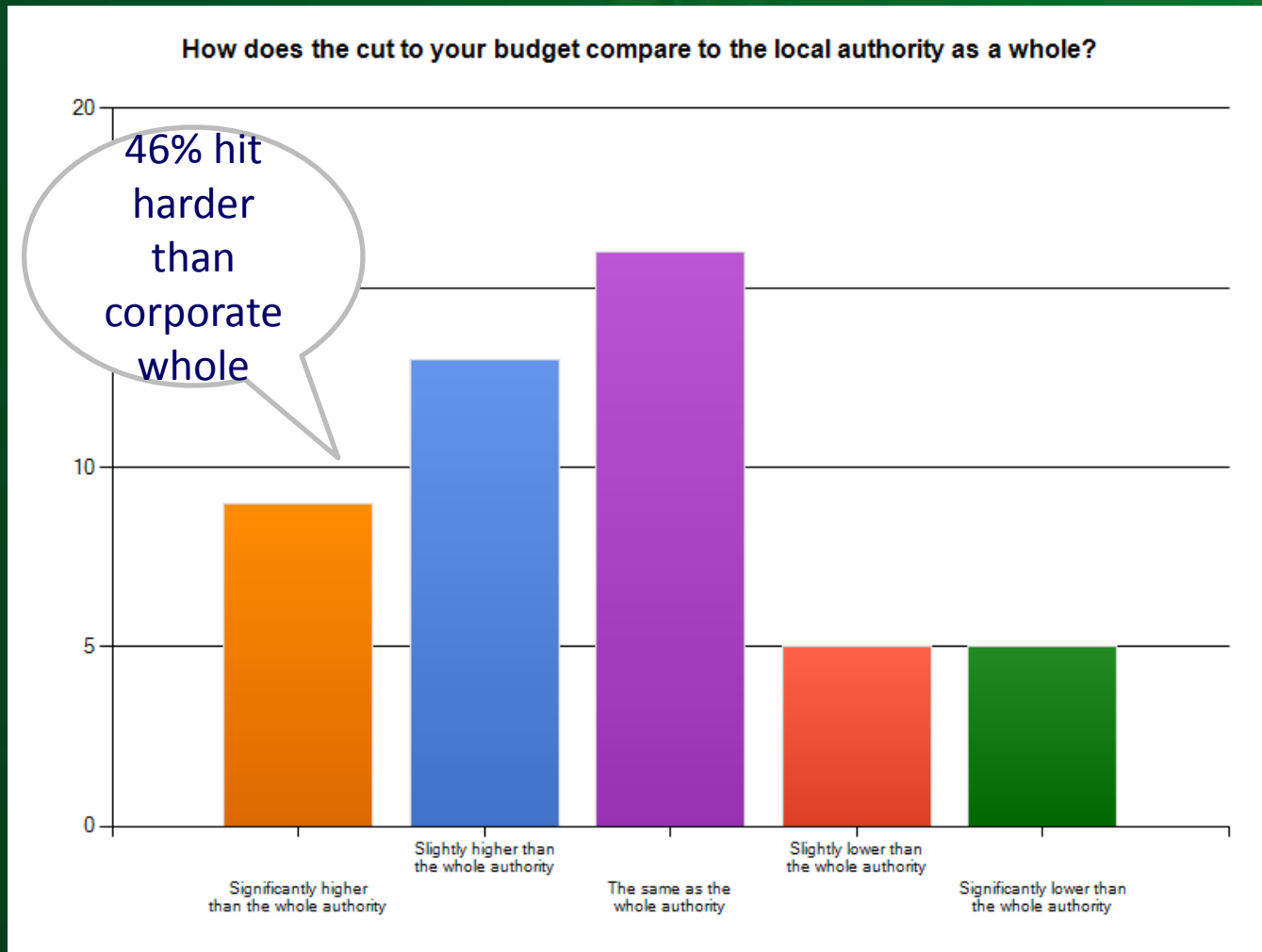
Staff losses  
including  
frontline

# Scale of Cuts in 11/12

Budget reduction	No. Respondents	% Respondents
0-5%	8	16%
5-10%	14	28%
10-15%	8	16%
15-20%	5	10%
20-25%	4	8%
25-30%	5	10%
35-40%	1	2%
45-50%	2	4%
50%+	3	6%

30% in  
excess of  
20%

# Budget Comparison



# Staff Implications

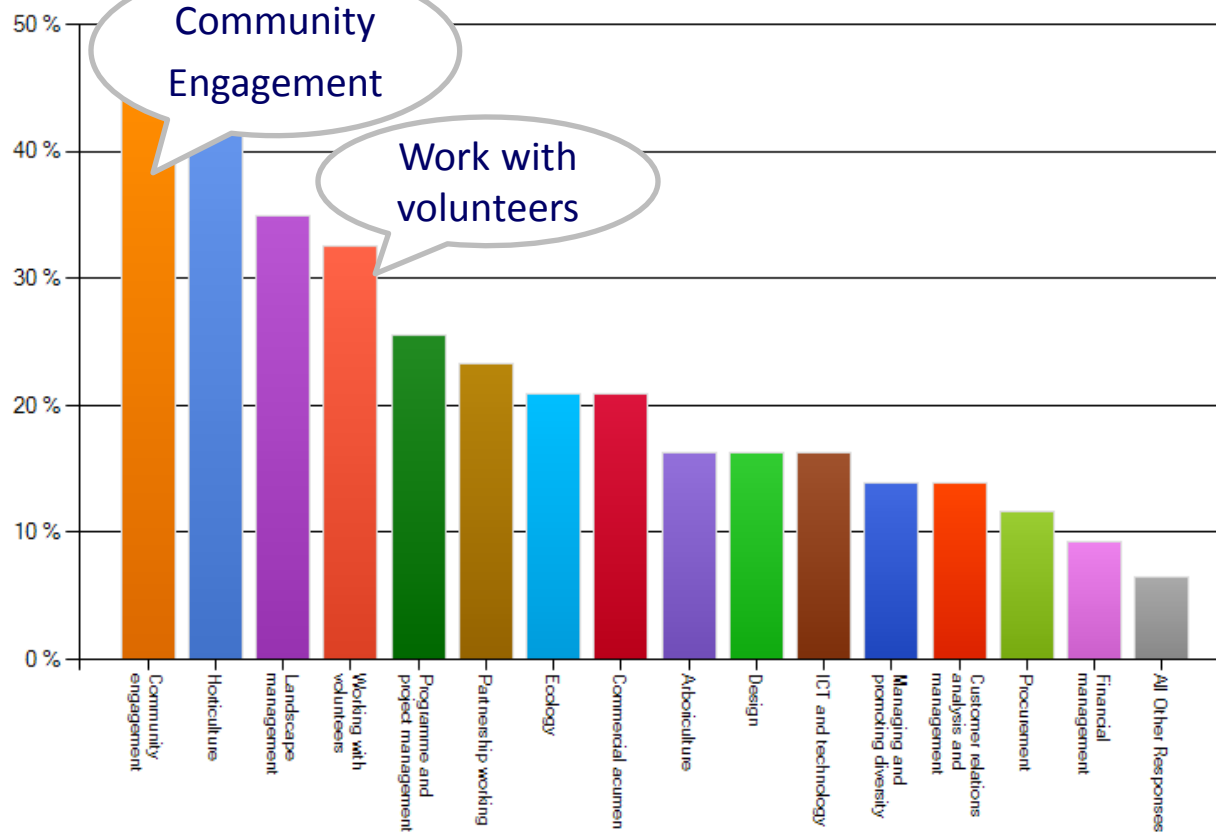
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of losses 'frontline staff'
- 17% loss of horticulturists
- 12% other skilled specialists

Combined data suggests 60% of job losses are staff involved in maintenance and upkeep

**Appears Coalition's claim that budgets could be reduced without damage to frontline services appears unrealistic in relation to green space services**

# Skills Shortage Forecast

Looking ahead, in which of the following skills areas do you think you have / will have a significant skills shortage?



# Other budget savings

- General efficiency savings
- Suspension of improvement works
- Increased income generation
- Reduction of basic maintenance operations
- Loss of annual bedding
- Change to procurement options

# What does this mean for Parks and Green Spaces?

- 80% forecast quality standards will fall
- 80% forecast reduced ability to deal with vandalism and wear and tear
- 70% expect a reduced ability to provide attractive and welcoming sites
- 50% expect a drop in safety and security
- 68% are more likely not to be able to meet the needs of users
- A third forecast negative impacts on wider objectives including biodiversity, climate change, healthy lifestyles and building and supporting stronger communities

# Structural Responses

Merging with other service areas as part of a broader delivery unity

- 54% considering this approach
- 75% will apply to much or all the service
- 75% state it is likely or very likely to happen

**Potential loss of dedicated parks and green space teams, specialist staff and ability to retain the sectors position as a vanguard of Big Society**

# What next?

- Still a small opportunity to complete the survey til end of June

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GreenSpace\\_CSR\\_Impactsurvey-V2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GreenSpace_CSR_Impactsurvey-V2)

- Final report to members in August
- Repeat surveys to track change Future 'State of the Nation' being considered