

Boundary Review – Members Survey Results

As part of the Boundary Review of Bath and North East Somerset, supported by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), a survey of elected members was carried out in February and March 2017 to gather intelligence to reflect the experiences of our local councillors both in terms of local ward activity and the broader work of the council.

The information collected will be used by the Council to understand the role of elected members and will be submitted as supporting evidence to the Boundary Commission. This document publishes the summary findings. The survey was open from 27th February 2017 to 20th March 2017. 34 complete responses were received from a total population of 65 councillors.

Please contact the Council Business Intelligence Team (research@bathnes.gov.uk) for any further questions about the methodology or analysis of this survey.

Further information about the Boundary Review process can be found at [2017 Local Government Boundary Review](#)

Q1 - On average, how much time do you spend on Council business in a week?

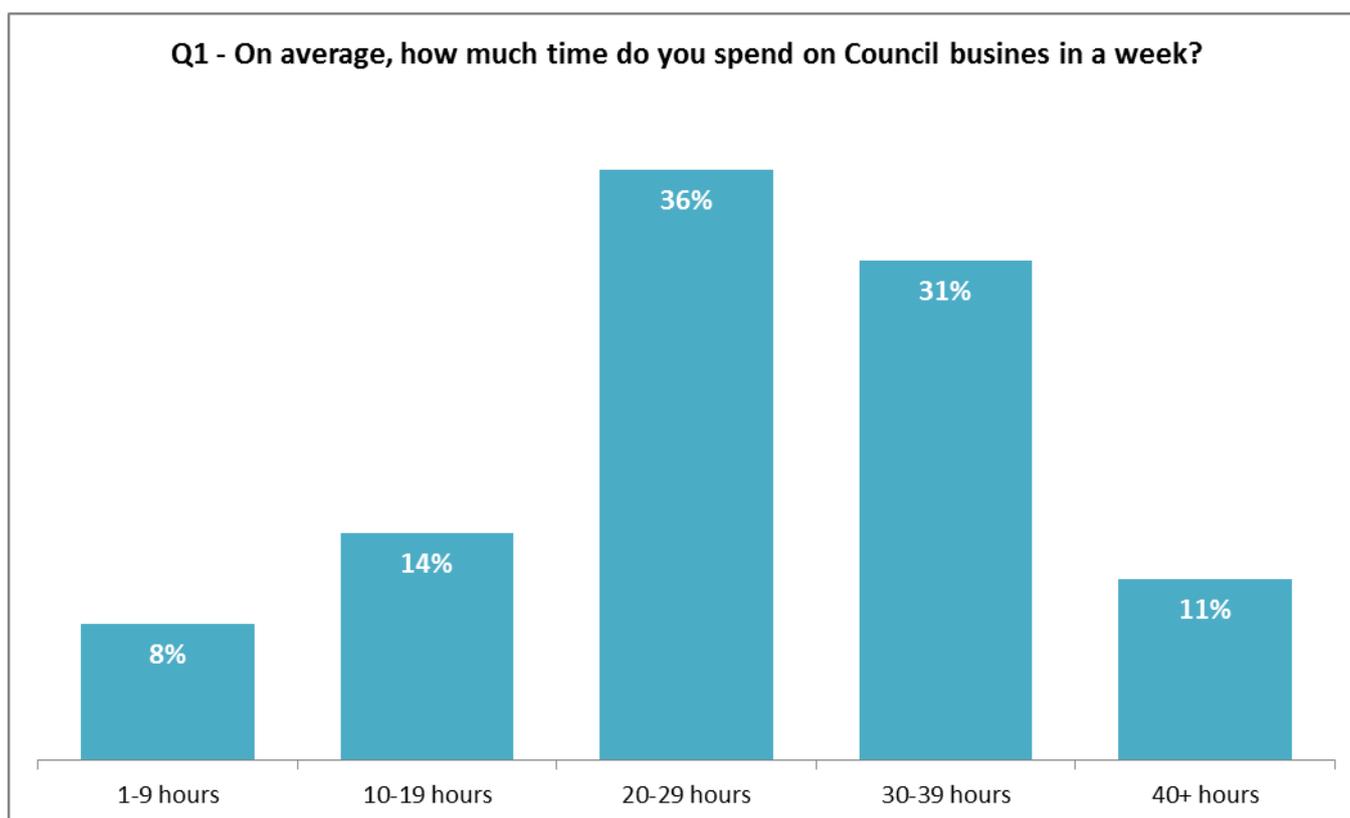


Fig 1 – average weekly time spent on council business

Figure 1 shows that the majority of respondents (36%) reported spending between 20-29 hours on council business in an average week. A further 31% spend on average 30-39 hours per week.

Q2 - Please think about the amount of time you have spent on Council business over the last year. Have you generally found it to be...

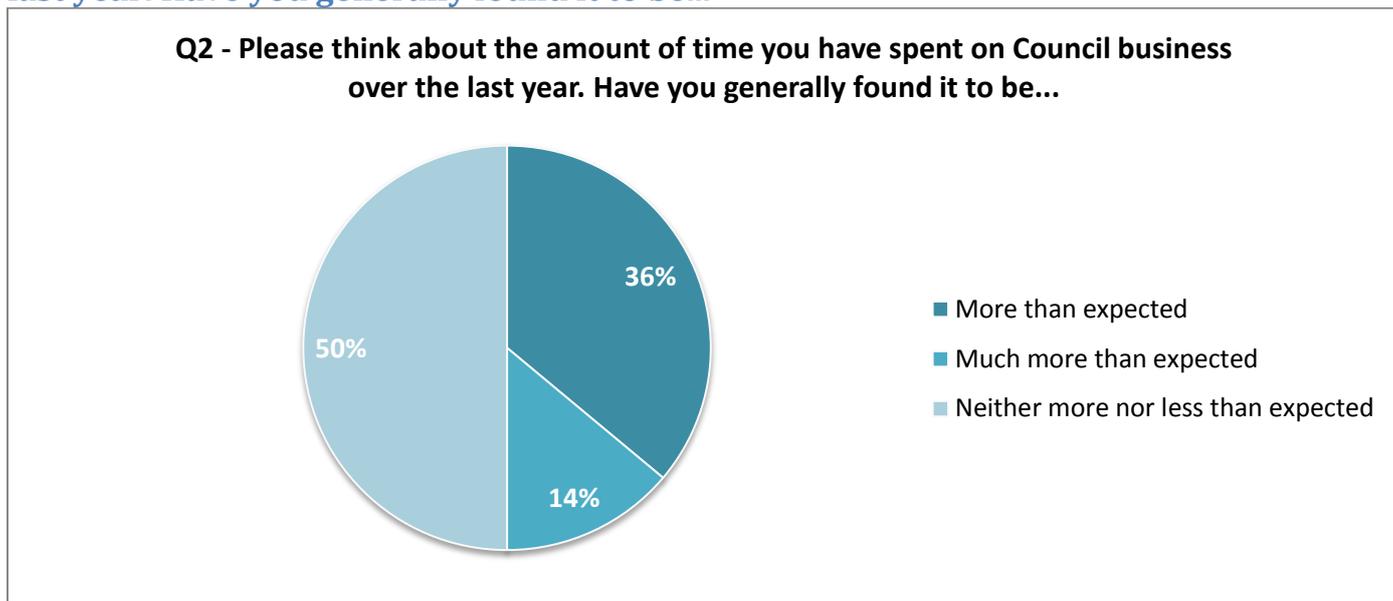


Fig 2 – Expectations of time spent on Council business

Figure 2 shows that 50% of respondents found the amount of time they have spent on Council business over the past year to be about what they expected. Just over a third (36%) reported they had spent more time than they expected to.

Q3 - Are you a member of any of the following?

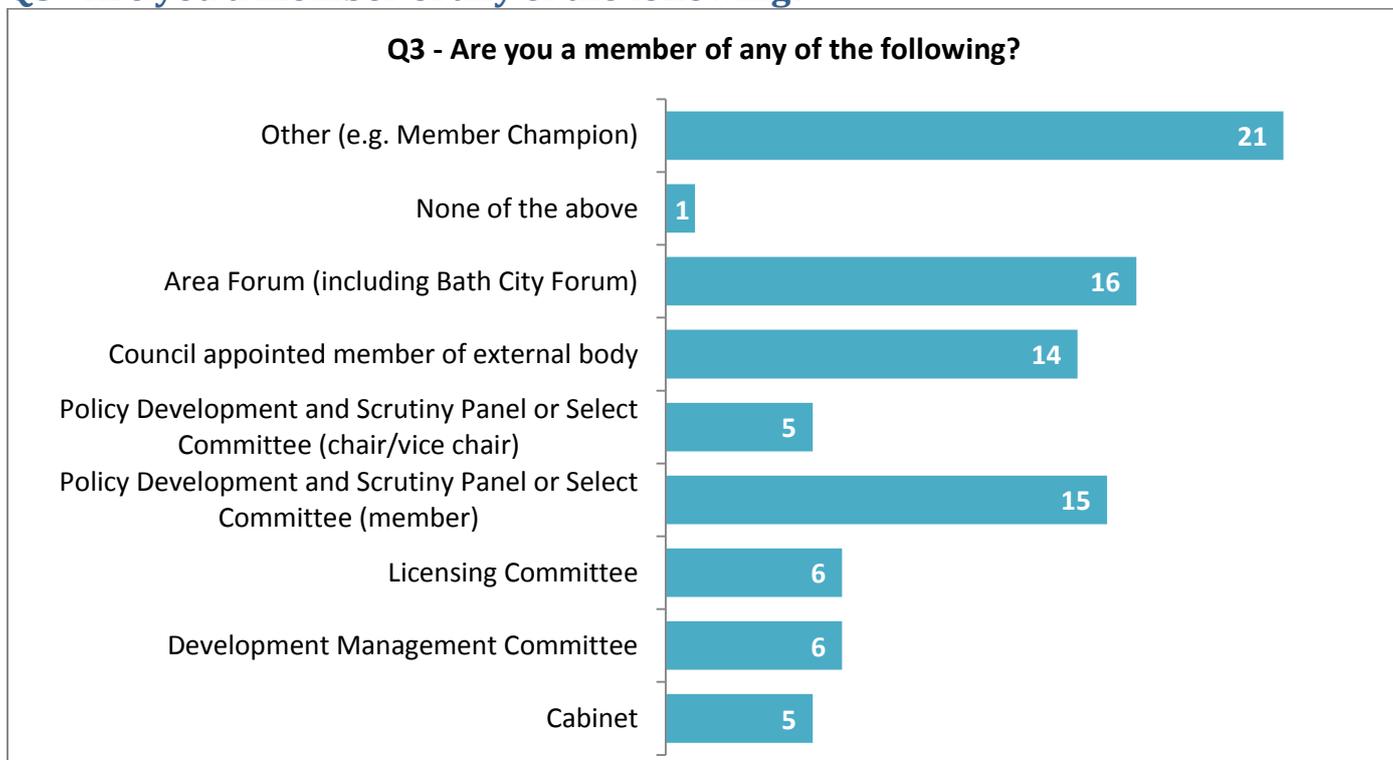


Fig 3 – Memberships of groups and committees

Figure 3 shows memberships of groups and committees. In total 89 memberships were reported by elected members with the most prevalent being Area forums, appointments to external bodies, membership of policy development and scrutiny panels or select committees and other membership (e.g. Member Champions).

Q4 - Thinking about your role over the last year, how often did you carry out the following?

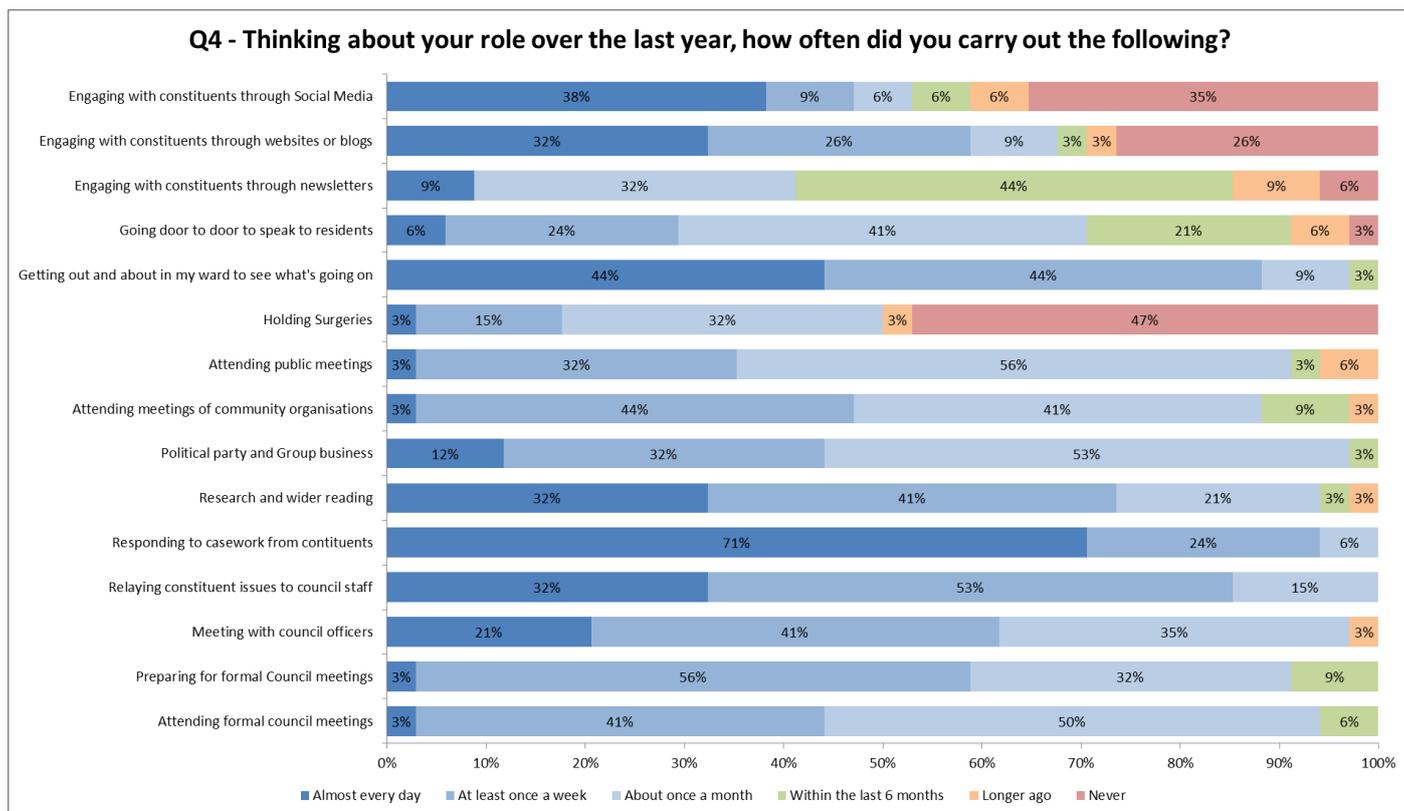


Fig 4 – Frequency of tasks performed as part of Council business

Figure 4 shows how often respondents performed a variety of tasks relating to their role as councillors. The most frequent tasks (proportion daily or at least once a week) were responding to casework from constituents, getting out and about in their ward and relaying constituent issues to council staff.

The least frequent tasks (proportion longer ago or never) were holding surgeries and engaging with constituents through social media, websites or blogs.

Q5 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about modern technology and social media?

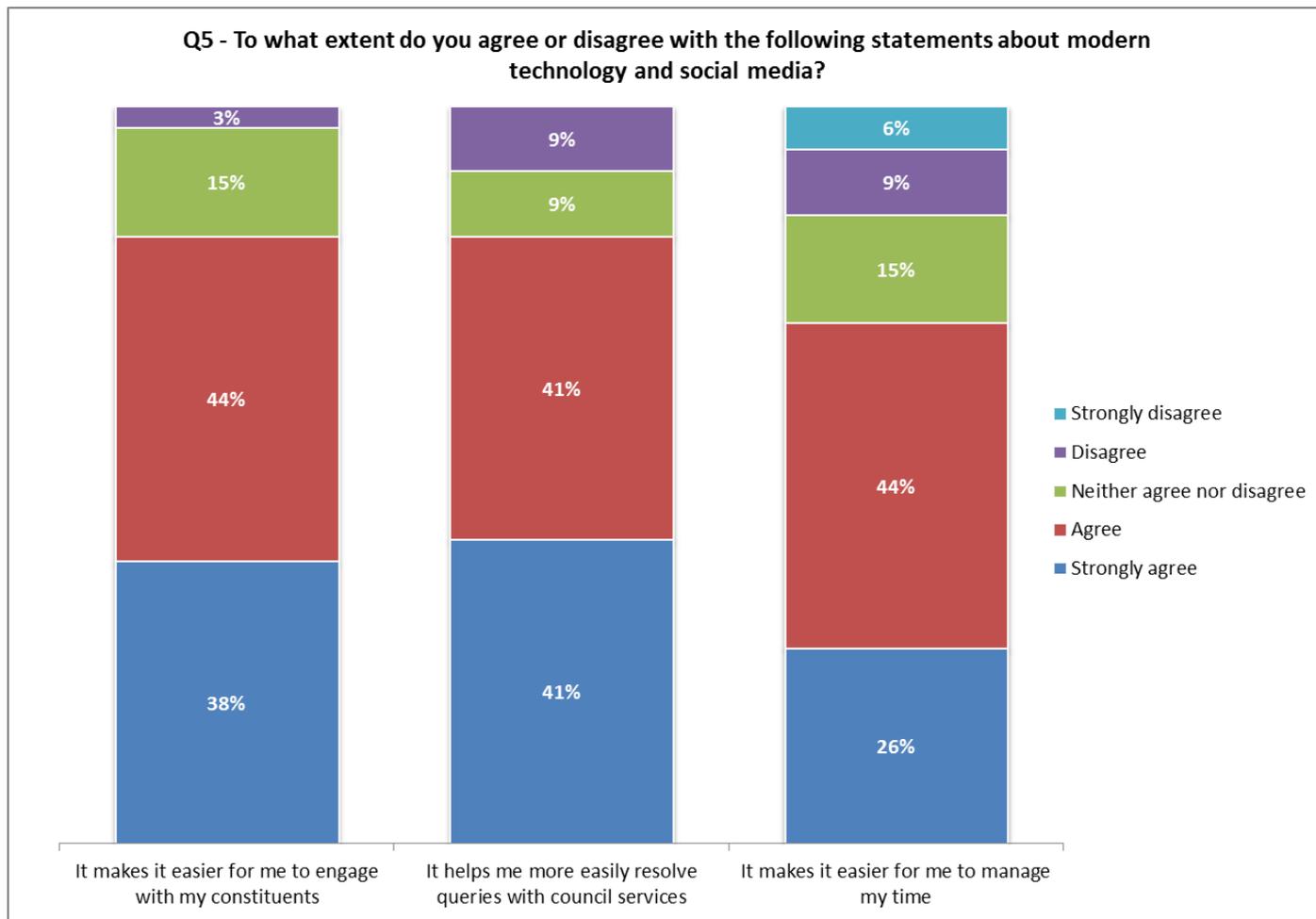


Fig 5 – Opinions of the impact of modern technology and social media on the role of councillors

Figure 5 shows that the large majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all 3 statements about the impacts of modern technology and social media with 82% saying it makes it easier for them to engage with their constituents, 82% saying it helps them more easily resolve queries with council services and 70% saying it makes it easier for them to manage their time.

Q6 - In your opinion, what single issue do you feel will have the largest impact on your role as Councillor in the next 5 years?

Question 6 was a free text response asking members what issues they felt would have the largest impact on their roles in the next 5 years. Responses were coded and figure 6 below shows the top 5 category of responses. Note that individual responses can appear in multiple categories to capture the issues raised in the comment.

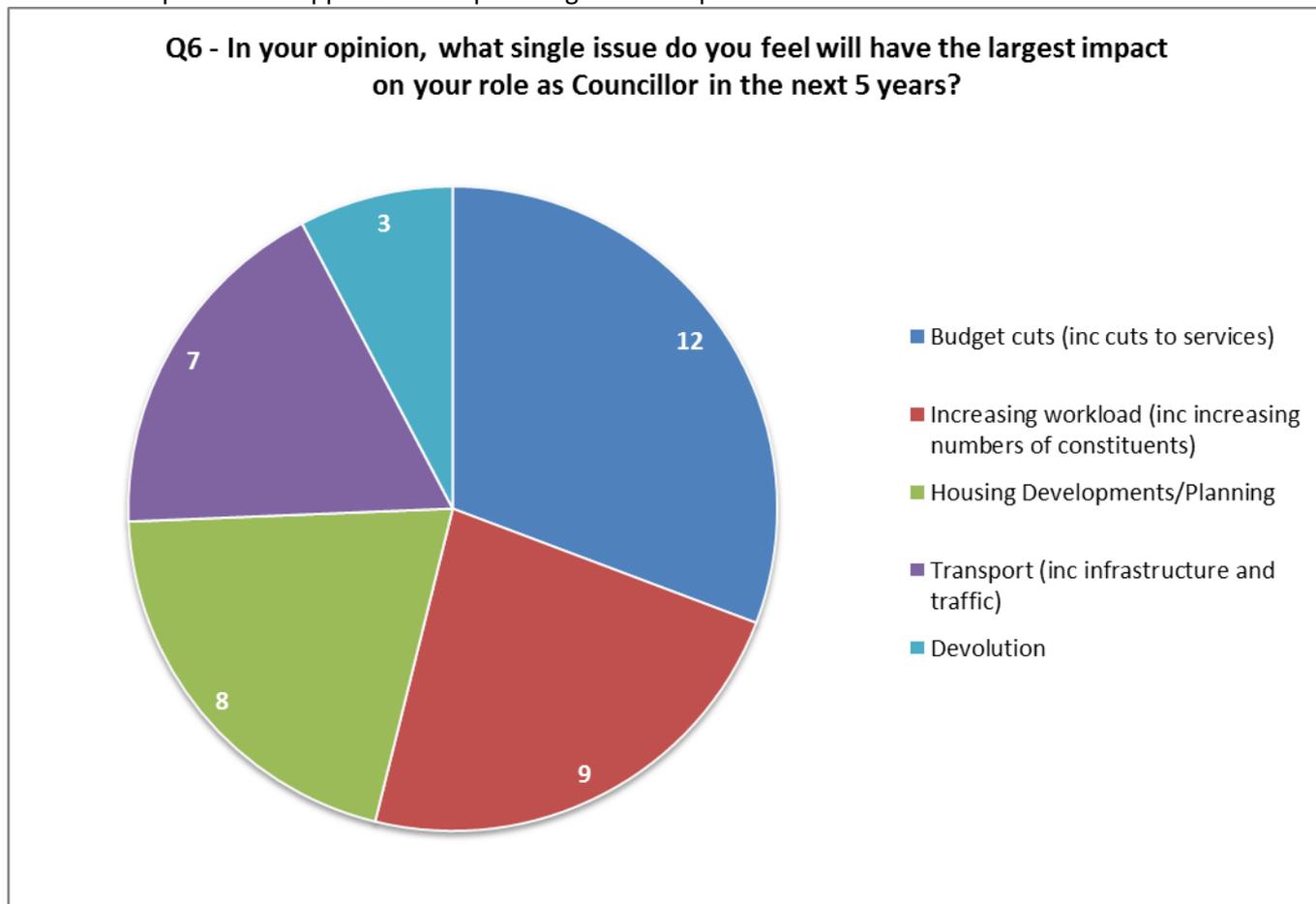


Fig 6 – Top 5 categories of issues raised as likely to affect the role of councillors over the next 5 years.

Budget cuts and subsequent cuts to services was the largest category of issue raised in member’s responses, followed by increasing workloads (including as a result of increases in numbers of constituents) and the potential impact of planned housing development.

Q7 – Ward Representation

Question 7 asked respondents to select the ward they represent. From 34 completed responses, **26 of the 37 wards** in BaNES were represented in these results.