

Report to Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.3

Meeting Date: 23rd April 2015
Portfolio: Environment and Transport
Key Decision: Not Applicable:
Within Policy and Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: RE-THINKING WASTE
Report of: The Director of Local Environment
Report Number: LE11/15

Purpose / Summary:

The report updates the panel on progress on the Re-thinking Waste Project since last September 2014.

Recommendations:

That the panel consider the update and make recommendations to the Project Board on membership of the member Working Group

Tracking

Executive:	
Overview and Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Activities since last update

New interim contract for Green Box kerbside collection - The Green Box contract was advertised on 5th November 2014 and issued on the OJEU website. The contract offered was a short term one year contract with an option to extend for one year to allow the overall re-thinking waste project to complete with continuity of service on the green box. FCC were successful in winning the tender and negotiations are continuing on finalising the contract to enable the commencement of the service to run seamlessly from one contract to another. The new contract is due to commence on 1st June 2015 and will run to June 2016.

Review of sale of recycled materials - A review was undertaken of the performance of the new contract for the sale of recyclate. The known tonnages were modelled for the bids that had been received and Cumbria Waste was by far the best performer, therefore the officer decision was made in January 2015 to take the option to extend the contract by one year.

Increasing robustness of service delivery - The service suffers from a high turnover of staff and at times a high level of sickness. Whilst attendance and capability are being addressed, the service still has a very high reliance on agency staff. The decision was taken to introduce 4 pool staff to supplement the current establishment. Recruitment to vacant posts and the pool team was recently undertaken meaning that the use of Agency staff will be reduced to more reasonable levels. This will increase the robustness of the service and increase the quality of service delivery as staff continuity means that the crews get to know the rounds and so mistakes are minimised.

County Council emerging issues - The County Council have included savings of £2m per year from 2016/17 from recycling. Discussions have taken place between the County and all the Districts as the County seek to achieve this saving by working with the District Authorities. There are opportunities to reduce spend by working better together for instance, sharing depot space, garage services, joint procurement of bins, boxes and bags and sale of pooled recyclate materials, however, these have been identified before and have proved difficult to achieve. The recent study by Eunomia shows that Carlisle is very efficient and the number of households on each collection round is at a high level and is much higher than other authorities in Cumbria, eg South Lakeland. If the savings are not achieved, then the County may take other steps to achieve the savings which could impact on the Districts ability to continue with the current level of recycling service.

The County are reviewing the current Cumbria Waste Strategy 2008-2020 and is working with the Districts to reflect changes and identify the aims and objectives of the strategy going forwards. This is a key piece of work and will impact on all Districts.

WRAP support and Eunomia modelling update - WRAP provided support in the procurement and funding of consultancy support to carry out a modelling exercise for 16 options in recycling collection design. This work was carried out and reported in Summer 2014. Since that time, changes have taken place: the market for recyclates has dropped in value, the costs of vehicles have changed and the County council propose to save £2m from recycling.

Eunomia were therefore asked to carry out some further modelling focussing on a smaller number of the options and to update modelling assumptions to reflect the current situation. Additional work was requested on modelling of a further two options (two stream co-mingled) to check if there were significant savings from undertaking the collection in this way and to test the previous recommendation for a weekly multi-stream collection of recycling. Sensitivity modelling was also requested to the level of recycling credit.

Consideration is being given to the reports and the consultants will be making a presentation to the Executive on findings. Evaluation of the report and identifying the risks and opportunities in the preferred options is underway. A cross party member workshop is proposed to consider the final reports in more detail as part of this evaluation.

Food waste - Food waste collection is one of the options considered in the Eunomia modelling, however, the County Council do not provide any disposal facilities for food waste and have not given any indication that they intend to do so in the future. Instead, work is progressing to support home composting of food waste and Carlisle is currently in the position of procuring a partner to deliver the County wide Food waste digester project.

1.2 Next steps

The project is moving into a critical phase in the next few months where the authority makes decisions on its preferred recycling collection design. Once the preferred option is identified further work on depot design and costing, consultation and TEEP (Technical, Environmental Economic Practicable) Assessments will be required.

The authority will also consider how to fund vehicle replacement in the future and how refuse and recycling services will be delivered, in- house or out-sourced.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed, as part of the evaluation of the consultants modelling reports, to set up a cross party members working group. The group is likely to meet a number of times over a fairly short period to fully consider the opportunities and risks associated with each of the preferred options identified by Eunomia.

The panel is asked to make recommendations on the membership of the working group to the Project Board.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Public consultation has been undertaken and will continue, particularly in the areas of poor recycling. A snapshot of the consultation outcomes so far is attached at Appendix 1.

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Re-thinking Waste Project is a complex, multi-layered project going much further than a redesign of recycling collections. The project requires consideration of the best design in context with a whole set of constraints and other consideration;
- how to fund the service going forwards,
 - how to manage demand and pressures on the service from the growing number of households in Carlisle,
 - TEEP Assessment
 - the City Council in context with the County Council as waste disposal authority, and
 - national considerations such as recycling targets and EU Directives,
- are important to fully understand and assess the best way forward for Carlisle that best meets residents needs and delivers the authorities statutory obligations in this regard.

A cross part working group to fully assess the options, risk and opportunities is therefore recommended to assist in this evaluation so that different perspectives are considered during the decision making process.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

5.1 The recycling service makes key contributions to Carlisle's commitment to the environment and the Clean Up Carlisle campaign.

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**Appendices
attached to report:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **None**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS:

Chief Executive's -

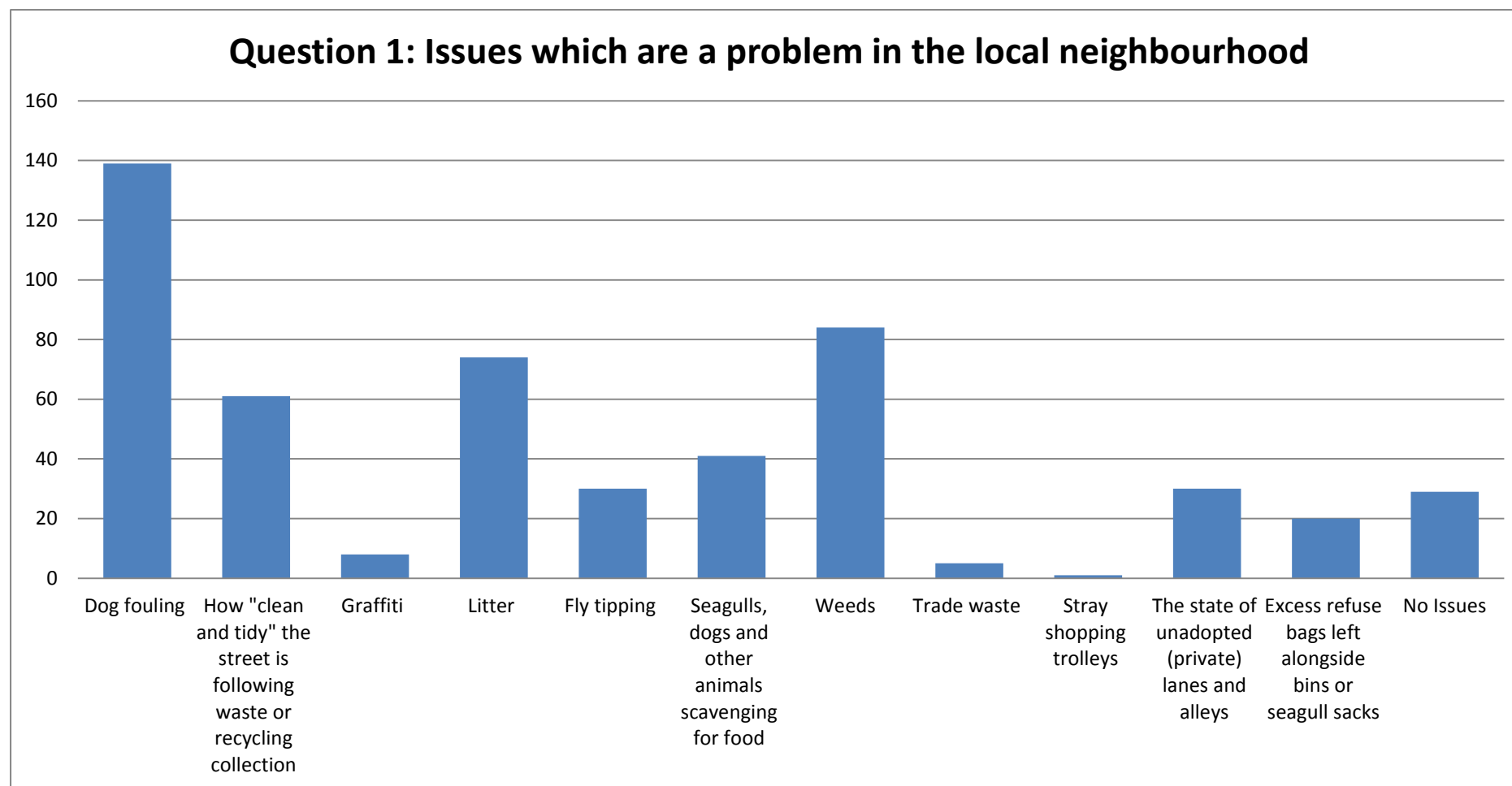
Deputy Chief Executive –

Economic Development –

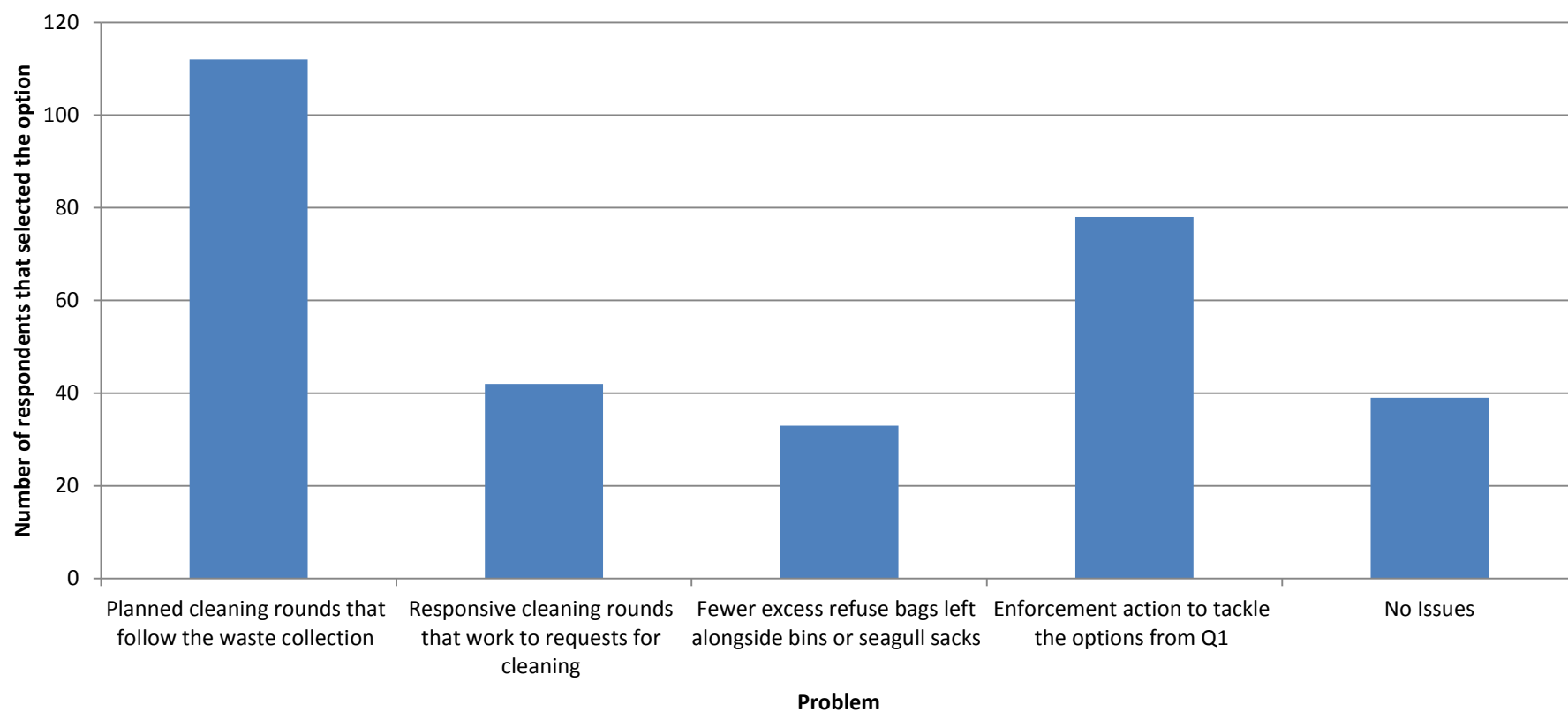
Governance –

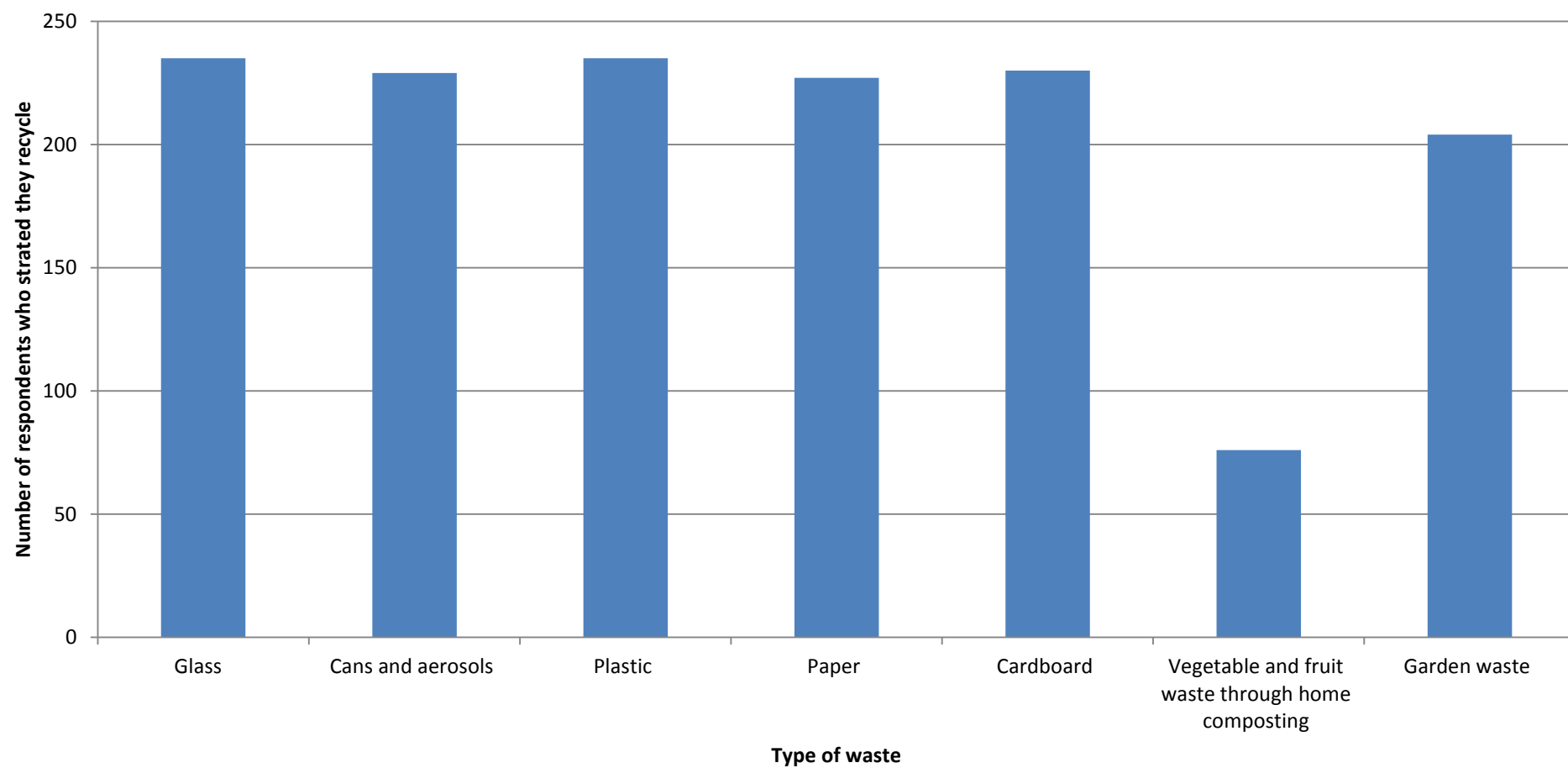
Local Environment –

Resources -



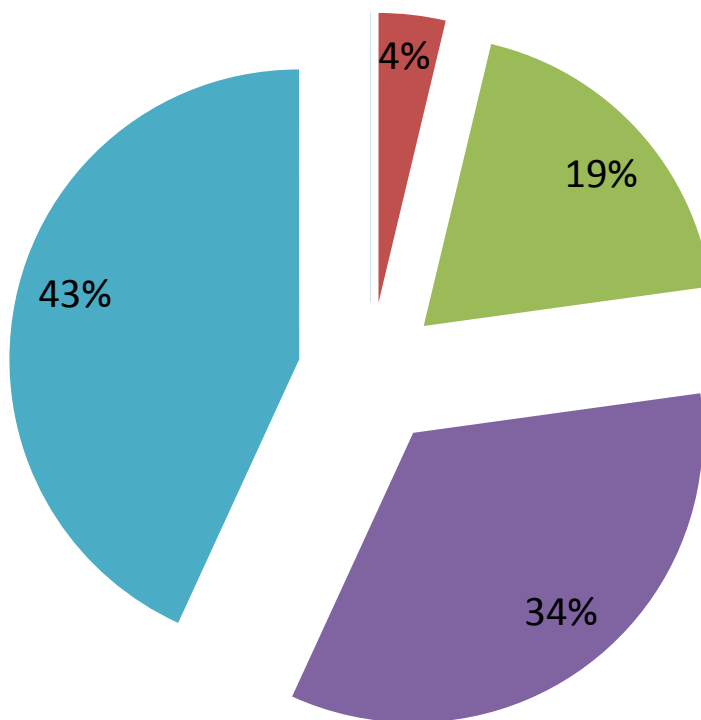
Question 2: What would help to keep your street cleaner and tidier?

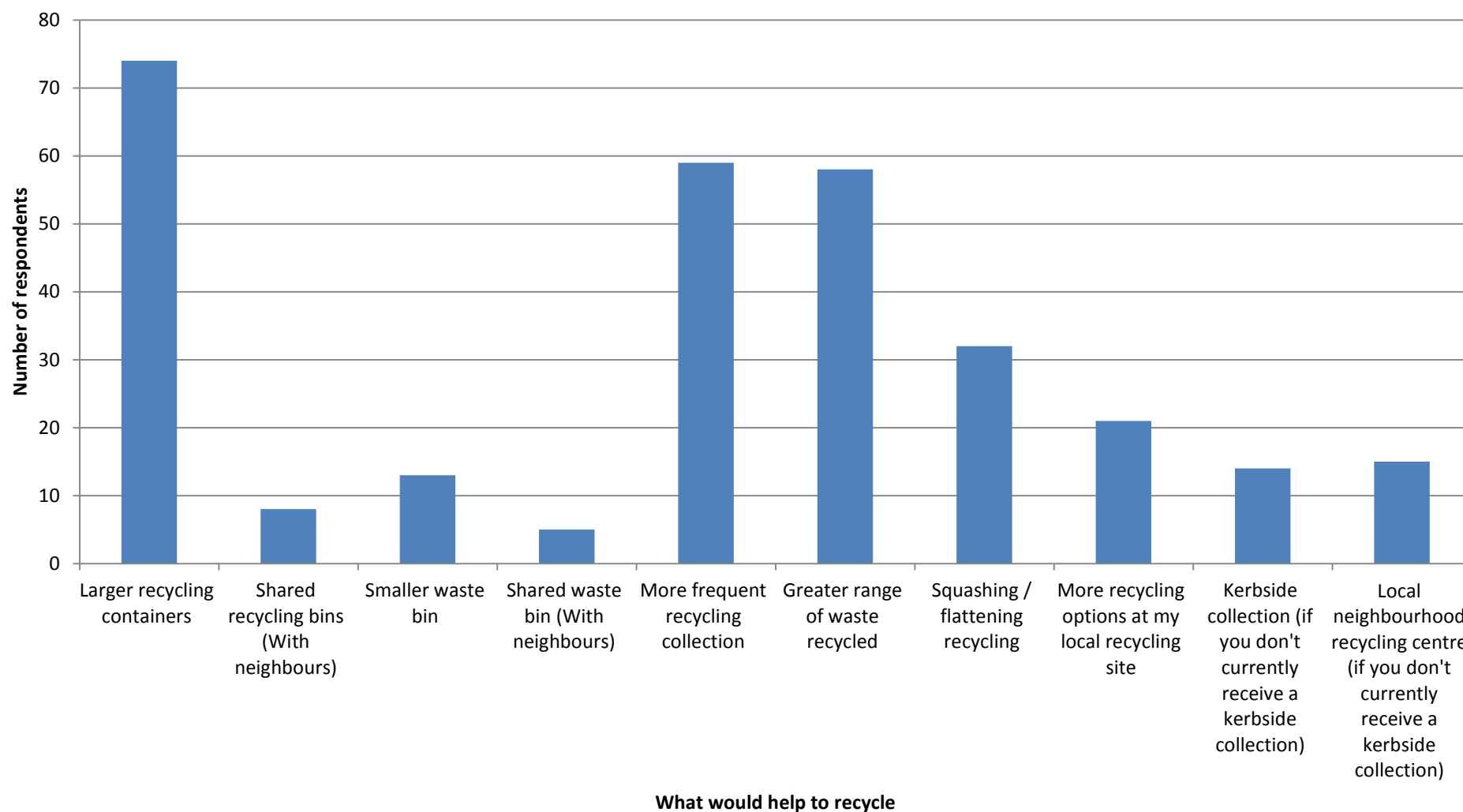


Question 3: What household waste do you currently recycle?

Question 4: What percentage of household waste do you currently recycle?

■ 0% ■ 1-25% ■ 26-50% ■ 51-75% ■ 76-100%



Question 5: What would help you to recycle more of your household waste?

Question 6: Which of these items (not currently recycled) would you recycle or reuse?

