



acre | ACTION WITH
COMMUNITIES
IN RURAL ENGLAND

ACRE Membership Survey 2020



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank colleagues from the 38 ACRE Members who took time out of their busy schedules to complete the 2020 network survey and provided the information featured in this report.

Contents

Summary	1
Background	1
Key findings	1
Survey responses	3
Network history	3
Finances.....	4
Governance	6
Staffing.....	7
Services and projects supported.....	8
Membership schemes.....	10
Affiliations.....	11
Rural/ urban focus.....	12
Network reach.....	13
Priority rural issues.....	13
Support from local public bodies.....	14
Social impact	15
Impact of coronavirus	16
Change in demand for services	16
Change in running costs	18
Emergency Covid-19 funding secured	19
Change in income.....	19
Impact on staffing numbers	21
Confidence in the future	21
Appendix A: Questionnaire Form	23

Summary

This report provides information about the work of ACRE members including their size and reach, the services they offer to rural communities across England, the fit with local challenges and the impact of Covid-19 on their operations.

Data is drawn from a survey undertaken by all 38 county-based members in the Autumn of 2020.

Background

The ACRE Network is England's largest rural grouping of community support agencies. There are 38 member organisations, plus ACRE as the national representative body, which work in support of community-led initiatives in every county of England.

ACRE members have a long history and today they work together to provide comprehensive support for rural communities across geographical areas. Through ACRE, their collective knowledge and insight is also combined to inform national advocacy on issues that matter to those living and working in the countryside.

This survey was conducted by ACRE with a view to gathering up to date information about members to inform strategic decision making and provide evidence useful for influencing and underpinning funding applications. The research is the first of its kind and essentially provides a snapshot of the network in 2020 which can be repeated in future years to provide useful tracking data.

Key findings

The survey shows how ACRE members share commonality of focus in terms of working to improve conditions for rural communities, but also how their capacity and reach varies from county to county. Some of the most interesting findings are detailed below.

- ACRE members spend 74% of their time working exclusively in support of rural communities
- Members reach over 35,000 groups and organisations across England whilst leveraging in approximately £34m in support of community initiatives
- The largest ACRE member has a turnover of £3m and employs 96 full time staff. The smallest member has a turnover of £110k and employs just 2 full time staff
- All 38 members provide a support and advice service for England's 10,000+ village halls
- Over 30 other services are provided, the most common being funding advice, community consultation and support for health and wellbeing initiatives
- Health and wellbeing, loneliness and social isolation, and access to community facilities are ranked the most important rural concerns by members
- ACRE members make a difference to rural communities. Reducing social isolation and loneliness is their primary focus, followed by providing a stronger voice for rural communities and encouraging a culture of volunteering and mutual aid

- Local grant funding is the biggest source of income for members (28%), followed by national grants (24%) and delivery of local contracts (22%)

The 2020 survey also provides insight into the **impact of Covid-19** on ACRE members.

- Almost all members report a significant increase in demand for village hall support due to coronavirus, whilst there has also been a significant increase in demand for volunteer support (+84%), delivery of projects relating to health and wellbeing (+76%) and funding advice to groups (+73%)
- Before coronavirus, six members said they were not confident about prospects for their organisation but at the time of the survey, this had increased to 12
- Most members (*n* 21) expect their income to reduce in 2020/21 with two members appearing to be particularly vulnerable. Loss of income across the ACRE network due to coronavirus is estimated to be over £3m
- 13 members are predicting a reduction in staff numbers this year whilst eight say they are likely to increase their head count

For more information about the data presented in this report, please email contact@acre.org.uk

Survey responses

All 38 ACRE members completed an online survey prepared by ACRE between August and September 2020. A copy of the questionnaire form used can be found in *Appendix A*.

This section provides a summary of the responses received for the whole network. Please note information identifying specific member organisations has been omitted other than where this is already in the public domain.

Network history

ACRE members have a long history of working in support of rural communities. The oldest member of the ACRE Network is Community First Oxfordshire which recently celebrated its centenary.

Community Lincs YMCA Lincolnshire can trace the founding date of its parent organisation even further – to 1869 – however its history as a rural community council began in 1927. Nine other members will reach their 100th anniversary in the next ten years.

The newest member to the network is Support Staffordshire which was formed in 2014 and joined the network in 2018 to take on the delivery of support for rural communities following the closure of the Community Council of Staffordshire.

Table 1 lists ACRE members by the year they were established. The average is 68 years and taken together they have 2,579 years' experience of supporting England's rural communities.

Table 1: Year established

ACRE Network Member	Year Est.
Community First Oxfordshire	1920
GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council)	1923
RCC (Leicestershire & Rutland)	1923
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	1923
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire	1924
Rural Action Derbyshire	1924
Cambridgeshire ACRE	1924
Community Council for Somerset (CCS)	1926
Community Lincs YMCA Lincolnshire	1927*
Rural Community Council of Essex	1929
Cheshire Community Action	1930
Action in rural Sussex (AirS)	1931
Durham Community Action	1935
Community Council of Lancashire	1937
WRCC	1937

The oldest member of the ACRE Network is Community First Oxfordshire which recently celebrated its centenary.



Community Action Suffolk	1937
Community First Yorkshire	1937
Cornwall Rural Community Charity	1946
Northamptonshire ACRE	1947
Voluntary Action Cumbria - Trading as ACTION with Communities in Cumbria	1948
Surrey Community Action	1950
Community Action Northumberland	1951
Community Action Hampshire	1952
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity	1953
Shropshire RCC	1960
Community Council of Devon (operating as Devon Communities Together)	1961
Community First (Wiltshire & Swindon)	1965
CDA Herts	1966
Connecting Communities in Berkshire Ltd	1973
Humber and Wolds Rural Action	1975
Community Action Norfolk	1986
Community First in Herefordshire and Worcestershire	1990
Community Action Isle of Wight	1997
Dorset Community Action	1997
Tees Valley Rural Action	1999
Community Impact Bucks	2010
West of England Rural Network	2012
Support Staffordshire	2018

Finances

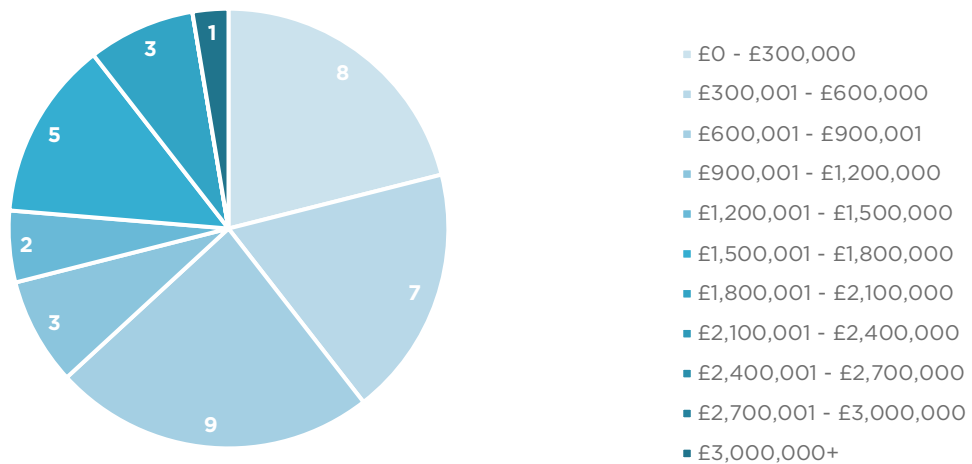
ACRE’s membership comprises county-based organisations of different sizes and financial capabilities. This is apparent in the financial data supplied by each organisation which included annual income, sources of funding and reserves.

Member’s annual income for the previous financial year was varied and covered a range from £112k for the smallest organisation to £3.1m for the largest. *Figure 1* shows the distribution of members’ income across this range. Most members (*n* 19) have an income between £300k and £1.2m.

Taken as a whole, member’s combined annual income was worth £34 million investment in mostly rural community initiatives.

Taken as a whole, member’s combined annual income was worth £34 million investment in mostly rural community initiatives

Figure 1: Income distribution

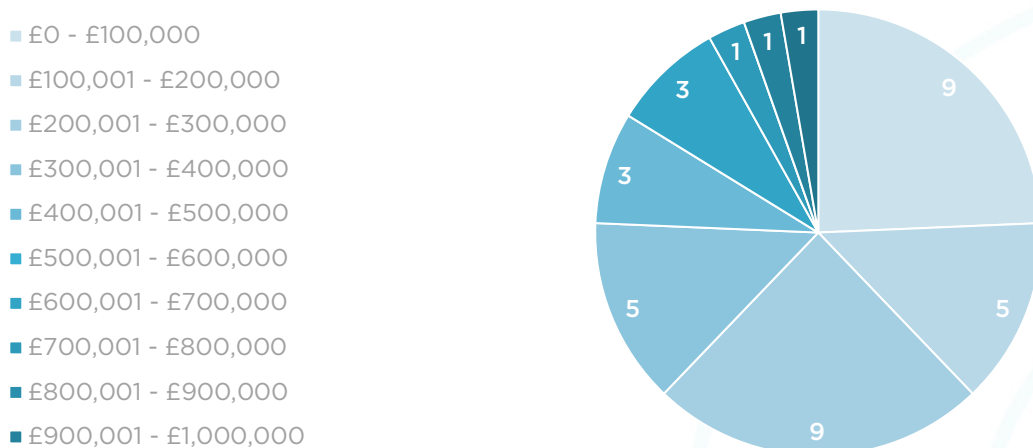


The amount of reserves each member holds offers a similar picture. **Figure 2** shows the distribution of reserves held by members. Most members (*n* 19) have reserves between £100k and £400k with a network average of £317k.

The Charity Commission expects trustees to decide, publish, implement, and monitor their charity’s reserves policy. Whilst there is no single level, or even a range of, reserves specified for charities, in principle they are held as unrestricted funds which may be drawn upon at any time to spend on the charity’s purpose and are particularly important for carrying on activities in future in the event of financial difficulties¹.

Although the survey did not gather information about members’ expenditure, it is worth noting that reserves held appear to be proportionate to their income. Many members hold reserves equivalent to one third of their annual income.

Figure 2: Reserves



¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-reserves-cc19/charities-and-reserves>



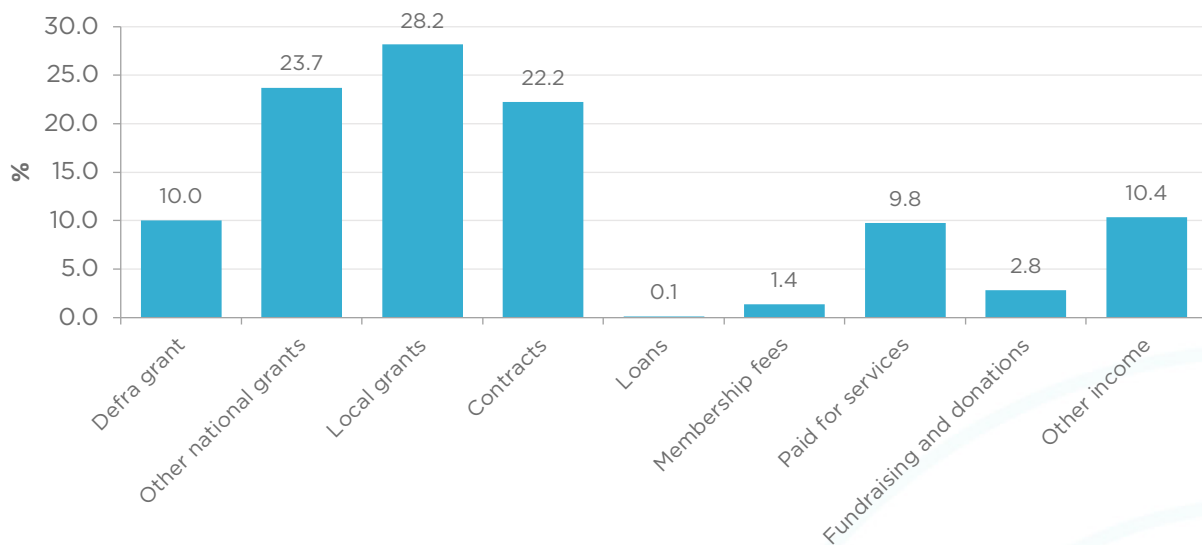
The survey also captured information about where ACRE members derive their income. **Figure 3** shows the proportion of income by source for all members.

The most prevalent type of income is grant funding which accounts for nearly 62% of members' combined income. Of this, the majority is made up of local funding (28%), followed by other national grants (24%) excluding that which is provided by the national network agreement with Defra (10%). It is worth noting there is significant variation in terms of dependency on grant funding between members ranging from 9% to 93%. Where members have less reliance on grant funding, they typically draw a greater proportion of their income from contract work or other earned income.

Local contracts such as the delivery of services and administration of grants schemes (on behalf of public sector bodies etc) represented 22% annual income. The proportion of income from this source varies significantly between members. One member reported earning 85% of its income from this source whilst seven members did not have any local contract delivery.

Most members also derive some income from 'paid for' services and membership fees. However, this comprises only 11% of income nationally. Again, there is variation between members. One member earns 42% of their income in this way, whilst five members said they generated no income from this source of funding.

Figure 3: Distribution of income by source



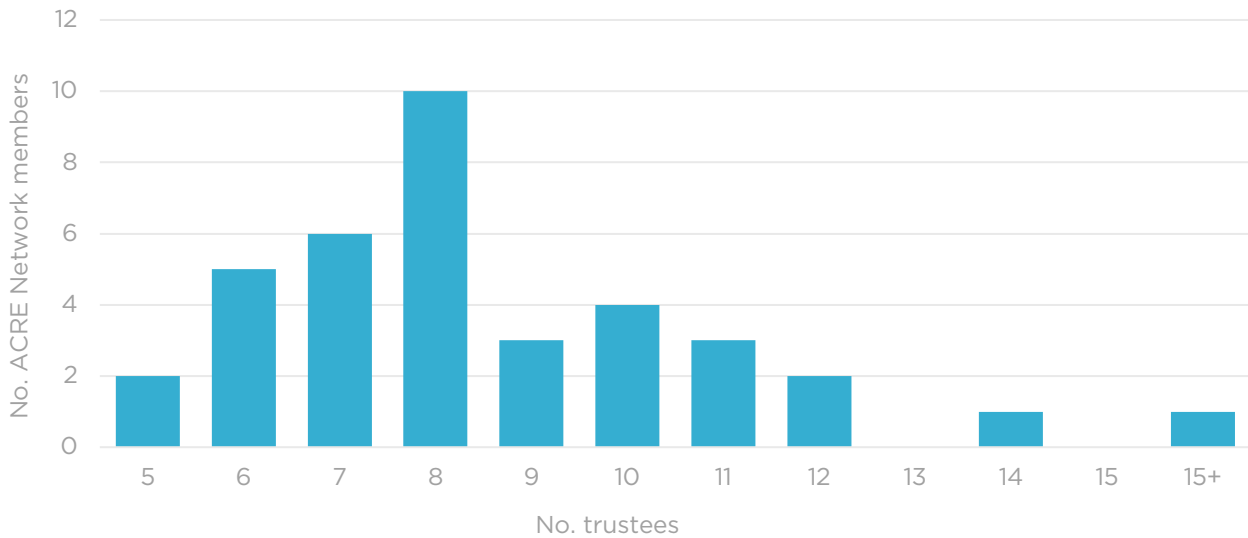
Governance

The survey asked about the number of trustees on each member's board and the term they serve.

There are no specific requirements for the number of trustees to serve on the boards of charities – this is determined by the governing document for each organisation – but the Charity Commission recommends there are more than three unrelated persons and not so many that arranging meetings and making decisions becomes unwieldy.

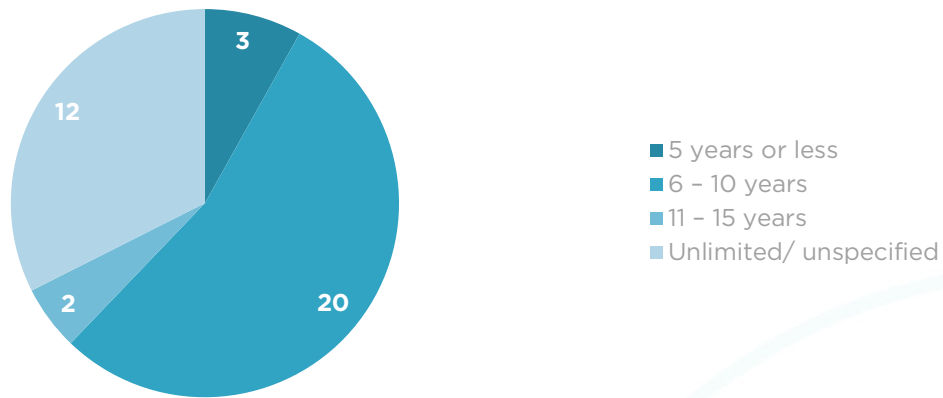
Figure 4 shows the distribution of ACRE members by the number of trustees on their boards. The average number is nine trustees. Two members had over 14 trustees on their board, both of whom are larger organisations in terms of income and staffing numbers.

Figure 4: No. trustees



Most members have trustee terms capped at between 6-10 years (*n* 20), but for 12 members this is uncapped or unspecified (see *Figure 5*).

Figure 5: Max trustee term



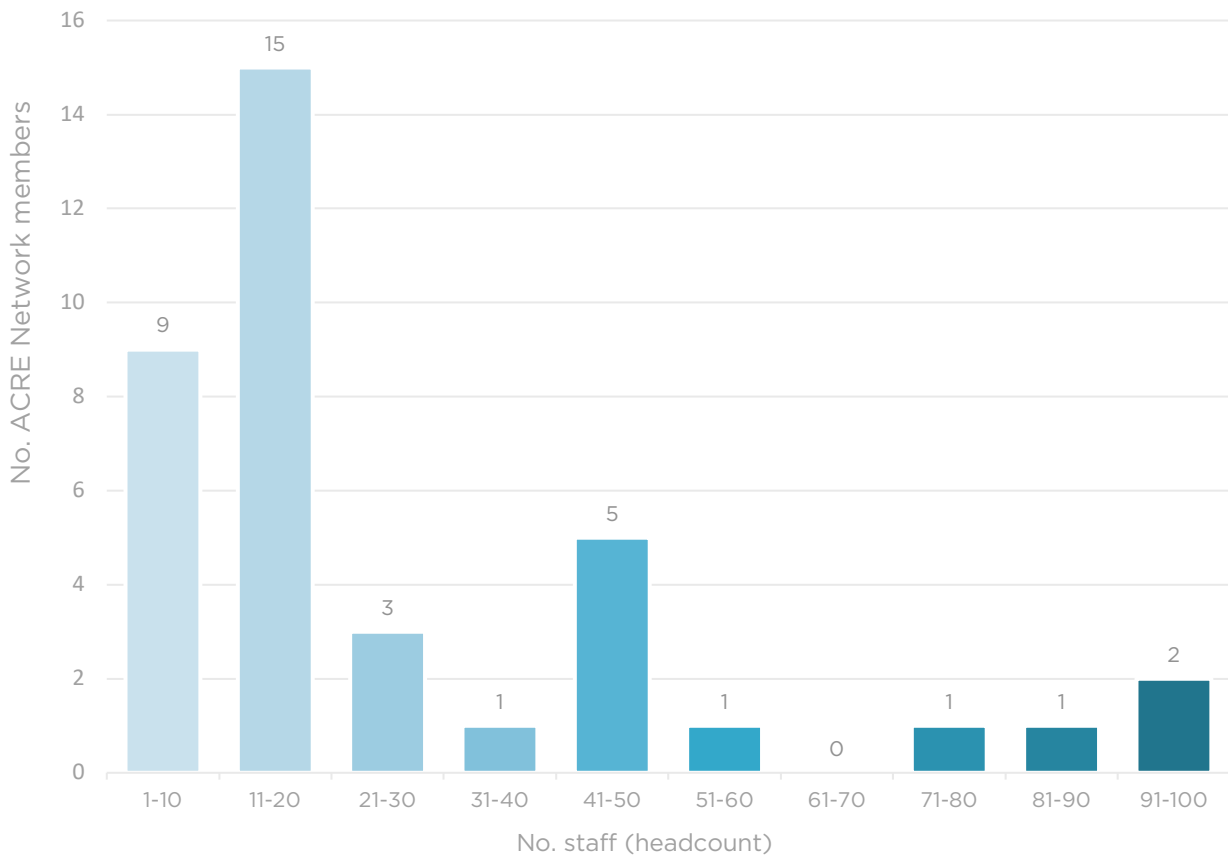
Staffing

The survey found that ACRE members employ over 1,000 members of staff across the network. The Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is over 700.

On average members employ 28 members of staff, equivalent to 19 FTE. This however masks the variation between members. As shown in *Figure 6*, four members employ over 70 staff members, however the majority (*n* 24) are much smaller, employing between 1 and 20 members of staff.

ACRE members employ over 1,000 members of staff across the network.

Figure 6: Staff headcount



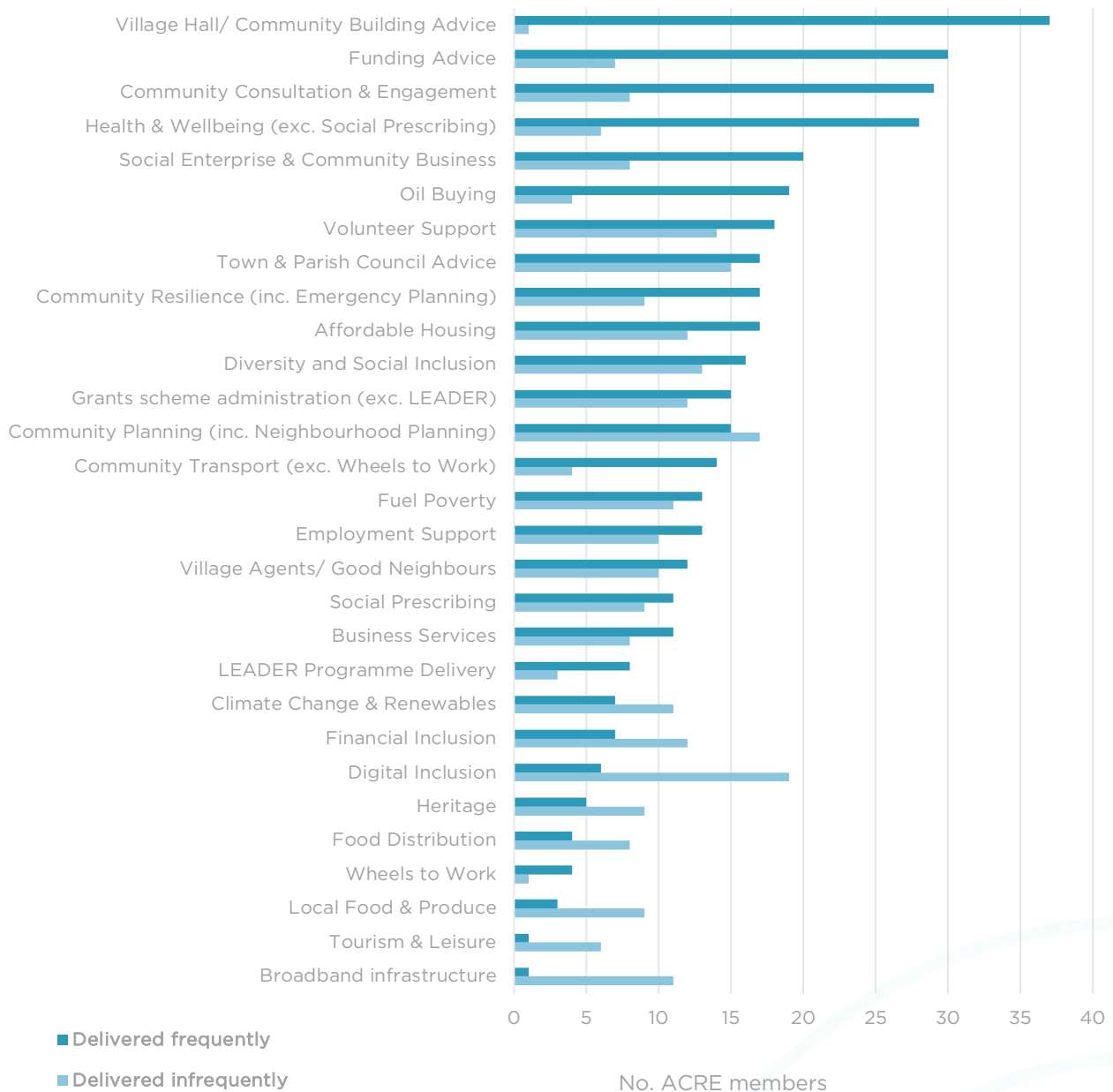
Services and projects supported

It can sometimes be difficult to define the work of ACRE members because they provide a wide range of support for community-led initiatives. The survey did however find there was a great deal of commonality in the services provided (see *Figure 7*).

All ACRE members provide support and advice for the voluntary committees that manage village and community halls, representing a truly comprehensive national service. Other services provided by the majority of members include funding advice (*n* 30), support for community consultation and engagement (*n* 29), and the delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives such as social prescribing (*n* 28). It is worth noting that the services provided are largely responsive to local demand for support from community groups, as well as the availability of appropriate funding.

All ACRE members provide support and advice for the voluntary committees that manage village and community halls, representing a truly comprehensive national service.

Figure 7: Services delivered by members by frequency



Some members charge users for the services they provide. This applies to some types of services more than others.

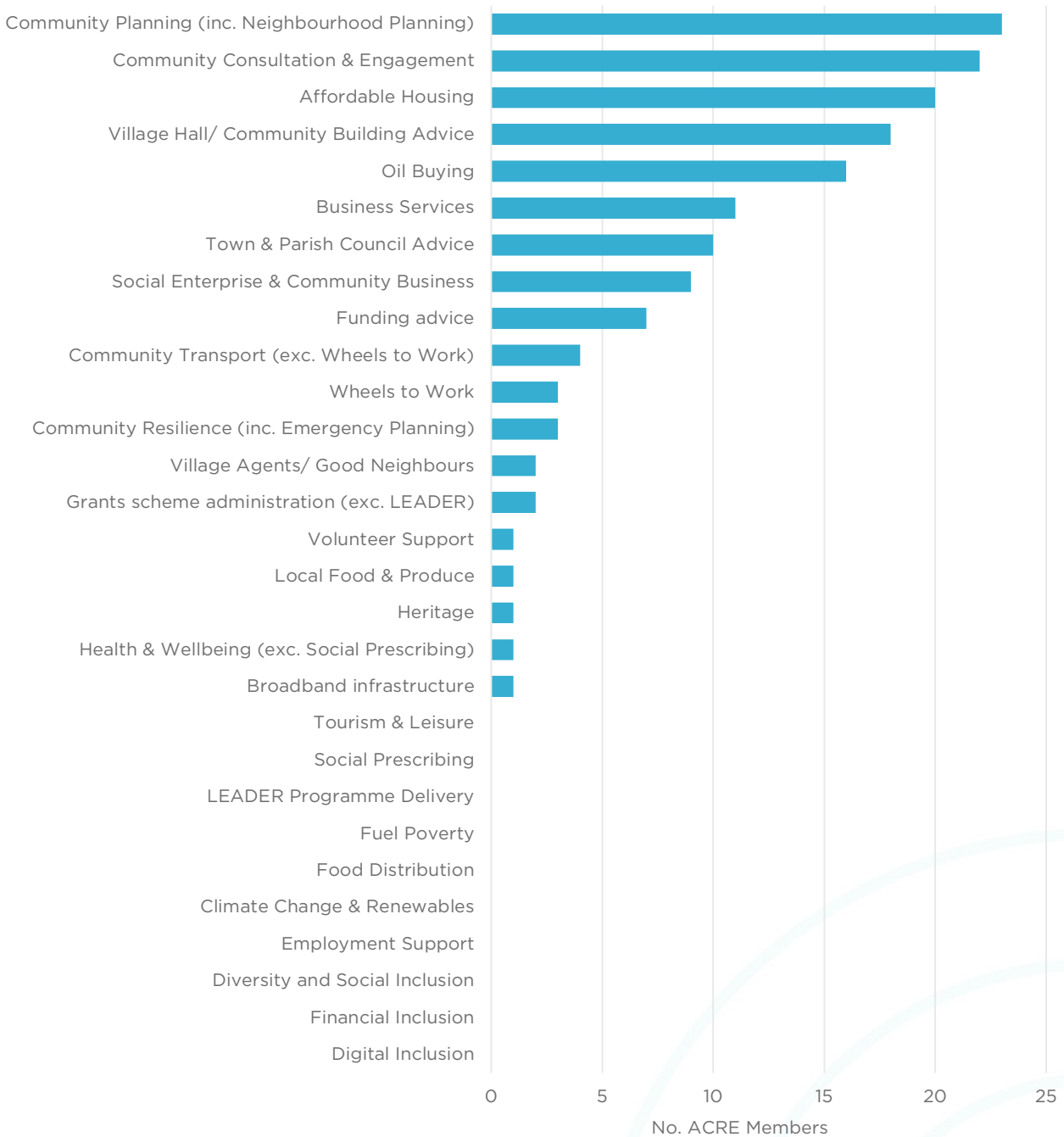
Figure 8 shows that support to help groups prepare community plans, undertake consultation and engagement activities, deliver affordable housing schemes and village halls advice are those most commonly charged for.

Delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives – a significant network activity – is generally not charged for, but further research is needed to understand why.

Often, paid for services are offered as part of membership schemes.

Taken as a whole, these services generate 9.8% of the network’s total income (see *Figure 3*).

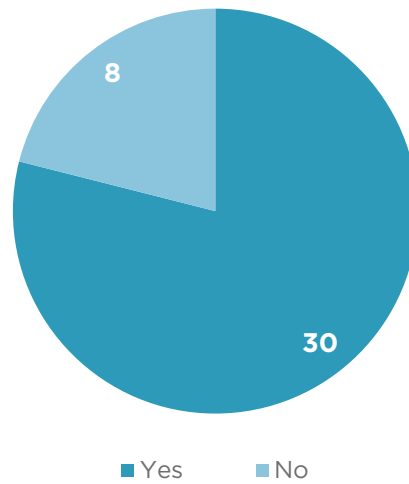
Figure 8: Services charged for



Membership schemes

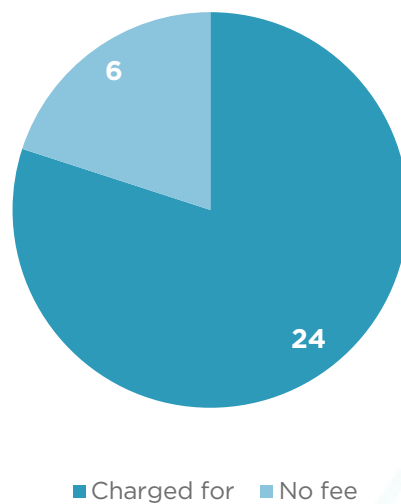
80% of ACRE members operate a local membership scheme (see *Figure 9*). These are principally used as a means of keeping in touch with community groups and other stakeholders, but they are also used to offer bespoke access to support and advice.

Figure 9: No. members with active membership schemes



Of those members who operate membership schemes, 24 charge for this (*Figure 10*). In many instances, membership is inclusive of various services or provides a significant discount to groups.

Figure 10: Membership schemes with subscription fees



Affiliations

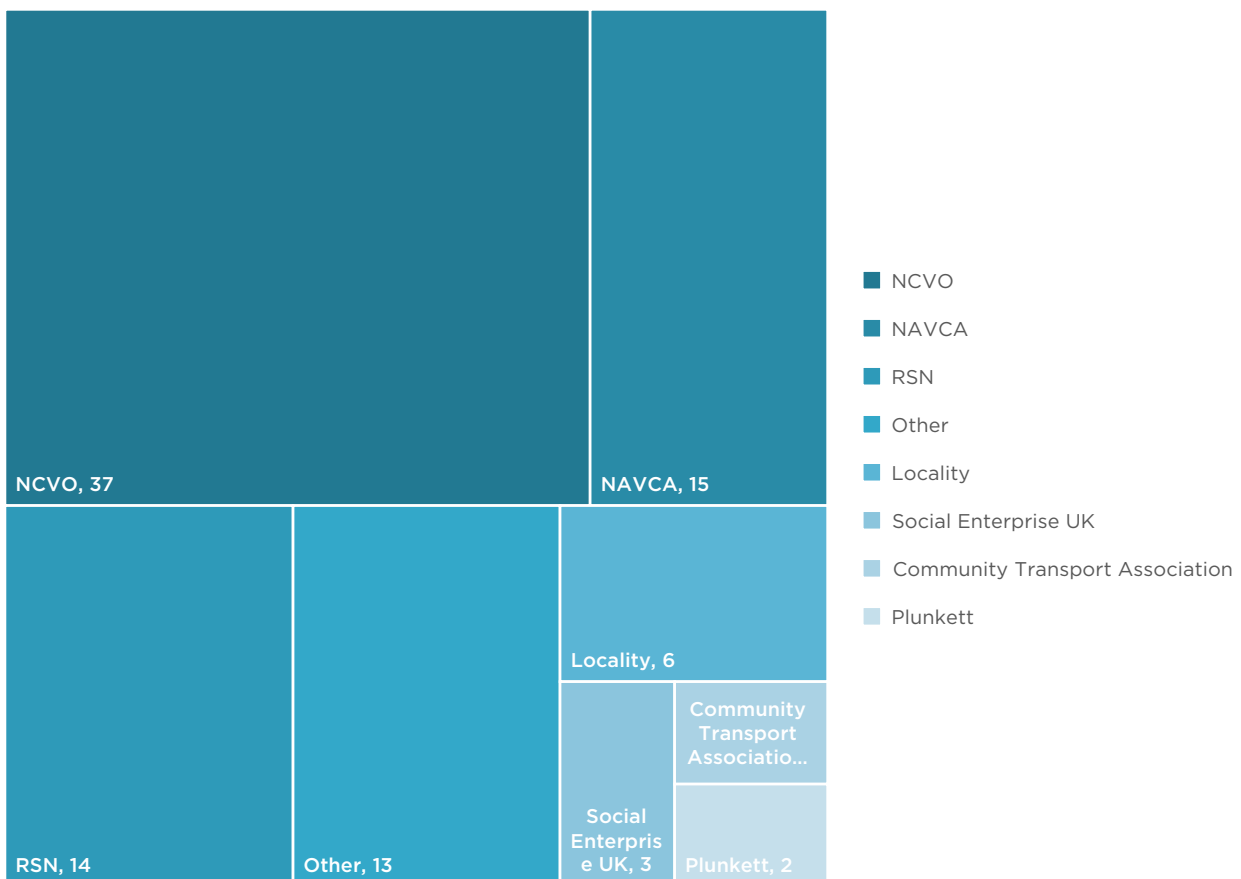
ACRE members also affiliate to other national organisations and networks, reflective of the breadth of services and support they provide.

Figure 11 maps out these relationships and shows that all but one member is affiliated to NCVO² which chimes with their focus on supporting volunteering. More than one third of members also

² National Council for Voluntary Organisations <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/>

have a relationship with NAVCA³ (an organisation representing local voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations) and RSN⁴ which campaigns specifically on rural services. A few ACRE members also have a relationship with Locality (a network of local community organisations) and Social Enterprise UK and Plunkett in support of social enterprise and community business. Other organisations singularly mentioned include the National Community Land Trusts Network, YMCA, Heritage Trust, Rural Health Alliance, Institute of Fundraising and the Rivers Trust, together with other regional bodies.

Figure 11: Affiliation to other organisations



Rural/urban focus

ACRE members share a focus on rural communities, but their work also often extends into urban areas.

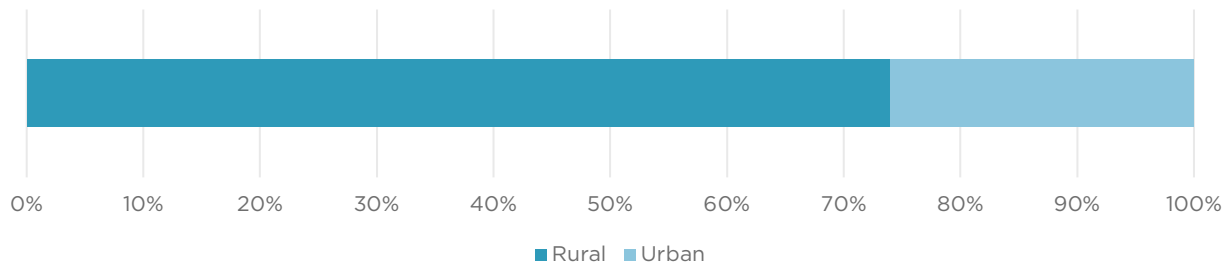
In the survey, members were asked what proportion of their time they spend working with rural communities, vis-a-vis those in urban settings. **Figure 12** shows they work with rural communities approximately 74% of the time.

Members work with rural communities approximately 74% of the time.

³ National Association of Voluntary and Community Action <https://navca.org.uk/>

⁴ Rural Services Network <https://www.rsonline.org.uk/>

Figure 12: Rural/urban balance of work



Network reach

ACRE members can be found in every county of England. To provide an indication of their reach into rural (and urban) communities, the survey asked how many village halls and other groups and organisations they had contacted in the past year.

Whilst the responses to this question are not a perfect science, we estimate members reached nearly 8,000 village and community halls (out of an estimated 10,000 nationally) in 2019/20. Some members said they had been in contact with more halls than others ranging from 500 in one instance to 27 in another, whilst the average across the network was 209.

Of course, members also serve many other types of local stakeholders. The survey also revealed they reached over 27,000 other community groups and local organisations in the past year, the network average being 711 contacts per member.

Taken as a whole, ACRE members can therefore be said to reach over 35,000 community groups and organisations across England each year.

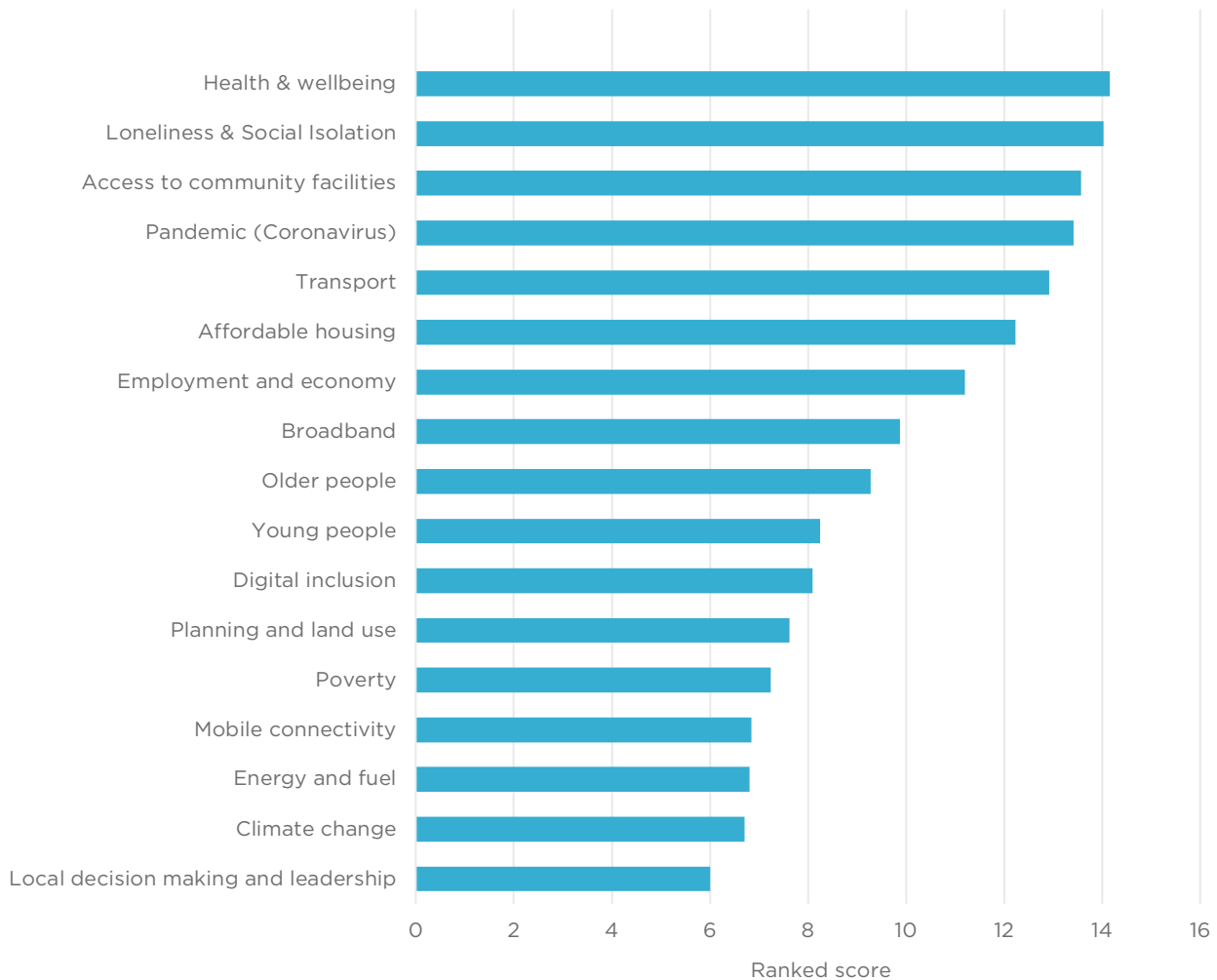
Taken as a whole, ACRE members can therefore be said to reach over 35,000 community groups and organisations across England each year.

Priority rural issues

ACRE members provide a voice on rural issues, drawing on their experience of supporting rural communities and channelled through ACRE nationally.

There are many issues that are unique or have a particular pertinence to rural communities on which ACRE has provided advocacy over the years. To establish the relative importance of these concerns, the survey asked members to rank them by significance to their rural area. **Figure 13** shows the weighted score of each issue as determined by all members. Health and wellbeing, loneliness and isolation, and access to community facilities were considered the most pressing rural issues, ranking slightly higher than Covid-19.

Figure 13: Relative importance of local rural issues as defined by members



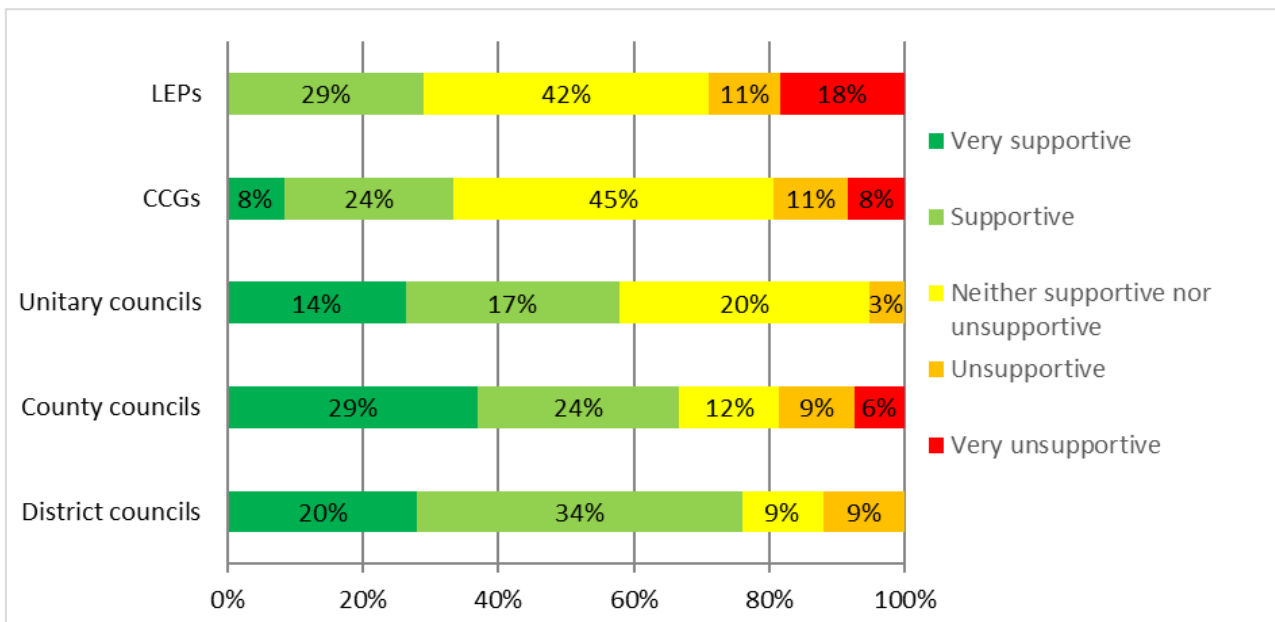
Support from local public bodies

ACRE members often work with other organisations locally in their service of rural communities. The support of public sector bodies in particular can make a significant difference to members’ work as they shape the local policy and funding landscape that can help or hinder community-led initiatives.

The survey asked how supportive different types of public bodies are towards members’ work. **Figure 14** shows how member’s views on these compare across the network. District councils are generally the most supportive which is unsurprising given most are in rural areas. The majority of county councils and unitary authorities are also supportive of members’ work.

It is concerning that 19% of clinical commissioning groups are considered to be unsupportive, particularly so given that health and wellbeing is the most pressing concern for ACRE members (**Figure 13**). LEPs have the weakest reputation with members; only 29% believing these public bodies to be supportive of their work.

Figure 14: Members' perceptions of the support offered by different types of public bodies locally

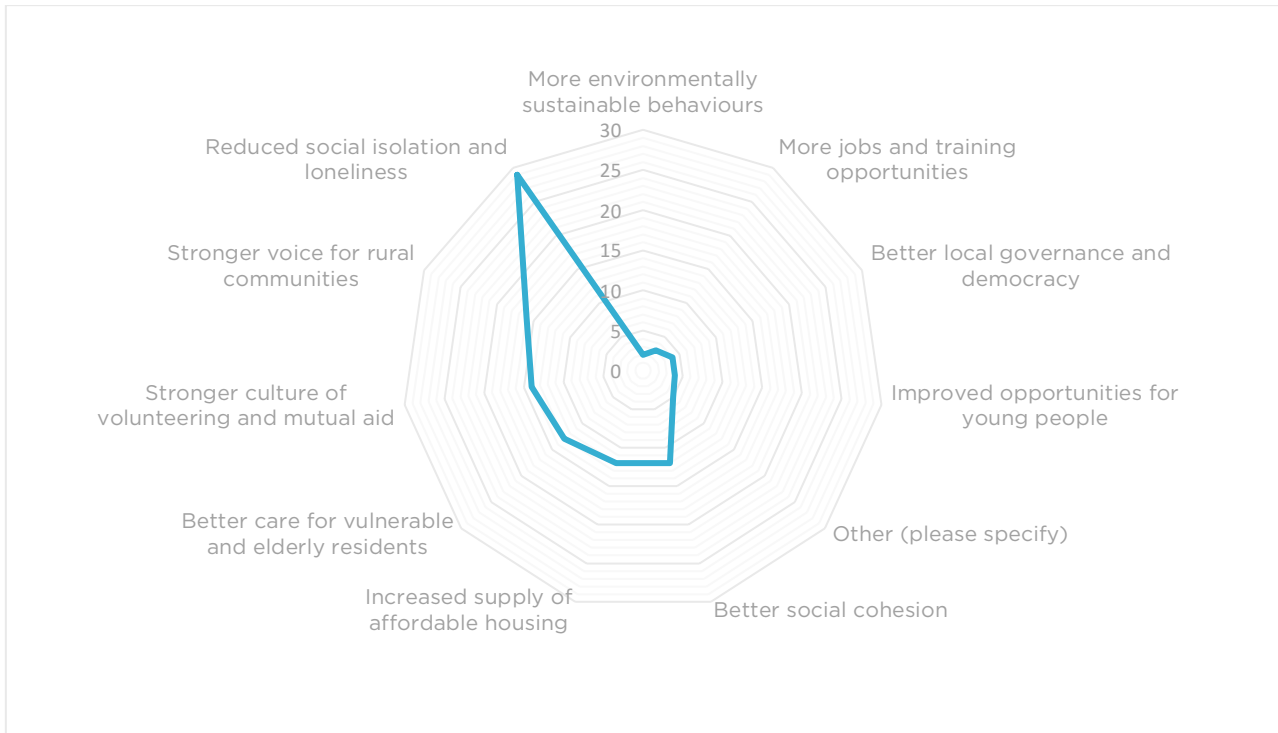


Social impact

The ACRE Network exists to make a positive difference to rural communities. Whilst information about the outcomes of local projects and programmes is often captured locally, the survey sought to ascertain members' own perception of where they achieve the most impact. It asked members to identify the top three types of impact they believe they make locally.

Figure 15 is a spider diagram detailing the number of times different types of social impact were selected by members. It shows that 'reduced social isolation and loneliness' was by far the most cited type of social impact (*n* 29) associated with members' work. This was followed by 'a stronger voice for rural communities' (*n* 16) and 'a stronger culture of volunteering and mutual aid' (*n* 14). It is interesting to note that few members identified 'more jobs and training opportunities' and 'more environmentally sustainable behaviours' as significant types of social impact.

Figure 15: Most frequently cited types of social impact



Impact of coronavirus

The survey was conducted between August and September 2020; a time at which national lockdown restrictions aimed at stopping the spread of coronavirus had been eased. In the months before, people had been told to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

The questions posed in the survey sought to understand the impact of the pandemic on ACRE members. The responses provided are based on observations at the time, but nevertheless they provide valuable insight into the perceived disruption caused by the pandemic.

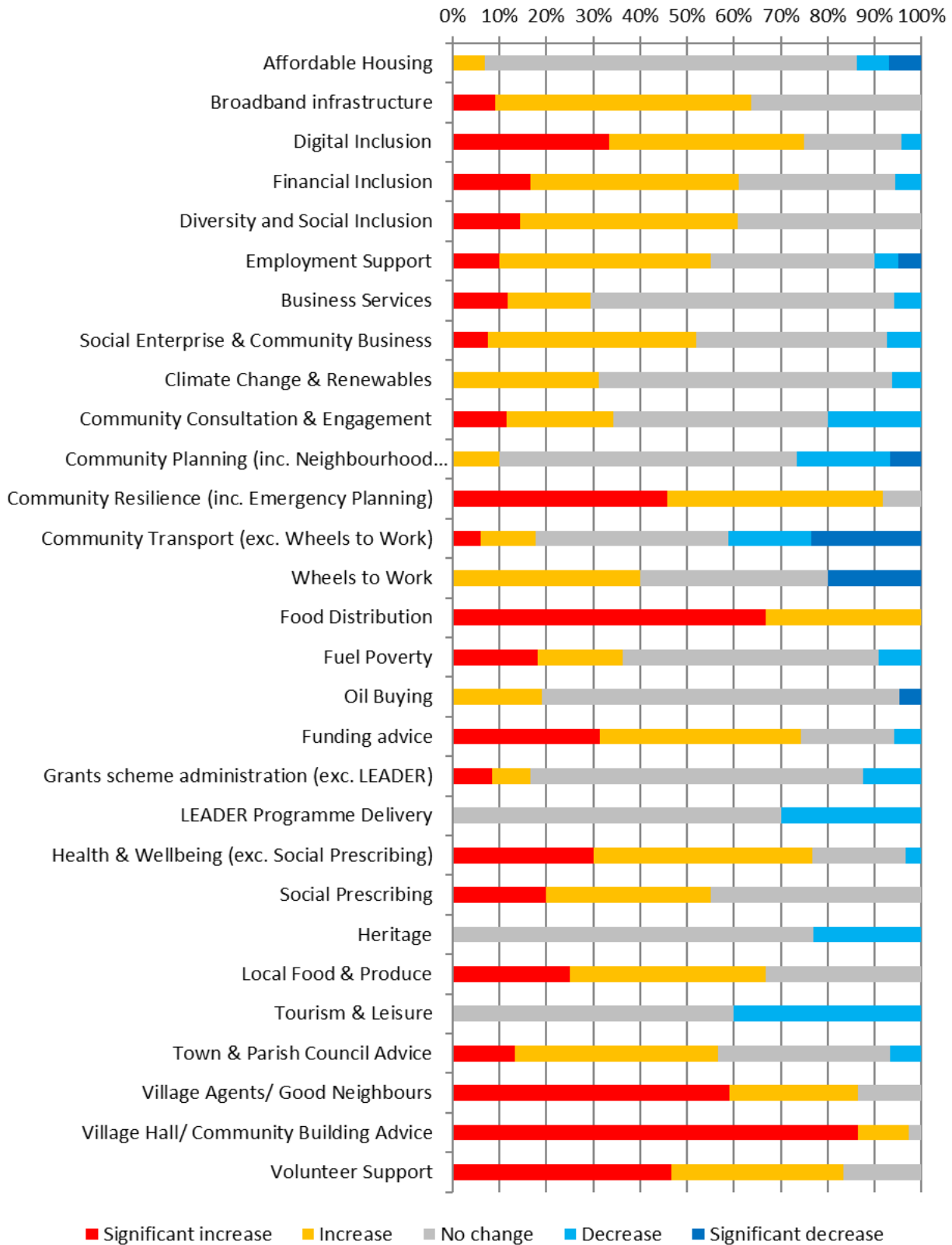
Change in demand for services

To begin with, the pandemic and associated lockdown can be seen to have resulted in increased demand for the services provided by ACRE members. **Figure 16** shows how members responded when asked whether demand for the services they provide had increased or decreased because of Covid-19.

The largest increase in demand was support for village halls. Almost all 38 members had experienced a greater volume of support requests due to Covid-19, of which 32 confirmed a significant increase. The increase in demand is not surprising considering all village halls were told to close at the beginning of the first lockdown in March. ACRE members acted as intermediaries and advisers, guiding halls on emergency grant funding and interpreting government regulations on how to reopen again safely in compliance with the Government’s Covid Secure rules as restrictions were eased.

Other commonly provided services which saw an increase in demand include volunteer support (+84%), projects relating to health and wellbeing (+76%) and funding advice (+73%).

Figure 16: % change in demand for services



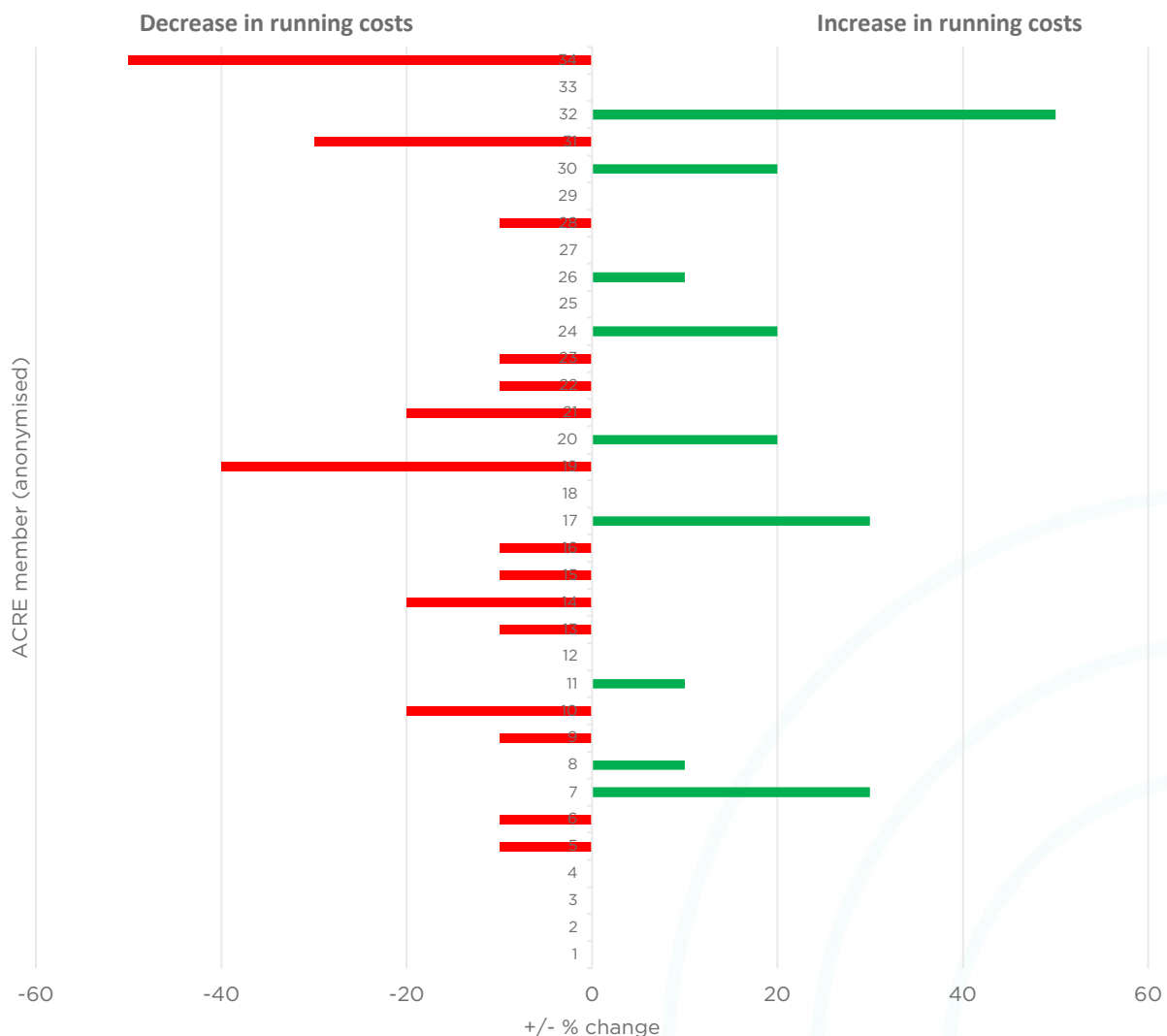
Of those services less frequently delivered by ACRE members (see also *Figure 7*), a few stand out due to a significant increase in demand. For example, of the 24 members who support community resilience projects such as emergency planning, 22 (92%) reported an increase in demand. The same number of members provide services related to digital inclusion, of which 18 (75%) said they had undertaken more work in this respect. Lastly, 8 members reported getting involved with local efforts to distribute food - a significant concern at the beginning of the national lockdown.

The only services that saw a reduction in demand for support were tourism and leisure, LEADER programme delivery (focused on SMEs) and affordable housing - all of which were linked to activities that were stopped or significantly scaled back during the first lockdown.

Change in running costs

Covid-19 has also impacted ACRE members' running costs. *Figure 17* shows how there was a high degree of variance between members anticipated costs associated with the pandemic.

*Figure 17: % change in running costs by member (anonymised)**



* Where there is no shading, this represents members who reported no change in running costs

15 members said they expected to see their running costs reduce ranging between 10-50%. On the other hand, nine members anticipated costs to increase, again ranging between 10-50%.

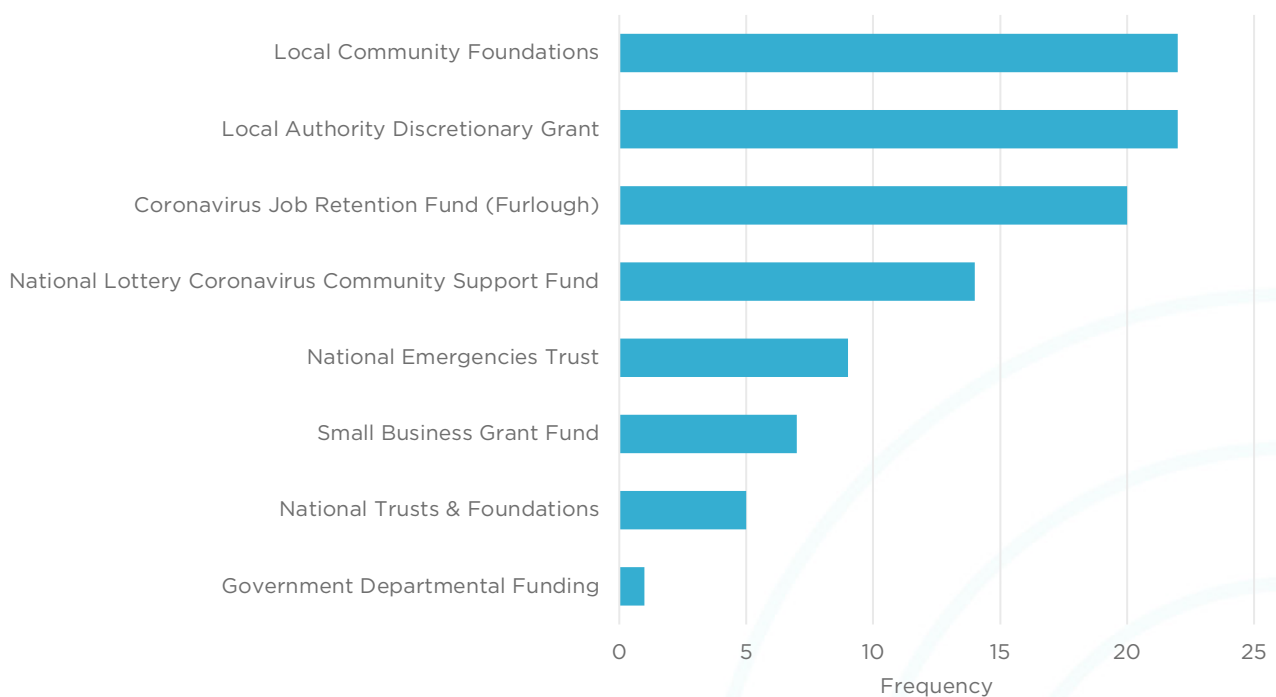
The variation in running costs could be due to several factors. On the one hand, increased demand for services puts extra strain on resources. However, because members were forced to close their offices during the lockdown and support staff to work from home, this may have also reduced running costs. It is not clear from the survey whether downsizing has also been factored into responses (see change in staffing numbers, *Figure 20*).

Emergency Covid-19 funding secured

Government, independent trusts, and foundations have variously issued grant funding to organisations to help them provide additional support to communities and to weather the financial impact created by restrictions. The survey asked members to identify Covid-19 funding they had secured.

Figure 18 provides a breakdown of the funds applied for and secured by frequency for all members. It shows the most commonly secured emergency funding was from local community foundations and the Local Authority Discretionary Grant scheme, followed by the Furlough scheme and the National Lottery Coronavirus Support Fund. UK-wide trusts and foundations along with funding from government departments nationally were the least common sources of funding accessed.

Figure 18: Covid-19 funding applied for and secured by frequency



Change in income

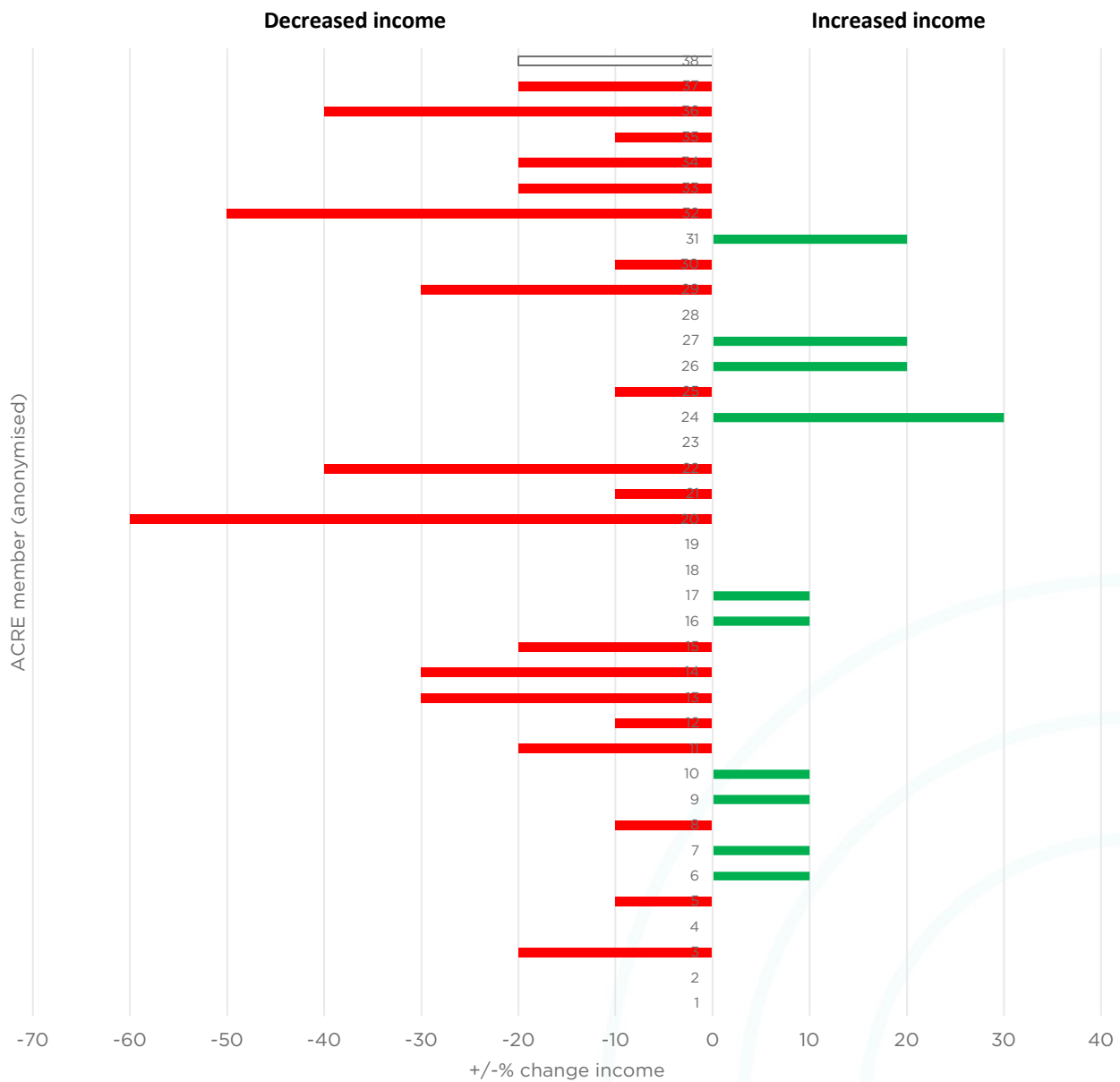
More telling is the perceived impact of Covid-19 on ACRE members' income. *Figure 19* shows that despite securing emergency funding most members (*n* 21) were still anticipating a reduction in annual income for the year, ranging from 10% to 60%.

Conversely, ten members expected to see an increase in income, due to the pandemic, ranging from 10-30%, perhaps attributed to obtaining emergency funding.

Overall, the responses reflect an overall reduction in income for the network of 9%. This is equivalent to a net loss of £3m when compared against the anticipated income of members for 2020/21.

Overall, the responses reflect an overall reduction in income for the network of 9%. This is equivalent to a net loss of £3m when compared against the anticipated income of members for 2020/21.

Figure 19: % change in anticipated income by member (anonymised)*



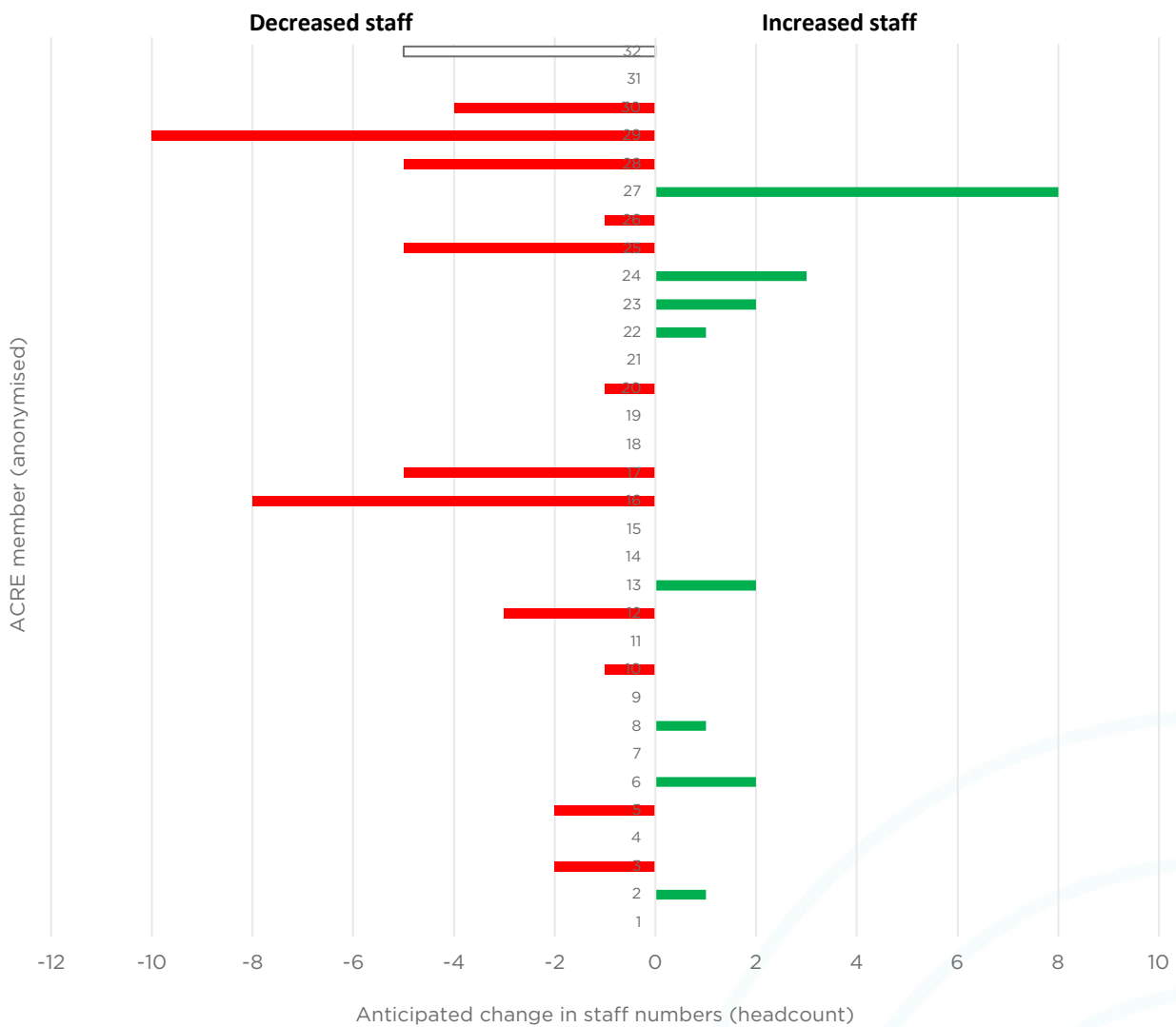
* Where there is no shading, this represents members who reported no change in anticipated income

Impact on staffing numbers

Figure 20 shows that 13 members anticipated a reduction in their staff headcount because of the pandemic, totalling 52 employees. There is a strong correlation between anticipated reductions in staff and reductions in income with all but one member reporting a reduction in staff also predicting a reduction in income for the year.

More positively, seven members appear to be bucking the trend and expect to take on a combined total of 20 staff, of which, all are expecting their income to increase or remain stable.

Figure 20: Anticipated change to staff headcount by member (anonymised)*



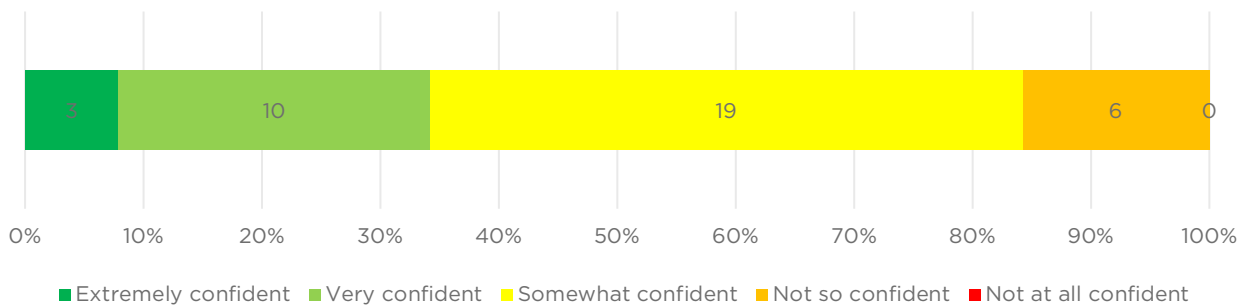
* Where there is no shading, this represents members who reported no change in staffing numbers

Confidence in the future

Finally, the survey sought to establish how members' confidence for the future had been affected by coronavirus.

Figure 21 shows the distribution of responses when members were asked how confident they were before the pandemic. 32 members felt confident about the future for their organisation compared to six who said they were not so confident.

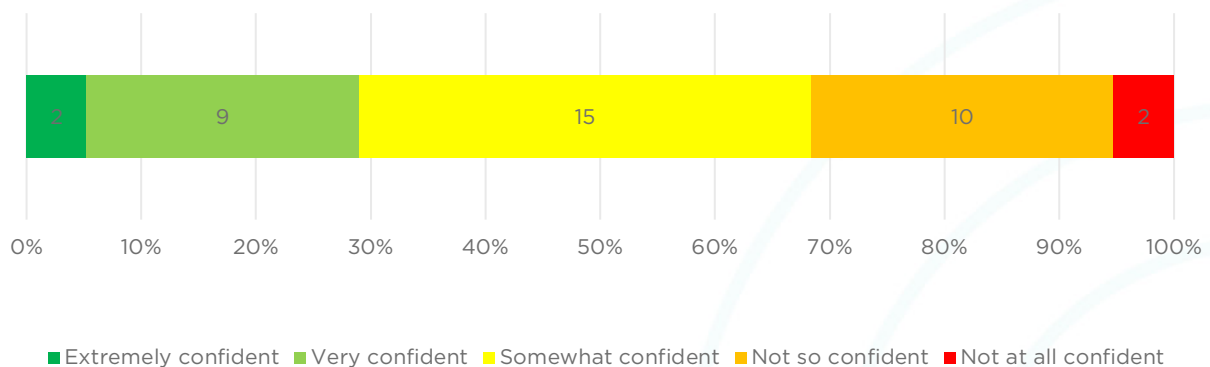
Figure 10: Confidence in future prospects pre Covid-19



By comparison, *Figure 22* demonstrates how the confidence of some members had diminished in view of the pandemic.

When asked how they felt at the time of completing the survey, twice as many members ($n=12$) than before said they no longer feel confident about the future for their organisation. Of these, two said they were ‘not at all confident’. It is interesting to note that both organisations, whilst anticipating reductions in income and staffing numbers, were not the worst impacted in this respect.

Figure 22: Confidence in future prospects pre Covid-19



Appendix A: Questionnaire Form

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Introduction

ACRE is updating the information it holds for Network members. We have put together this survey to capture basic information about your organisation, the rural area that you serve, the impact of activities you support and how Covid-19 is affecting your work. We intend to repeat the survey in future years to provide useful tracking data.

By completing this survey, you will ensure we have up to date information about the ACRE Network which can be drawn upon to influence policy and apply for funding.

The questionnaire form should be completed by a senior member of staff and should take about 20 minutes to complete.

We will only use the data you provide to report on the state of the ACRE Network as a whole and will not share details unique to your organisation with third parties without your permission.

Please complete this survey by Friday 21 August. Thank you for your time on this.

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

1. Name of organisation

2. In what year was your organisation or parent organisation first established?

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

3. What was your income in the last financial year (to the nearest £1,000)?

4. What were your unrestricted reserves at the end of the last financial year (to the nearest £1,000)?

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

5. Please tell us about the distribution of your organisation's income in the last financial year. Please specify the approximate % income derived from the following sources (**total must equal 100%**)

Defra grant	<input type="text"/>
Other national grants	<input type="text"/>
Local grants	<input type="text"/>
Contracts	<input type="text"/>
Loans	<input type="text"/>
Membership fees	<input type="text"/>
Paid for services	<input type="text"/>
Fundraising and donations	<input type="text"/>
Other income	<input type="text"/>

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

6. How many staff do you employ (including freelancers)?

7. What is the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) figure for all staff currently employed by your organisation?

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

8. How many trustees do you currently have on your board/ management committee?

	Not delivered	Delivered infrequently	Delivered frequently
Funding advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grants scheme administration (exc. LEADER)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LEADER Programme Delivery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health & Wellbeing (exc. Social Prescribing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Prescribing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local Food & Produce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism & Leisure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town & Parish Council Advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Village Agents/ Good Neighbours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Village Hall/ Community Building Advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteer Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>		

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

11. Do you charge communities/ users for any services? Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Poverty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadband infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil Buying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Inclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Funding advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Inclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Grants scheme administration (exc. LEADER) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity and Social Inclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> LEADER Programme Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Wellbeing (exc. Social Prescribing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Prescribing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Enterprise & Community Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change & Renewables | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Food & Produce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Consultation & Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Leisure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning (inc. Neighbourhood Planning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Town & Parish Council Advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Resilience (inc. Emergency Planning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Village Agents/ Good Neighbours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Transport (exc. Wheels to Work) | <input type="checkbox"/> Village Hall/ Community Building Advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheels to Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Distribution | |

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

12. Do you offer a membership scheme(s)?

- Yes
- No

ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

13. Approximately how many members do you have?

14. Do you charge for membership?

- Yes
- No



ACRE Network Survey 2020

About your organisation

15. Is your organisation a member of, or affiliated to, any of the following national organisations?

- NAVCA
- NCVO
- Plunkett
- RSN
- Locality
- Social Enterprise UK
- Other (please specify)

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Your rural area

16. What's the balance of your work between urban and rural communities?

Urban (0% Rural)

Equal balance (50% Rural)

Rural (100% Rural)

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Your rural area

17. Approximately, how many village halls and community buildings have you been in contact with in the past 12 months?

18. Approximately, how many other community and voluntary groups or organisations have you been in contact with in the past 12 months?

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Your rural area

19. Thinking about the area your organisation serves, please rank the following concerns in order of importance **to rural communities**

<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Access to community facilities</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Affordable housing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Broadband</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Climate change</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Digital inclusion</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Employment and economy</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Energy and fuel</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<p>☰</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Food security</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	





Health & wellbeing

N/A



Local decision making and leadership

N/A



Loneliness & Social Isolation

N/A



Mobile connectivity

N/A



Older people

N/A



Pandemic (Coronavirus)

N/A



Planning and land use

N/A



Poverty

N/A



☰

 Transport
 N/A

☰

 Young people
 N/A

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Your rural area

20. Thinking about the local authorities and other public bodies in your area, generally how supportive or unsupportive are they of your work with rural communities

	Very supportive	Supportive	Neither supportive nor unsupportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	Not applicable
District councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unitary councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CCGs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LEPs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish to make any specific comments about the support of organisations in your area, please do so here

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Impact of your work

* 21. Please select three types of social impact from the list below which best describe the outcomes that can be attributed to your work with rural communities

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better care for vulnerable and elderly residents | <input type="checkbox"/> More environmentally sustainable behaviours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better local governance and democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> More jobs and training opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better social cohesion | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced social isolation and loneliness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved opportunities for young people | <input type="checkbox"/> Stronger culture of volunteering and mutual aid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased supply of affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Stronger voice for rural communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

22. Can you briefly describe a piece of work you have delivered over the past year which demonstrates significant social impact? (Max 100 words)

23. If you have any reports detailing the impact of your work with rural communities over the past year, please upload files here

No file chosen

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Coronavirus

24. Before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic how confident were you about the future prospects for your organisation?

- Extremely confident
 Very confident
 Somewhat confident
 Not so confident
 Not at all confident

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Coronavirus

25. At the time of completing this survey, how confident are you about the future prospects for your organisation?

- Extremely confident
 Very confident
 Somewhat confident
 Not so confident
 Not at all confident

ACRE Network Survey 2020



Coronavirus

26. Has your organisation applied for or secured any of the following sources of emergency Covid-19 funding?

	Applied for	Secured funding
National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Departmental Funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coronavirus Job Retention Fund (Furlough)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Business Grant Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Authority Discretionary Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Emergencies Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Community Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Trusts & Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Coronavirus

27. Please tell us whether you have seen any change in demand for the following services because of Covid-19

	Significant increase	Increase	No change	Decrease	Significant decrease
Affordable Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Broadband infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Digital Inclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial Inclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diversity and Social Inclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employment Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Significant increase	Increase	No change	Decrease	Significant decrease
Social Enterprise & Community Business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate Change & Renewables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Consultation & Engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Planning (inc. Neighbourhood Planning)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Resilience (inc. Emergency Planning)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Transport (exc. Wheels to Work)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wheels to Work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Distribution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fuel Poverty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Oil Buying	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Funding advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grants scheme administration (exc. LEADER)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LEADER Programme Delivery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health & Wellbeing (exc. Social Prescribing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Prescribing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local Food & Produce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism & Leisure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town & Parish Council Advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Village Agents/ Good Neighbours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Village Hall/ Community Building Advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteer Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Coronavirus

28. Approximately, what change in running costs do you expect during 2020/21 compared to the previous year due to Coronavirus?

Decrease -100% No change 0% Increase +100%

29. Approximately, what change in income do you expect during 2020/21 compared to the previous year due to Coronavirus?

Decrease -100% No change 0% Increase +100%

30. What change in the number of staff (including freelancers) are you expecting during 2020/21 compared to the previous year due to Coronavirus

-20 staff No change +20 staff

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Coronavirus

31. We would like to hear of any projects that you are supporting which have helped rural communities become resilient in the face of Covid-19. Please provide details of good examples below.

32. Please upload any supporting information here

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Contact details

In case we need to contact you in relation to your survey response, please provide your contact details below. These details will not be used for any other purpose nor shared with third parties.

33. Please provide details

Name	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

ACRE Network Survey 2020

Thank you!
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We will share a summary of results with the network in due course.

