**Item 5**

**25th March 2025**

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership**
**Strategic Partnership**

**Report by Head of Policy and Corporate Governance**

**Contact: Tom Jackson Telephone: 07979704260**

# Area Partnerships – Survey on Area Budget Criteria

**Purpose of Report:**

To update the Partnership on the findings from a survey of Area Partnership members across the City on the criteria for area budgets and to offer recommendations on changes to the criteria.

**Recommendations:**

The Strategic Partnership is asked to:

a. Note the results of the survey on the area budget criteria;
b. Note that further work will be conducted on improving the area budget process including engagement with members of Area Partnerships; and
c. Approve the proposals contained in paragraph 8.

## Introduction

1. This report provides the results of a survey of Area Partnership members on the criteria for Area Partnership area budgets and offers some recommendations for change.

## Background

2. The criteria for funding from the area budgets has not been formally reviewed since 2015. The current criteria can be found in the guidance notes for applicants here: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/areapartnershipgrants. This includes a series of maximum value awards for certain activities where costs will have increased since 2015. There has been concern that the criteria should be reviewed to reflect rising costs.

3. In addition, some questions have also been expressed over certain practices that have become more prevalent over time. For example:

   a. applications for funding that are submitted to several Area Partnerships across the City seeking a contribution towards an activity or event.
   b. More than one application being submitted by the same applicant at the same time
   c. Applications for the same activity being submitted annually
   d. Applications from citywide or national organisations.

4. Members should note that Area Partnerships have scope, in exceptional circumstances, to override aspects of the area budget criteria e.g. maximum award levels. To ensure consistency of assessment, officers will always stick to the limits set in the criteria when making recommendations.

## The survey.

5. The survey ran between 13 January and 10 February 2025 with 81 completed or substantially completed returns. **The full results of the survey are attached as Appendix 1**. The survey was open to approximately 400 Area Partnership members and substitute members who receive papers for the meetings, including reports on area budgets, and the relatively low response rate is reflected in some of the recommendations made. The four-week window to access the survey may have been a factor, which will be considered in any future survey, ensuring a longer timeframe for participation.

6. Some of the proposals in this report reflect a reluctance to make significant changes on issues where opinion is split based on a low response. In any future work on the area budget criteria, we will consider how to help more people engage with the process.

7. In general, judging by the responses received, members were satisfied with the status quo on most of the issues covered in the survey so no change is proposed in those cases.

8. Area Partnership members were provided with a series of statements on the funding criteria and asked for their responses in terms of how much they agreed or disagreed. Some follow up questions were asked. The responses received have informed the proposals below.

| | **Statement/question** | **Proposed change to criteria** |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Members were presented with the current criteria for ineligible applications and asked if anything else should be added. *The majority or responses were negative*. | No change |
| 2 | "Organisations should only be able to apply for area budget funding to the same Area Partnership once per year". *More respondents disagreed with this than agreed* | No change |
| 3 | "Organisations should be limited to one application per Area Partnership meeting". *More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | This is added to the funding criteria. |
| 4 | Council departments and partners should remain eligible to apply for funding as long as the purpose of the funding requested is additional to core services.<br>*More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | No change |
| 5 | "Only organisations based within an Area Partnership boundary should be eligible for funding".<br>*More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | The responses do not align with responses to question 11. More work is needed before changing the criteria. |
| 6 | "Organisations should continue to be able to apply for similar events each year (e.g. gala days, school residential trips, bus trips, seasonal activities)."<br>*More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | No change |
| 7 | "Where organisations have received funding for 'pilot' projects, they should be able to apply for further funding to extend the services or activities if they are successful?" *More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | No change |
| 8 | "There should be a time limit on the length of any services or activities funded by the Area Partnership to help more organisations access funding throughout the financial year...". *More respondents disagreed with this than agreed* | No change |
| 9 | "The maximum award level for the area budget is 10% of the total Area Partnership budget each year and the minimum award is £300. These levels should remain the same". *More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | No change |
| 10 | There are other maximum award levels set for certain applications and … they should be increased to take account of increased costs"<br>*More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | New max amounts:<br>Bus trips, £500<br>Team strips, £750<br>Residential trips, £1,500<br>Community events, £7,500 |

| | Statement/question | Proposed change to criteria |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | "Applications for activities/events covering more than one Area Partnership boundary are referred to as 'multiples'. Applications which are 'multiples' should be limited to neighbouring wards only"<br>*More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | Funded activity must be within neighbouring wards, up to a max of 8 wards to take account of the North West, North East and South planning areas. |
| 12 | "When applying to more than one Area Partnership … applicants should be eligible to receive the maximum award from each …" *The same number of respondents agreed and disagreed with this with 14% neither agreeing or disagreeing.* | No change currently proposed but further engagement of members will take place on this issue. |
| 13 | "The delegated authority scheme should remain as it is".<br>*More respondents agreed with this than disagreed* | No change to the delegated authority process |
| 14 | "The delegated authority scheme should be retained and the maximum amount increased to £1000"<br>*More respondents disagreed with this than agreed* | Increase delegated authority limit to £750 to take account of rising costs and efforts to streamline Area Partnership meetings. |

9. Members were asked a final question – *"Do you have any other comments that you believe would improve the area budget grants scheme?".* Responses to this question covered areas of governance, application process, accessibility to the fund, scrutiny of applications and a need to attract match funding. Those comments will be reviewed and inform any further proposals on the area budget and how it operates.

**Recommendations**

10. The Strategic Partnership is asked to:

    a. Note
        i. the results of the survey on the area budget criteria;
        ii. that further work will be conducted on improving the area budget process including engagement with members of Area Partnerships; and

    b. Approve the proposals contained in paragraph 8.

**Appendix 1**

## Area Partnerships – Survey on Area Budget Criteria

### Introduction

1.1 The area budget review survey 2024/25, was opened to all members of all 23 Area Partnerships across Glasgow, seeking their views on the current arrangements of the area budget small grants scheme. Accessible from 13 January 2025 the survey ran for 4 weeks, until Monday 10 February 2025, gaining a total of 75 responses.

1.2 For the purposes of analysis, a further 6 responses deemed sufficient to be included, having completed 4 out of 5 sections. This increased the total respondents to the area budget review survey 2024/25 survey to 81.

1.3 The following report will detail the results of the Area Budget Review 2024/2025.

### 2 About You

2.1 In the first section of the survey, respondents were asked to categorise themselves in 3 ways, Area Partnership membership status, geographically by the area partnership they were a member of and by the organisation they represented.

2.2 **Area Partnership Membership Status**

2.2.1 Respondent were asked to indicate their membership status from a list of option:

- Member (61)
- Co-opted member (13)
- Substitute member (7)

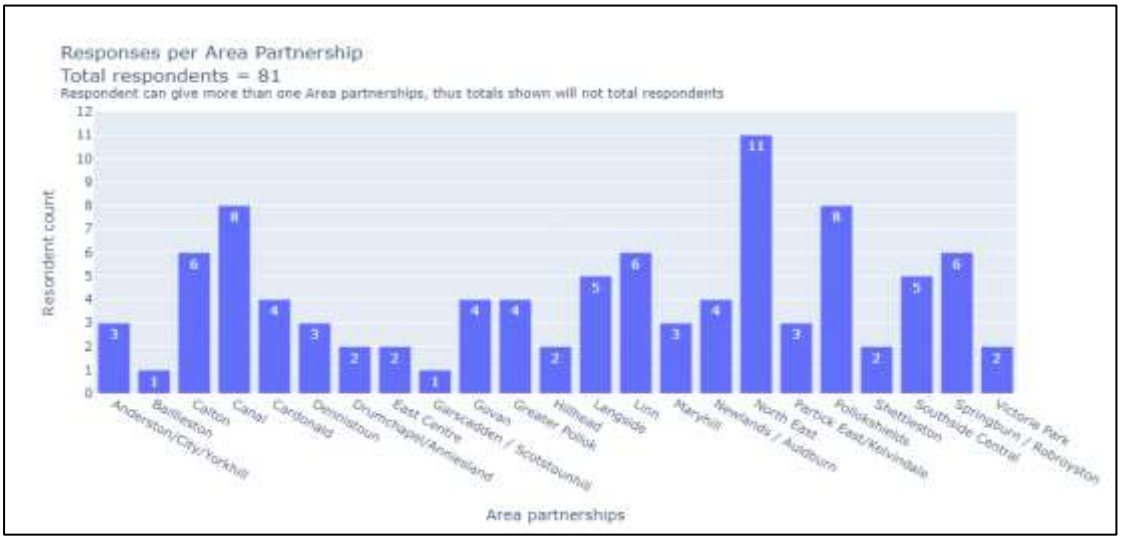
2.2.2 More than 3 quarters of respondents designated themselves “Member”, with the other categories returned in much smaller proportions. Due to the lower numbers of respondents, it is not practical to provide further cross-tabulation analysis utilising this category.

2.3 **Geographic responses**

2.3.1 The geographical category allowed respondents to indicate participation in an Area Partnership. 8 of the respondents indicated they were a part of more than a singular area partnership with the majority responding they were a part of a single Area Partnership.

2.3.2 Figure 1 illustrates the varying responses received by Area Partnership, where several areas had large numbers of responses, however 7 of the Area Partnerships received 2 or less responses.

Figure 1:




## 2.4 Area Partnership Organisational Category

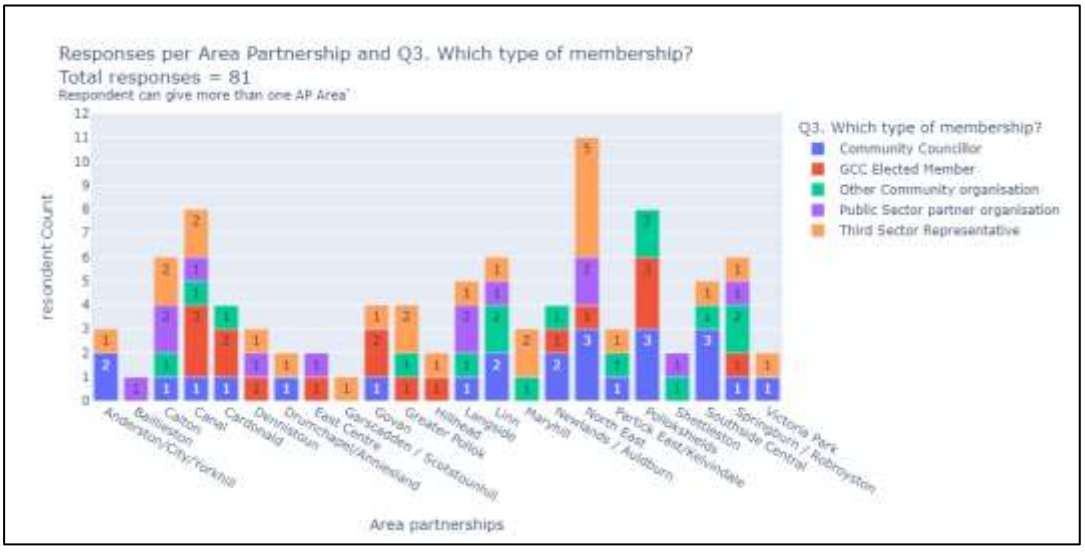
2.4.1 Respondents were offered a series of categories where they could label themselves by the organisation they represent on the Area Partnership, the options available to them were:

- Community Councillor
- GCC Elected Member
- Other Community organisation
- Public Sector partner organisation
- Third Sector Representative

2.4.2 Just over a quarter of the responses were from Community Councillors (24 Total) and were the majority of respondents across 8 of the 23 area partnerships surveyed.

2.4.3 Figure 2 breaks down the responses by Area Partnership they participate in and by organisational category

Figure 2:

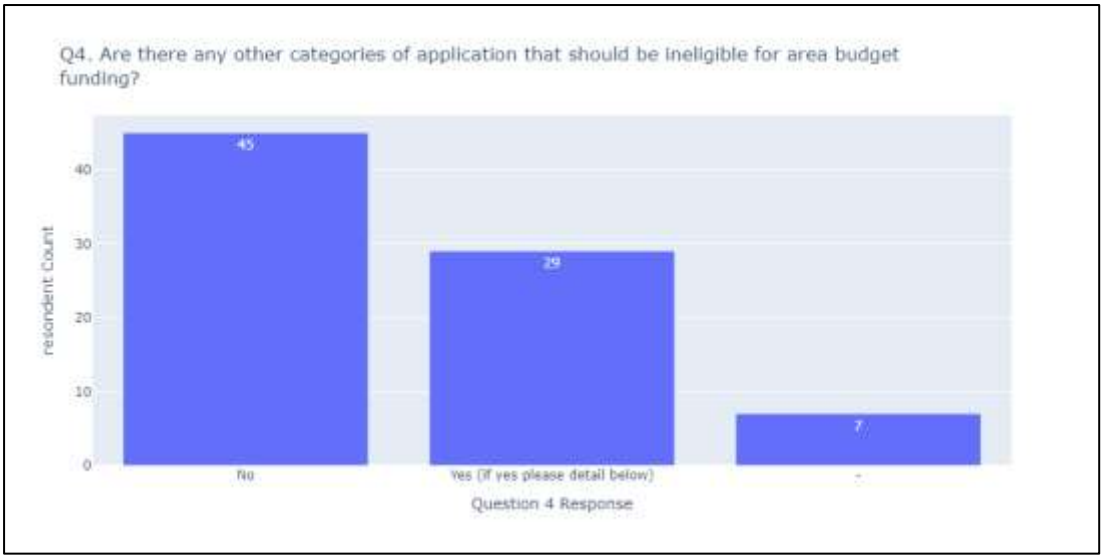


## 3 Eligibility

3.1 Respondents were provided with the currently used statement on eligibility for small grants scheme applications. Respondents were then asked if any other categories should be ineligible for funding through this process.

3.2 Over half of respondents answered 'Yes', with those respondents then offered a comment box to identify categories that should be ineligible for area budget funding, with the largest proportion of respondents discussing Local Government funded organisations.

Figure 3:




3.3 The next largest group discussed the eligibility of Large or National organisations, along with Commercial Businesses.

3.4 A number of respondents also discussed 'Employee Costs' being made ineligible from future small grants scheme applications.

## 4 Series of Statements (Question 5)

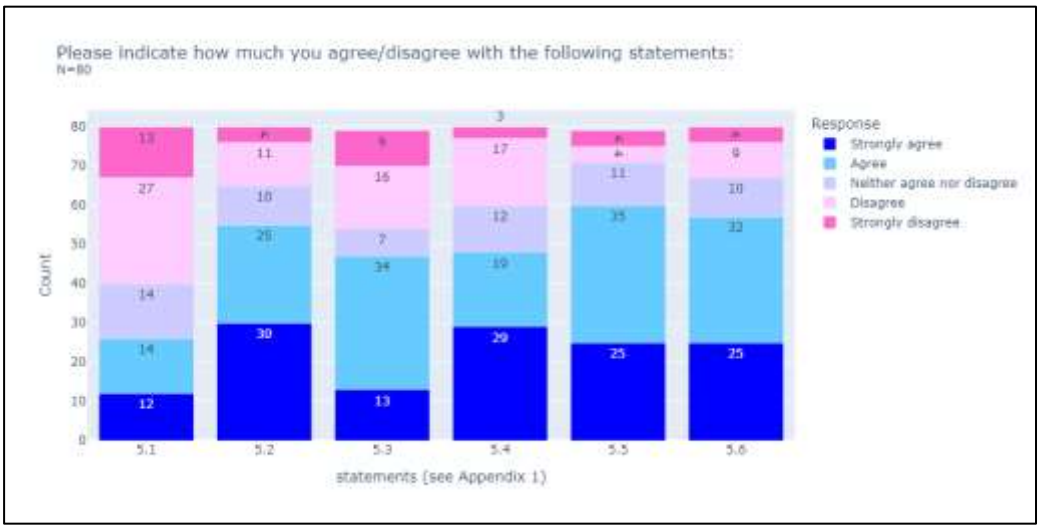
4.1 Respondents were offered a series of statements

- Organisations should only be able to apply for area budget funding to the same Area Partnership once per year.
- Organisations should be limited to one application per Area Partnership meeting.
- Council departments and our public sector partners are currently eligible for area budget funding. This should remain the same as long as the purpose of the funding requested is for goods, services or activities that are additional to the core services they deliver and are not statutory services (e.g. a school residential trip would be eligible).

- Only organisations based within an Area Partnership boundary should be eligible for funding.
- Organisations should continue to be able to apply for similar events each year (e.g. gala days, school residential trips, bus trips, seasonal activities).
- Where organisations have received funding for 'pilot' projects, they should be able to apply for further funding to extend the services or activities if they are successful?

4.2 They were asked to indicate how much they agreed or disagreed with each of the statements.

Figure 4:




4.3 In nearly all cases, more than half of the respondents agreed in some way ("Strongly agree"/"Agree") with the statement, with the notable exception being statement 5.1 "*Organisations should only be able to apply for area budget funding to the same Area Partnership once per year*"; where half of respondents disagreed in some way (Strongly disagree / disagree with the statement.

4.4 Statement 5.2 "*Organisations should be limited to one application per Area Partnership meeting*" had the highest number of "Strongly Agree" responses (30), closely followed by statement 5.4 "*Only organisations based within an Area Partnership boundary should be eligible for funding*." (29).

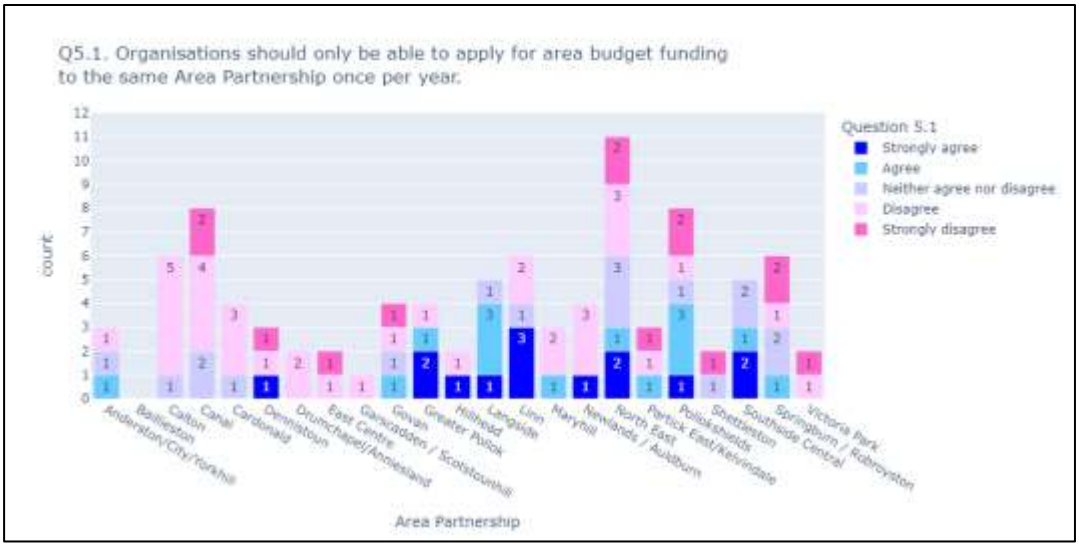
## 5 Series of Statements Individually

5.1 Analysis was conducted at an individual Area Partnership basis, some respondents will feature across multiple Area Partnerships, and as a result will not amount to the City total.

### 5.1.1 Organisations should only be able to apply for area budget funding to the same Area Partnership once per year

5.1.2 Analysing statement 5.1 by the 22 Area Partnerships who provided a response (Figure 5), 17 disagreed in some way with the statement, whereas only 5 agreed with the statement ('Greater Pollok', 'Langside', 'Linn', 'Pollokshields', 'Southside Central') which are geographically all south sector Area Partnerships.

Figure 5:

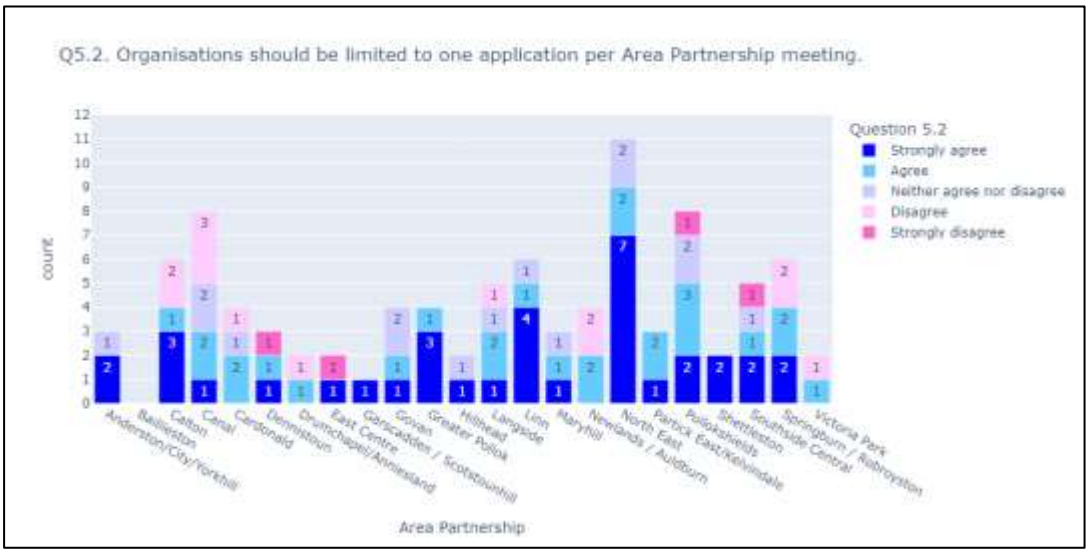



5.1.3 While the number of Area Partnerships with a respondent selecting a strongly emphasised response (“Strongly Agree” or “Strongly Disagree”), was not significantly different, there was a much greater variation in the number of Area Partnerships where a respondent chose, the less emphatic 'Agree' (10, Respondents 14) and 'Disagree' (19, respondents 27).

### 5.2.1 Organisations should be limited to one application per Area Partnership meeting

5.2.2 17 of the Area Partnership areas were more positive than negative to this statement, showing no significant different from the city-wide response.

Figure 6:

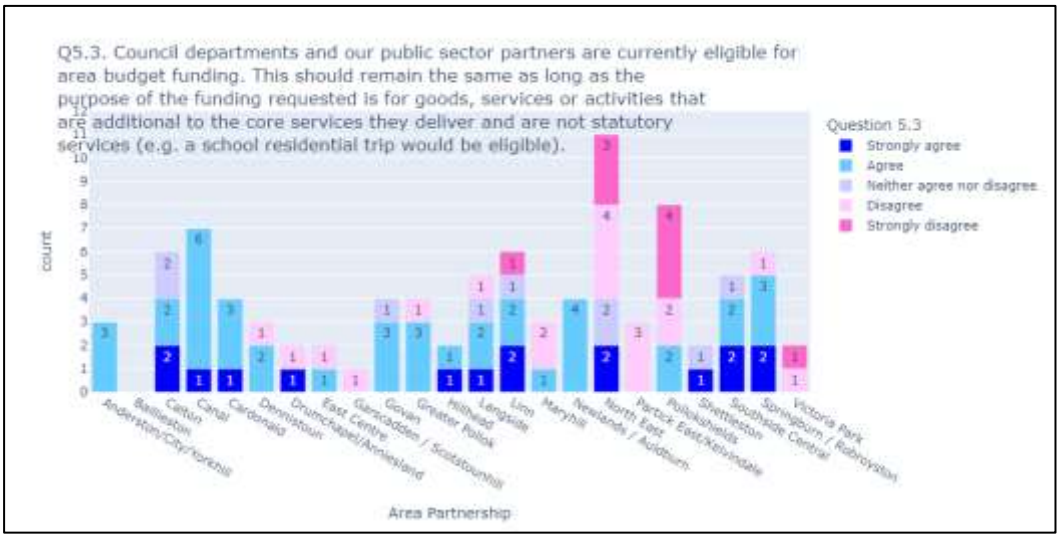



**5.3.1 Council departments and our public sector partners are currently eligible for area budget funding. This should remain the same as long as the purpose of the funding requested is for goods, services or activities that are additional to the core services they deliver and are not statutory services (e.g. a school residential trip would be eligible).**

5.3.2 13 of the 22 Area Partnership areas were positive to this statement. 'Garscadden / Scotstounhill', 'Partick East/Kelvindale' and 'Victoria Park' respondents gave no positive responses to this statement.

5.3.3 “North East” and “Pollokshields” returned the most negative responses and were also the Area Partnerships areas with the greatest number or respondents to the survey.

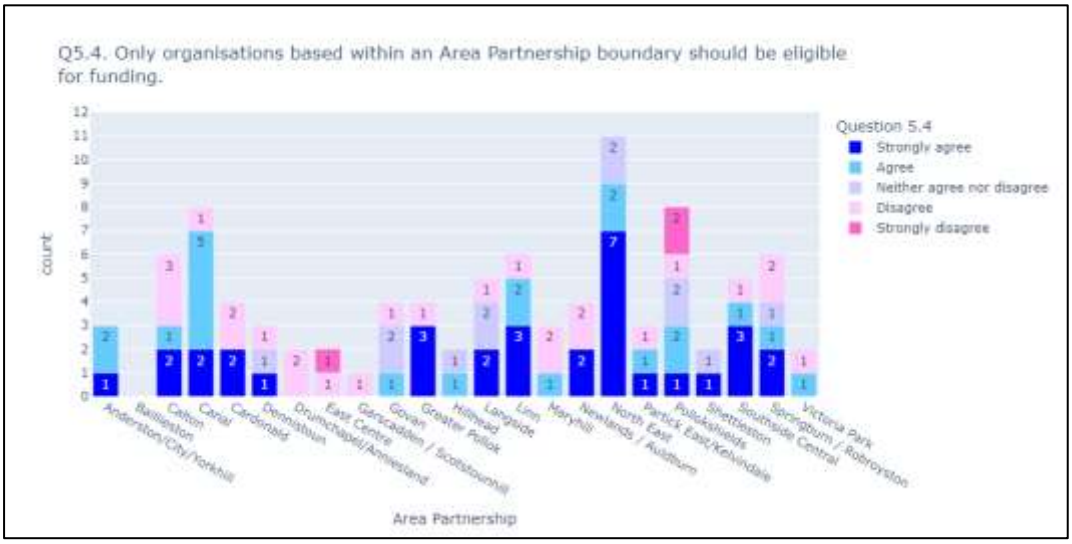
Figure 7:



### 5.4.1 Only organisations based within an Area Partnership boundary should be eligible for funding

5.4.2 7 of the 22 Area Partnership were divided in their response to this statement, with an equal number of responses selecting responses Positively (Strongly Agree / Agree) and Negatively (Strongly Disagree / Disagree) to the statement. Only 3 respondents selected “Strongly Disagree” across 2 Area Partnerships, as opposed to the 29 respondents who responded “Strongly Agree” across 15 areas partnerships.

Figure 8:




### 5.5.1 Organisations should continue to be able to apply for similar events each year (e.g. gala days, school residential trips, bus trips, seasonal activities)

5.5.2 13 of the 22 Area Partnership areas were positive to this statement with only 1 Area Partnership area with a single response responding negatively.

Figure 9:

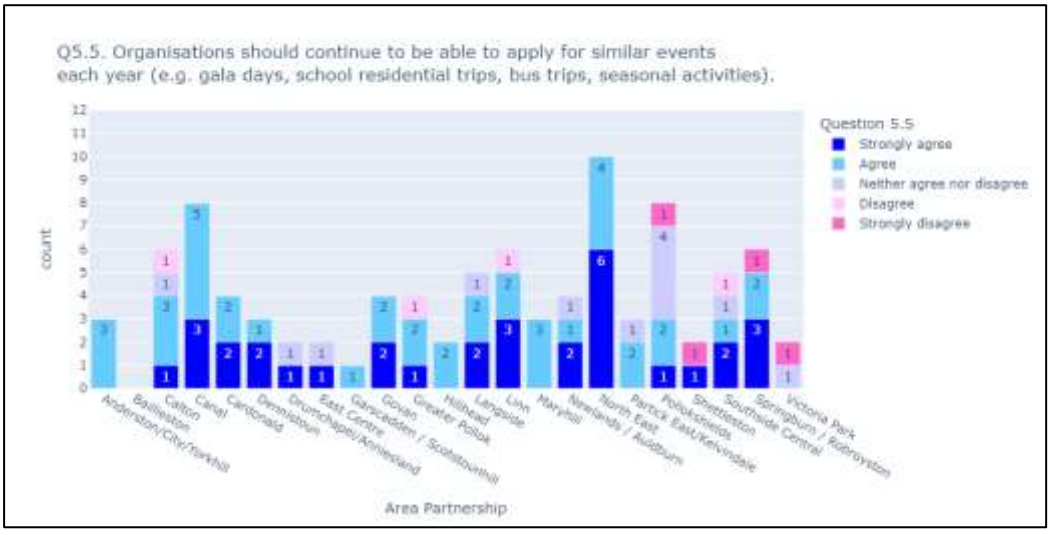
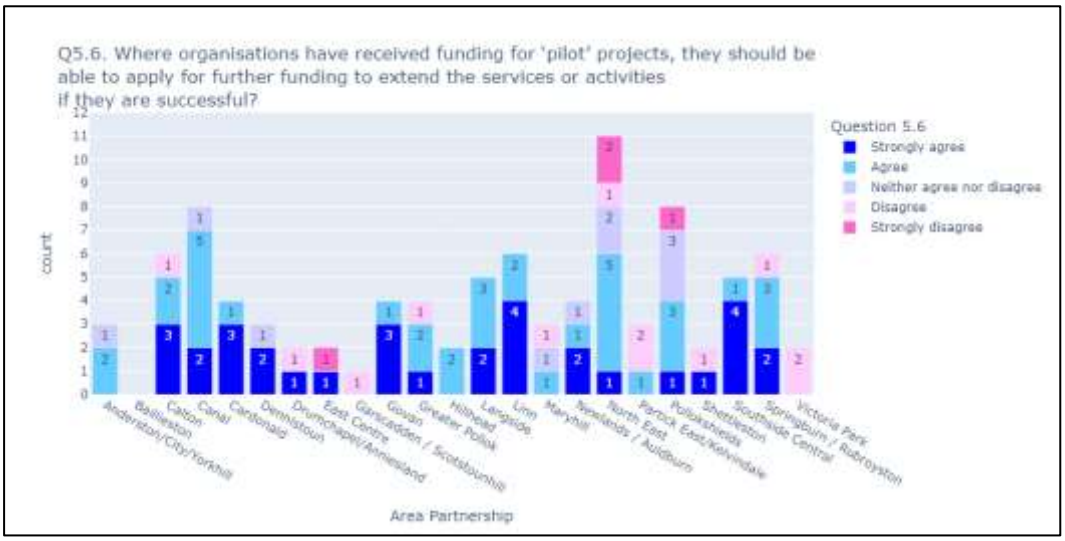


Figure 10:




## 6 Time Limitations

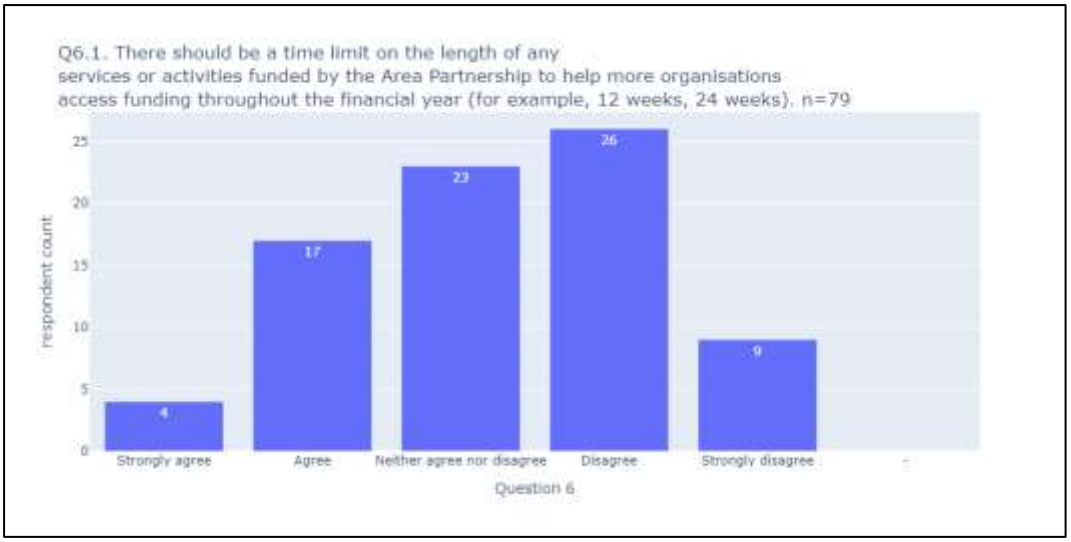
6.1 Respondents were asked their view on placing time limits on grant recipients to further grant applications, which may allow for a wider range of organisations to apply to the small grants scheme.

6.2 A third of respondents (26) disagreed with the statement with a further 9 strongly disagreed with the statement.

6.3 More respondents selected “Neither Agree nor Disagree” than “Agree” and “Strongly Agree” combined.

6.4 Respondents who agreed with the statement were offered an open text box to give a suggested time limit, with an equal number selecting 12 weeks as those who comments it would be dependent on the project and the amount allocated. However, the application of a time limit was disagreed with by the majority of respondents/

Figure 11:

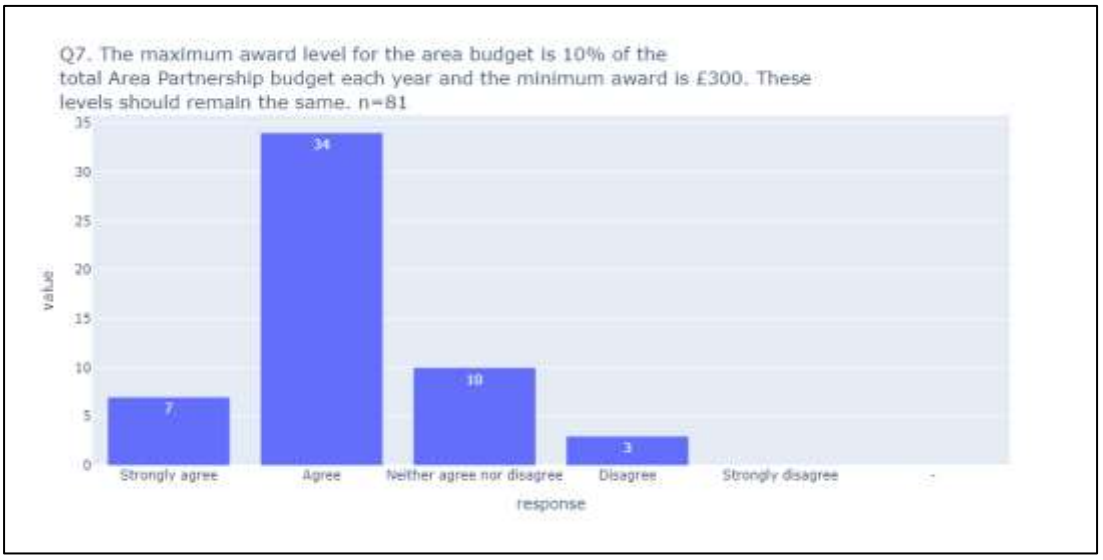


## 7 Maximum and minimum award levels

7.1 Respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed/disagreed with the statement that the current maximum and minimum award values should remain the same.

7.2 The majority of respondents agreed with the statement and further 7 strongly agreeing

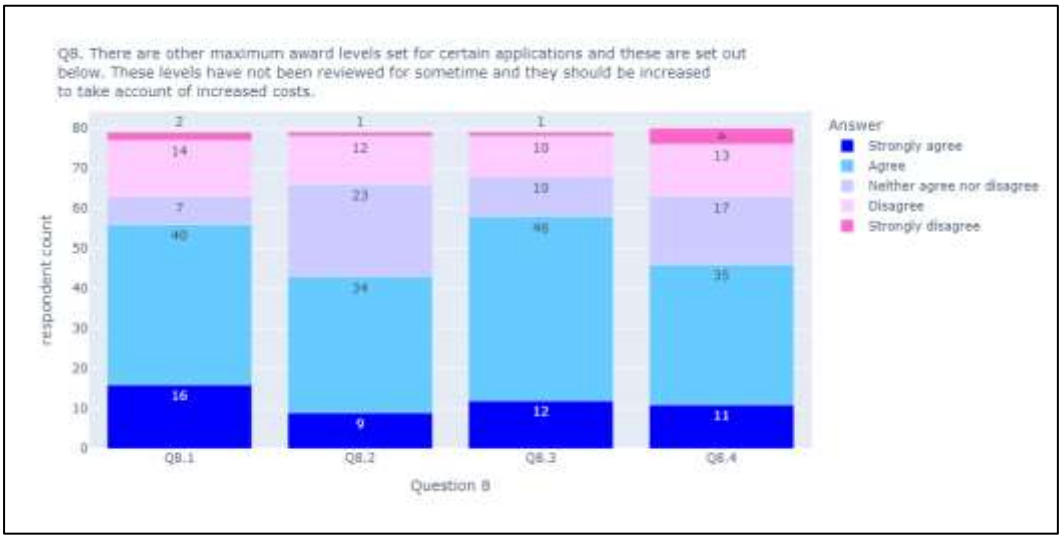
Figure 12:




## 8 Maximum award levels

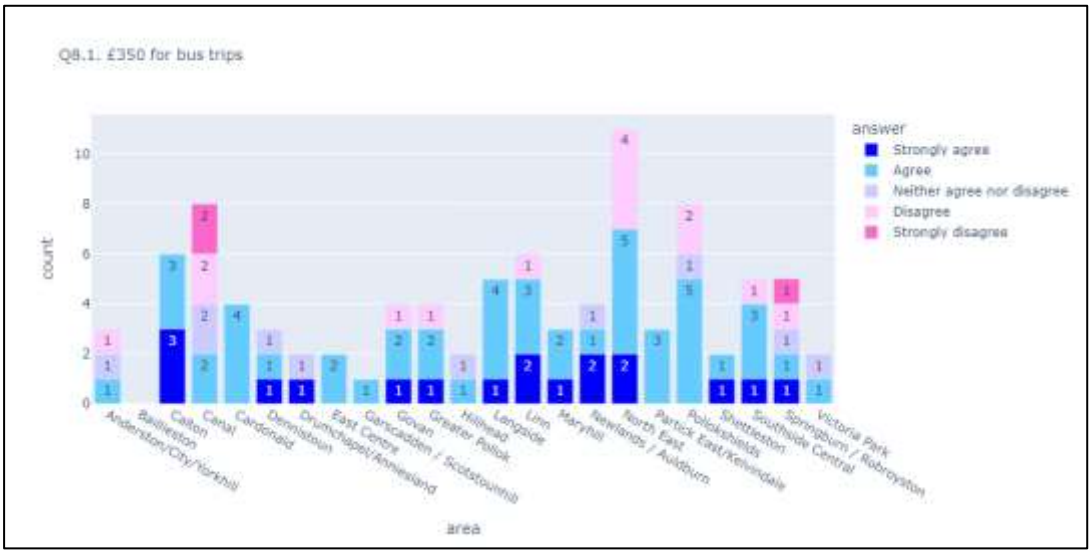
8.1 Respondents were asked about their views on maximum awards applied to certain categories of application. As the maximum award levels have not been reviewed for some time, respondents were asked to agree/disagree that the maximum recommended awards for a series of applications should be increased.

Figure 13:



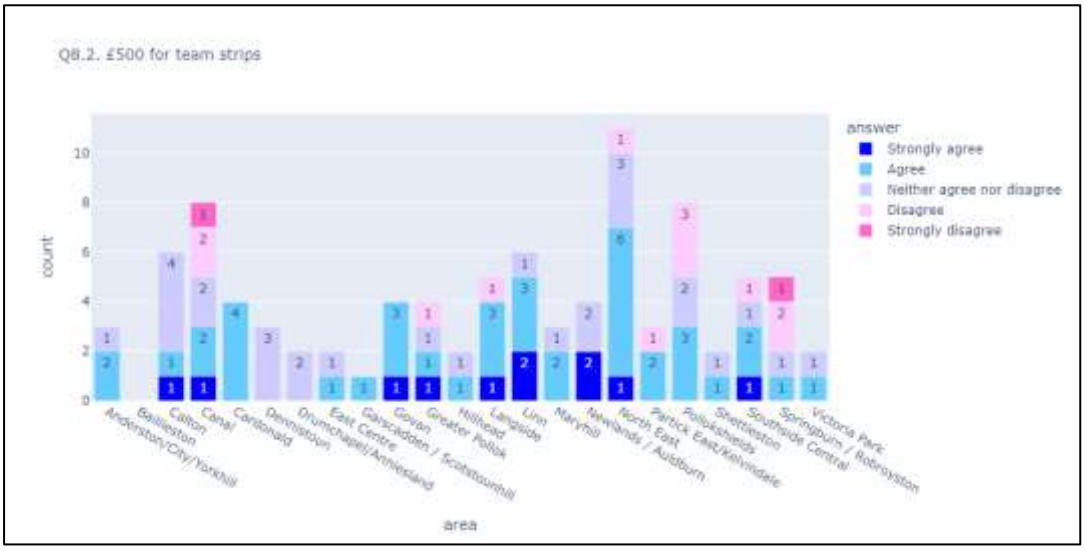
8.1.1 Statement 1, respondents were asked if they agreed that the maximum limit of £350 for bus trip applications should be increased. 13 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Strongly Agreed” (16 respondents total) and 21 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Agreed” (40 respondents total).

Figure 14:



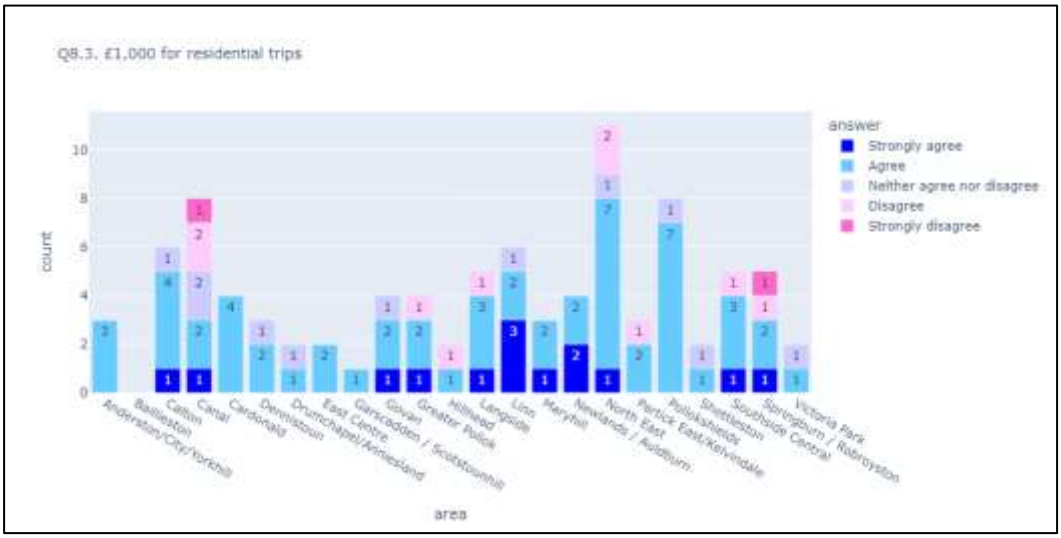

8.1.2 Statement 2 respondents were asked if applications for team strips should be increased from £500, 9 Area Partnerships had a respondent who “Strongly Agreed” (9 respondents total) and 19 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Agreed” (34 respondents total).

Figure 15:



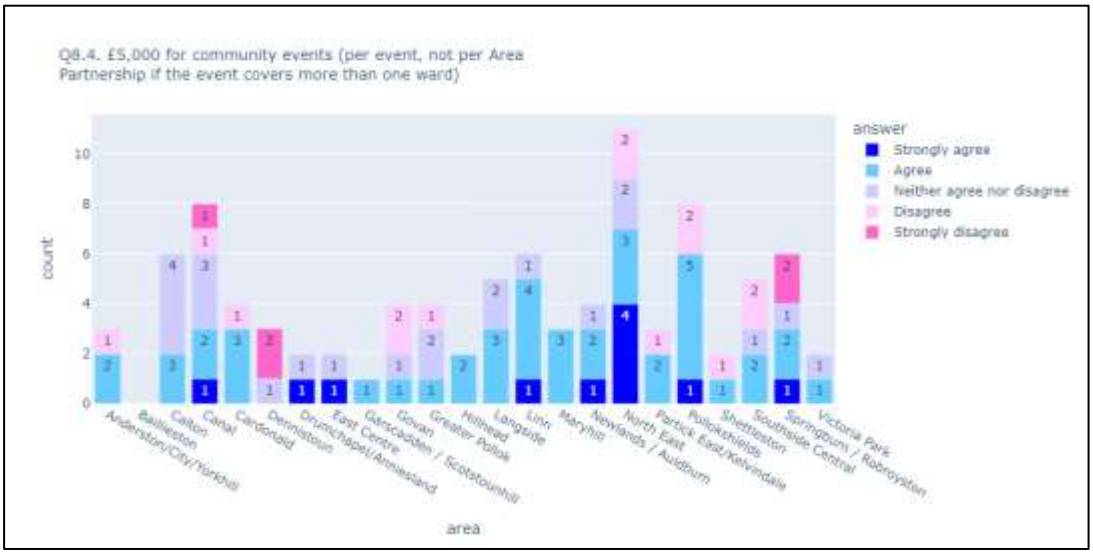
8.1.3 Statement 3 asked if respondents agreed that the maximum value for residential trips should be increased from £1,000, 11 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Strongly Agreed” (12 respondents total) and 22 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Agreed” (46 respondents total).

Figure 16:




8.1.4 Statement 4 asked if respondents agreed that the maximum value for community events should be increased from £5,000 per event. 8 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Strongly Agreed” (11 respondents total) and 19 Area Partnerships had at least one respondent who “Agreed” (35 respondents total).

Figure 17:




8.2 Across all provided statements, the majority agreed that each of the suggested amounts should be increased.

## 9 Multiples

9.1 Applicants were presented with two statements seeking clarity on future ‘multiples’ applications, where organisation submit funding requests across multiple area partnerships for the same project. Respondents were asked to state their level of agreement/disagreement with each of the statements:

- 9.1. Applications for activities/events covering more than one Area Partnership boundary are referred to as ‘multiples’. Applications which are ‘multiples’ should be limited to neighbouring wards only
- 9.2. When applying to more than one Area Partnership (a multiple application), applicants should be eligible to receive the maximum award from each.

9.2 Of the 80 respondents who completed this question, the majority agreed with in some way with both statements (figure 17).

9.3 Whereas with statement 9.1, only 20 respondents choose to disagree in some way with the statement and (47), more than half agreeing with the statement.

9.4 Statement 9.2 on the other hand was not as clear cut, with 33 respondents agreeing and 32 respondent disagreeing in some way with ‘multiple’ applicants being eligible to receive the maximum award. Also, when viewed exclusively at those respondents who “Strongly Agreed” (7) or “Strongly Disagreed” (9) with the statement the difference was again very small.

Figure 18:


9.4.1 When broken down by the area partnership statement 9.2

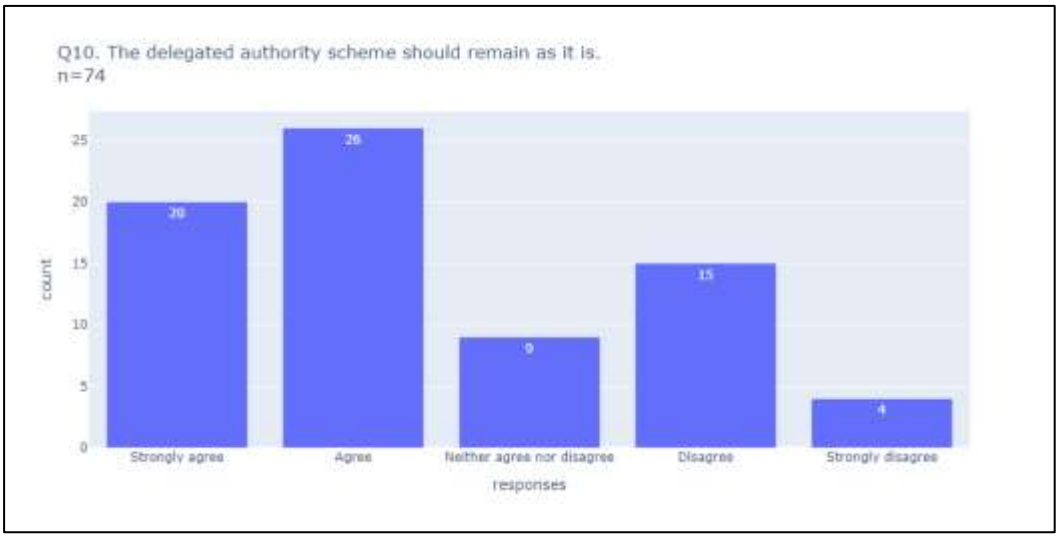
9.5 Respondents were then offered an open text box, if they had further comment on the subject of ‘multiples’. The majority of respondents discussed a need for evidence to back up the applications reason behind multiple areas. Respondents also discussed a need for the Area Partnership to be informed it is a ‘multiples’ application, which some respondents discussed wasn’t made clear.

9.6 Respondents also commented that each multiple application should be assessed on its own merit instead of a rule set for all. Many comments discussed the need for activity within the area.

**10 The delegated authority scheme should remain as it is.**

10.1 This statement was agreed with by just under two thirds of respondents

Figure 19:



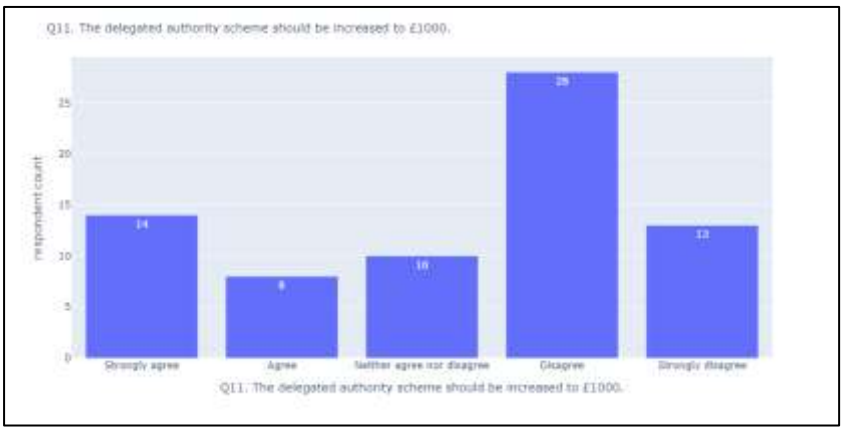

10.2 When again cross reference with the Area Partnerships with this question, (18 Areas 26 Respondents) Agreed and (15 Areas, 20 Respondents) Strongly Agreed.

**11 The delegated authority scheme should be increased to £1000.**

11.1 This statement was disagreed with by more than half of respondents.

11.2 18 Areas had at least one respondent disagree with the statement, (28 respondents). 9 Areas had at least one respondent Strongly disagree with the statement (13 respondents)

Figure 20:



**12 Do you have any other comments on the delegated authority scheme?**

12.1 Respondents were offered a text box to give further comments about Delegated Authority, with just over a third of respondents offered a response of some kind.

12.2 The largest number of respondents discussed disagreeing with a singular person having delegated authority, where several comments were around the decision being verified or using electronic means to negate the need for delegated authority to a single person. However, a similar number of comments were also received generally agreeing with the delegated authority scheme, but not necessarily to the suggested limit.

**13** Finally, an open text box allowed respondents to give any relevant further details not previously captured in the survey. A significant number of respondents discussed evaluation and monitoring of grant recipients. A significant number of responses also discussed applications should present a greater level of detail or evidence that the grants would directly apply to local residents within the Ward area.