



APPENDIX B

Leicestershire's future

The plan for change

Key findings from workshops

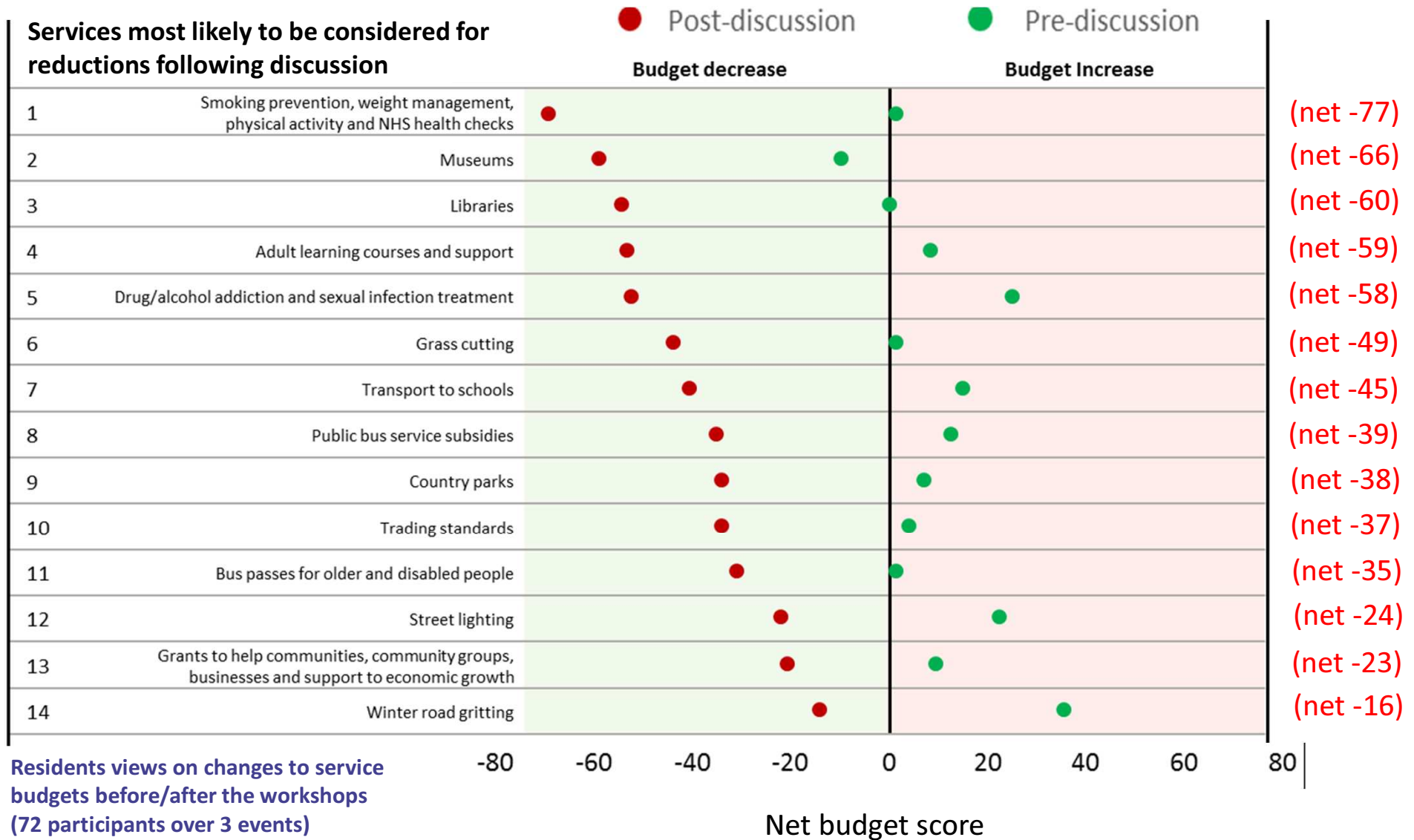
Workshop programme



Time and date	Broad areas covered	Attendees
6.30pm Tues 2 nd July 2019	Melton, Oadby & Wigston, Harborough	26
6.30pm Weds 3 rd July 2019	Charnwood, NW Leicestershire	25
6.30pm Thurs 4 th July 2019	Hinckley & Bosworth, Blaby	21

- » **Lasted approximately 3¾ hours**
- » **Deliberative approach**
- » **72 participants → inclusive and representative sample**
- » **Participants given questionnaire on arrival and one at the end**
- » **Participants split into 3 groups (18-34 yrs, 35-54 yrs, 55+ yrs)**
- » **Format – warm up, presentation, detailed discussion in groups**
- » **‘Councillor for a day’**

Services most likely to be considered for reductions...





» **Services were valued...**

» **...but residents felt they could be provided in different ways e.g.**

- Some support for public health agenda, but not necessarily LCC's responsibility/individual responsibility
- Universal services - libraries, museums and grass cutting offered differently (e.g. by individuals/ community volunteers)
- Raising more income through adult learning, transport to school, bus passes and community/business grants

Services least likely to be considered for reductions...



Services least likely to be considered for reductions following discussion

● Post-discussion ● Pre-discussion

Budget decrease

Budget increase



Residents views on changes to service budgets before/after the workshops (72 participants over 3 events)

-80 -60 -40 -20 0 20 40 60 80

Net budget score

Services least likely to be considered for reductions...



» Net figures had all reduced post-discussion e.g.

- Maintaining roads and pavements → +72 to +23
- Services for adults with mental health problems → +64 to +27

Many participants understood that the £74m saving can only be achieved through reducing high spend areas, in spite of general support for protecting the vulnerable

» Most common suggestions...

- More joint working between departments (e.g. SEND/services for adults with learning disabilities; early support to families & young people/children's social care services and child protection)
- Better/constant means testing
- Focus on children's/early intervention to reduce demand on adult services

"Considering you are spending £75 million on one and £52 million on the other...I would have thought it's got to be looked at in some way"
(Hinckley, 55+)

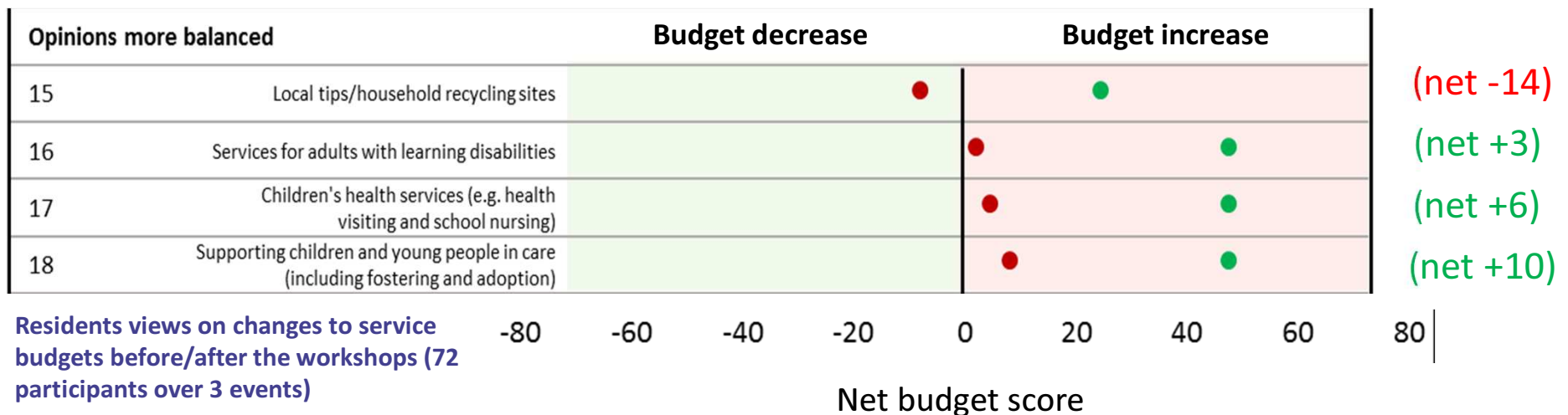
"If you solve a problem in childhood, it can take the strain off adult problems. If you don't fix it, it'll only move the problem, or they'll have to deal with it later" (Wigston, 18-34)

Services where opinion was more balanced...



● Post-discussion ● Pre-discussion

Services for which opinions were more balanced following discussion



Residents were open to new ways of working



- » Partnerships with other councils / service providers
- » More community involvement / volunteering
- » Individual responsibility
- » Raising income
- » Selling services
- » Investing in property/land + making better use of LCC assets
- » Focusing on environmental initiatives and better use of technology

*“There are a lot of skill sets around within the Council, there must be ways you could earn money with that...
(Hinckley, 55+)”*

“Building office blocks and renting out to the private sector would generate income... (Loughborough, 55+)”

Support for unitary authority concept



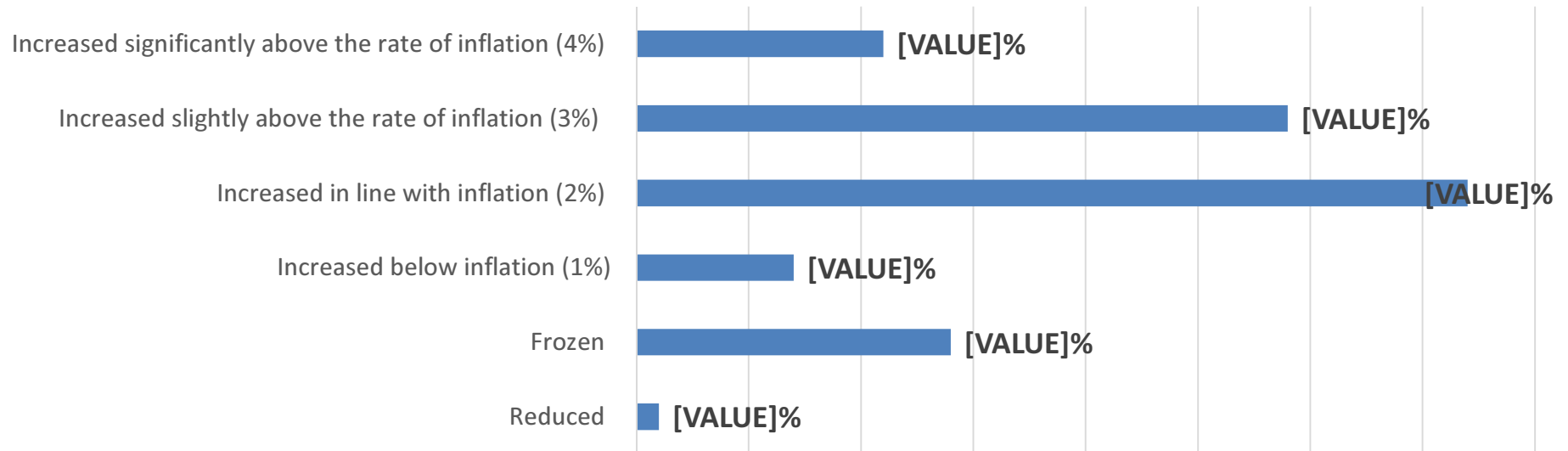
- » Residents informed about development of business case for unitary authority
- » Not a focus for detailed discussion...
- » ...many positive comments about unitary authority supported by stronger parish and town councils
 - Substantial, significant saving
 - Reduce confusion

“It makes a lot of sense. You save on all sorts of stuff. You don’t need two HR teams, two financial chief operating officers ... The number of districts as well. It’s an eye opener. You wouldn’t get a business running in that way” (Hinckley, 35-54)

Views on council tax rises...

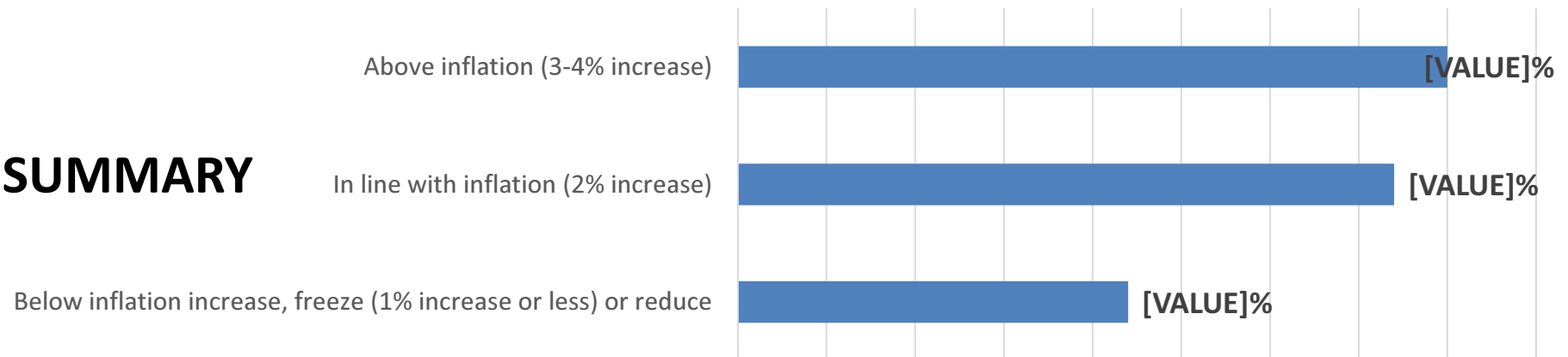


Which of these statements comes closest to your own view? Council Tax should be...



74

SUMMARY



...but rises are inevitable/necessary



- » **Consensus in workshop discussions → council tax rises are inevitable/necessary**
- » **Many → rises acceptable if in line with inflation**

“For me, it’s inflation rate, fine. But when you get a big increase, it hurts” (Hinckley, 35-54)

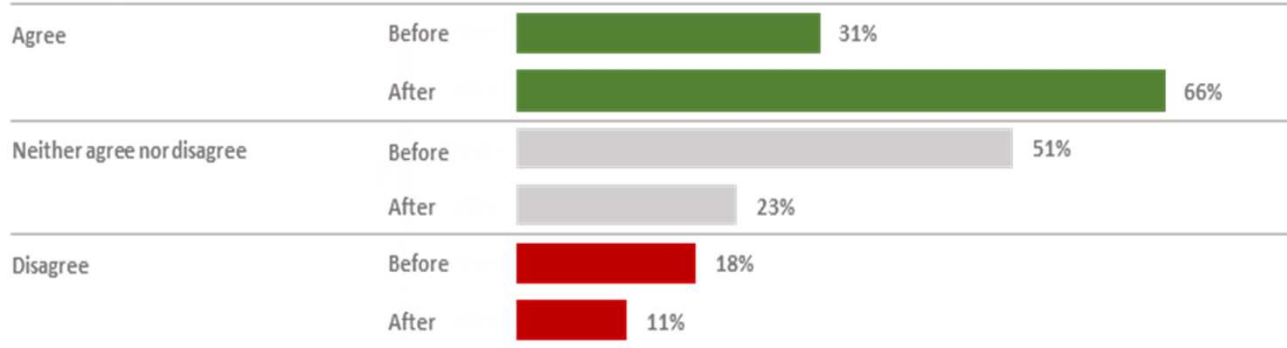
- » **Others → must be higher to meet growing demand for Council services**

“It’s inevitable... Council cuts are so hard-hitting now. This Council has done everything it can so if we’re not prepared to borrow more, we’re going to have to pay more...that middle band of working age adults. We’ve got to support both ends of the spectrum because how else do we do it without significant income generation?” (Loughborough, 55+)

Views on LCC are mostly positive, especially post-discussion



Summary



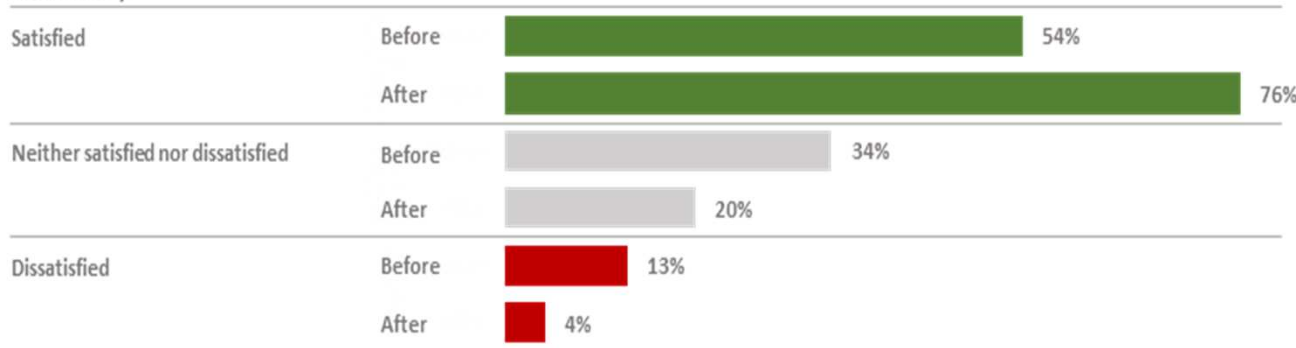
Many agreed that LCC provides value for money (+35% points post-discussion)

Key

■ Agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Disagree

To what extent do you agree or disagree that LCC provides value for money? Base: 71 respondents

Summary



Most residents are satisfied with the way LCC runs the area (+22% points post-discussion)

Key

■ Satisfied
 ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 ■ Dissatisfied

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way LCC runs the area? Base: 71 respondents

Other key messages



» Need for

- More public information around where money is spent/why council tax rises are needed
- Fairer funding for LCC

» Information given at workshops = greater understanding of...

- Challenges faced by LCC
- Difficulties involved in making decisions around budgets/services

“People need to be more well informed about where it’s being spent. Because I didn’t have a clue before this where it was going. Now I know where it’s being spent and cutting it would be harder and would have more of a knock-on effect than an increase in council tax – it would make you feel a lot better for paying it” (Wigston, 18-34)

In conclusion...



» LCC could consider...

- Funding reductions across a number of service areas
- Continuing to examine new ways of working
- Continuing to examine ways to reduce spending/raise income
- Council tax rises in line with/slightly above the rate of inflation
- Continuing to consider unitarisation
- Continuing to lobby for fair funding
- Increasing communications around service provision, funding & spending decisions

Residents valued the opportunity to participate...



“This is my first discussion evening. I found this very beneficial in terms of education – I also really enjoyed it more than I thought!” (Wigston, 18-34)

“I did find it interesting and am more informed about Council matters. I think you have a pretty impossible task, pleasing all of the people just isn’t possible. Good luck!” (Wigston, 55+)

“I personally found today actually quite enjoyable. I honestly didn’t feel I would get much from today however I have found that I have. Very well-run by professional staff. Opened my eyes to what the council have to provide in the community. A very well-run event” (Hinckley, 18-34)

“Found this meeting very useful and informative, opened my eyes to how difficult it is” (Loughborough, 35-54)



Thank you
Any questions?