

The Role of AONB Partnerships in the Planning Process

NAAONB Questionnaire Survey Jan 2013

Background

- * SW Planning Group requested survey to inform re structuring response to budget cuts
- * Provides NAAONB with some Baseline data on engagement in planning
- * Can be the foundation on which to build collaborative working

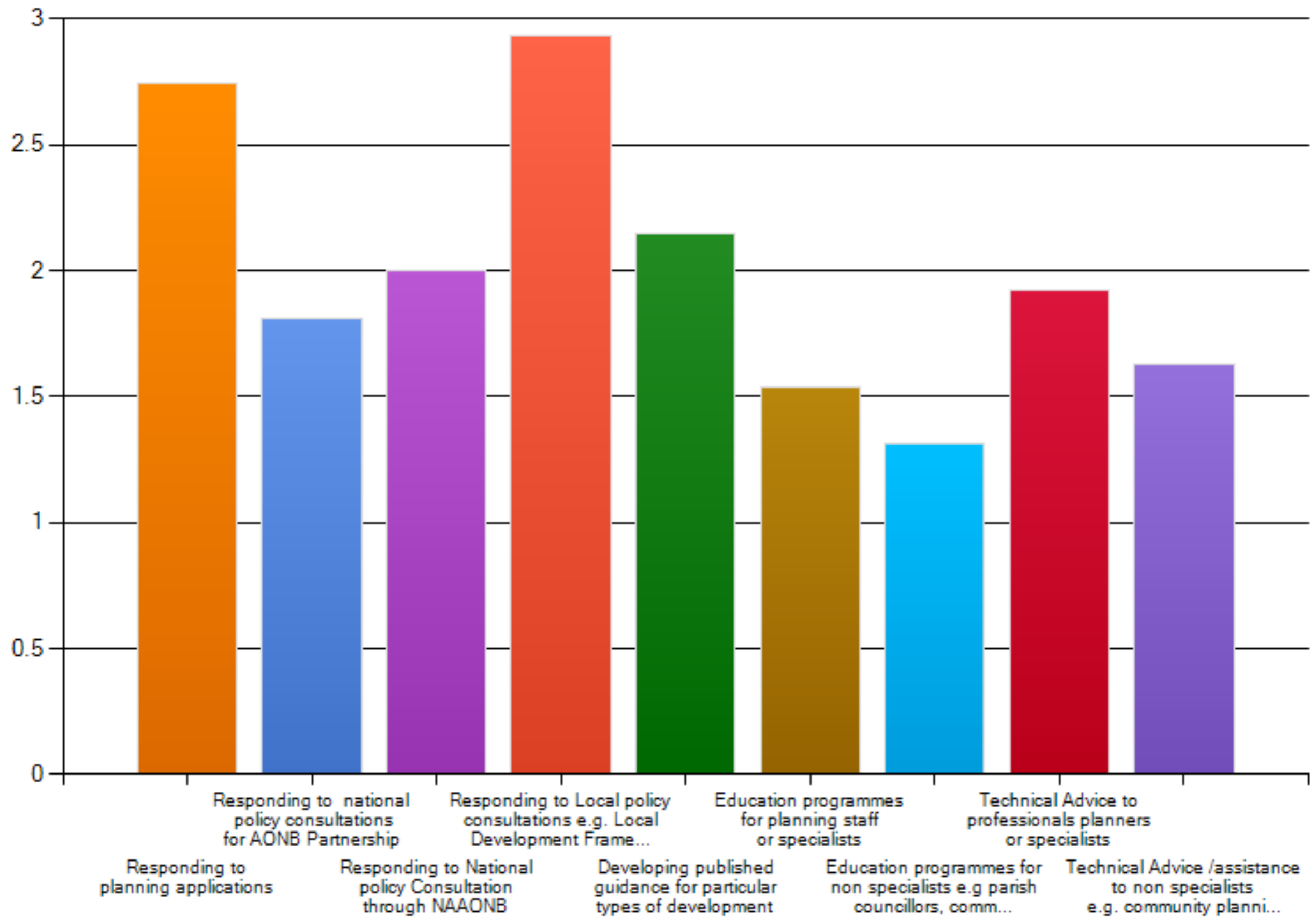
Does your AONB engage in the planning process?

- * 27 AONBs do (only 1 respondent didn't)
- * 22 AONBs have planning protocols or equivalent guidelines in place with LPAs
- * Comments suggest protocols becoming out of date/ being reviewed or lapsed!

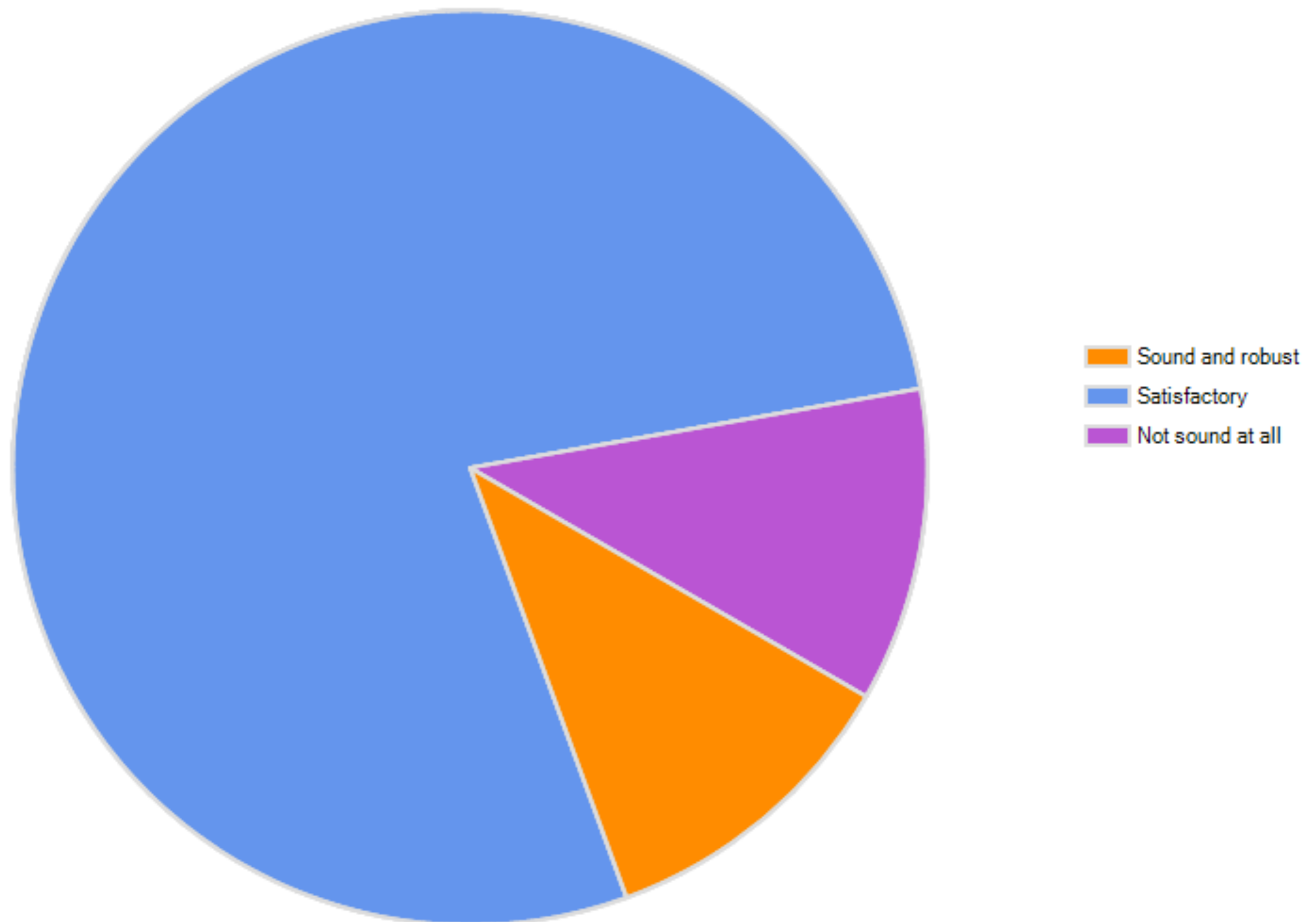
Resources dedicated to planning work?

- * 15 specialist planning posts (9 f/t 6 p/t)
- * 21 AONB Lead Officers (18 up to 25% of time on planning issues)
- * 12 AONBs draw on other staff input
- * 12 AONBs draw on Partnership resources for planning work
- * Costs of planning resource - £4k to £74k or 2.5% to 27% of Core budgets

Where are the resources you apply to planning, mainly focused?



In your opinion, how good are your Local Planning Authorities core strategy policies for safeguarding the purposes of AONB designation and fulfilling the local authority's "Duty to have regard"?



About Core Strategies?

- * Something like 110 Core Strategies covered by AONB designation
- * 40 reported with specific AONB policies in place
- * 22 reported as NOT having specific AONB policies but with reference 'natural beauty' or equivalent

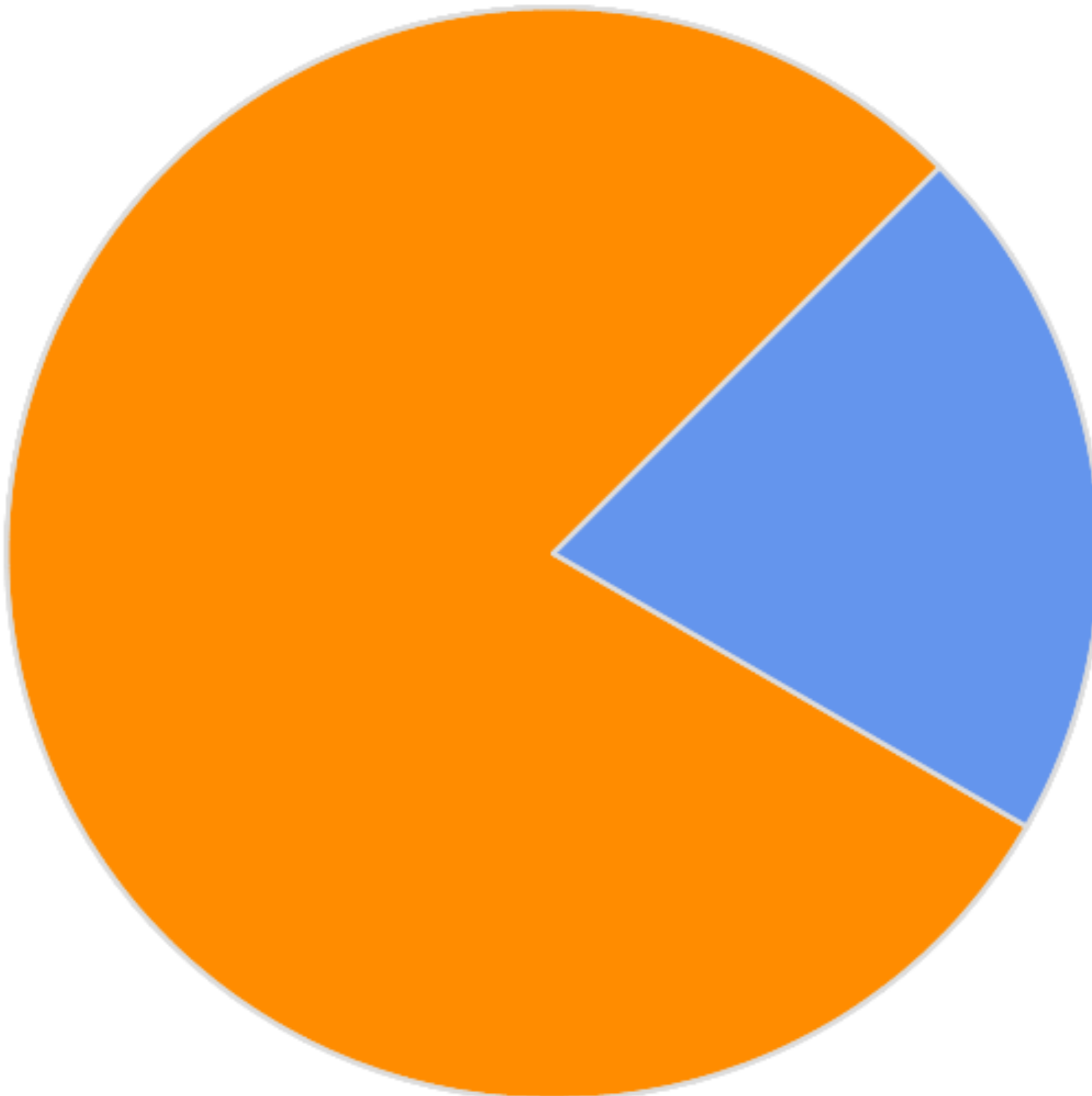
Issue AONB team regard as most important?

Planning issue	Value
Wind Power	4.19
New Houses >3	4.39
Agricultural development	4.88
Leisure & Recreation	5.58
Other Energy Schemes	6.46
Equestrian development	6.58
Small Scale Domestic	6.62
Infrastructure Development (local)	6.69
New Roads	7.38
Infrastructure Development (national)	7.54
Telecoms	8.1
Other Development	9.58

Applications commented on?

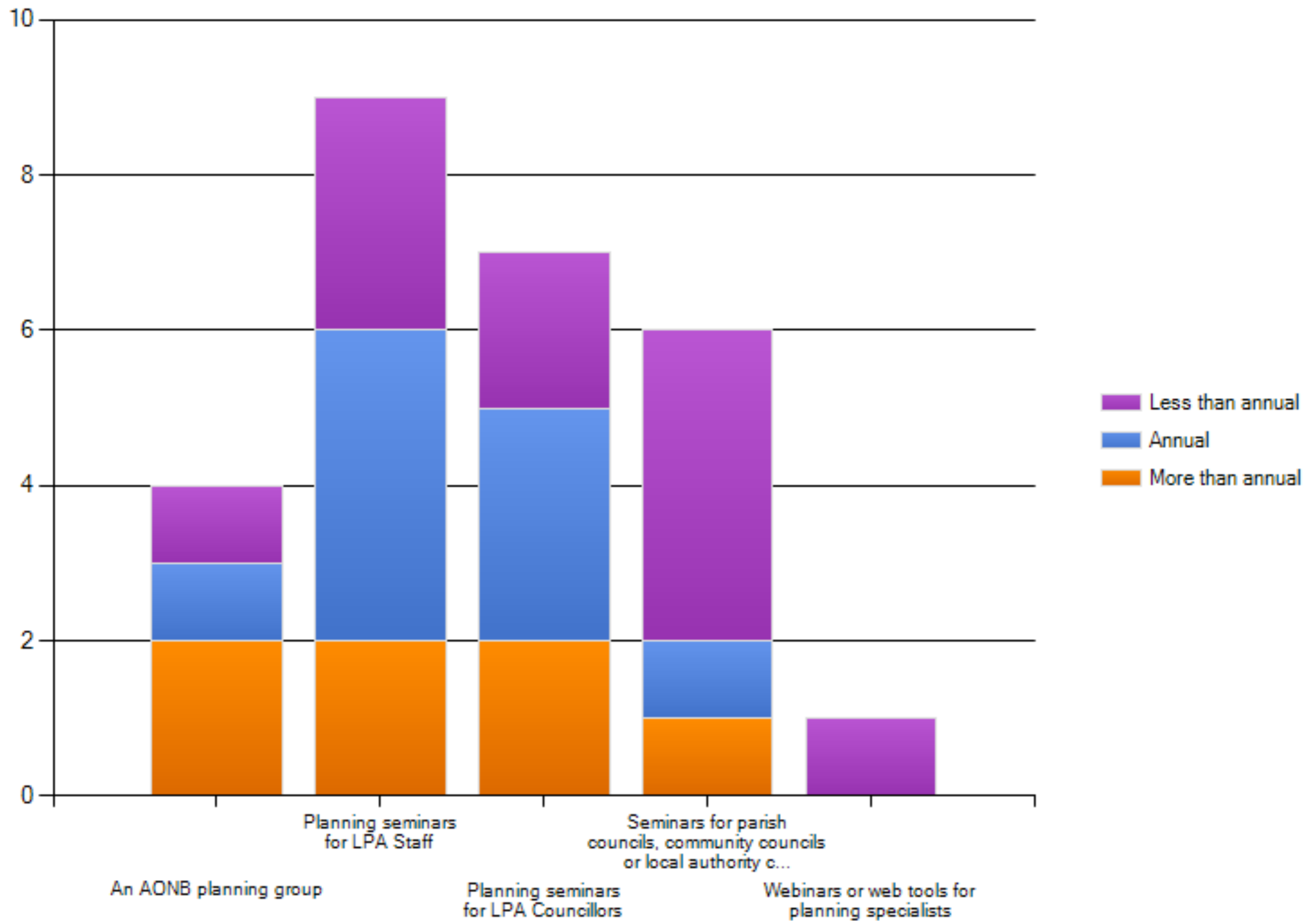
- * Respondents dealt with 2000 planning applications in the last 12 months.
- * 592 on small scale domestic developments, other developments (415), agricultural development (201) and wind energy schemes (157).
- * Not an even distribution - eg small scale domestic some respondents dealt with large number of applications (270, 130, 136 whilst most respondents had dealt with 20 or less)
- * For Energy 4 respondent accounted for 90 or the 157 applications.

Does your AONB produce written guidance/statements to guide or influence planning decisions?



Yes
No

Frequency of educational activity:



Additional comments?

- * Role of and relationship with Natural England both +/-
- * LPAs taking their 'duty' seriously - "Walking the Talk"
- * Need to do more education work with LPA and PCs
- * Better technical support and evidence

Some Conclusions:

- * Small number of well resourced AONB partnerships responsible for lions share of AONB family engagement in planning casework
- * AONB Lead Officers (21 of 29) have significant input to planning work regardless of whether have dedicated staff resource
- * In terms of managing a national designation covering 14% England is this picture of 'planning hot spots' correct?

Some Conclusions:

- * Discrepancy between what respondent saw as important issues to engage in and actual emphasis in casework responses
- * No clear picture as to where AONB Partnerships have most leverage? DC casework? Policy work? Developing guidance? or providing educational input?
- * Agreement that resources should shift to educational work, incl developing guidance documents in future

A New Operating system?

- * build resilience, foster co- production, reduce dependency and use technology to drive down costs and reduce demand over the long term.
- * Citizen driven & Enabling
- * Preventative
- * Collaborative