

Appendix E – Measure 321 Survey Analysis

1. Measure 321 Survey Analysis

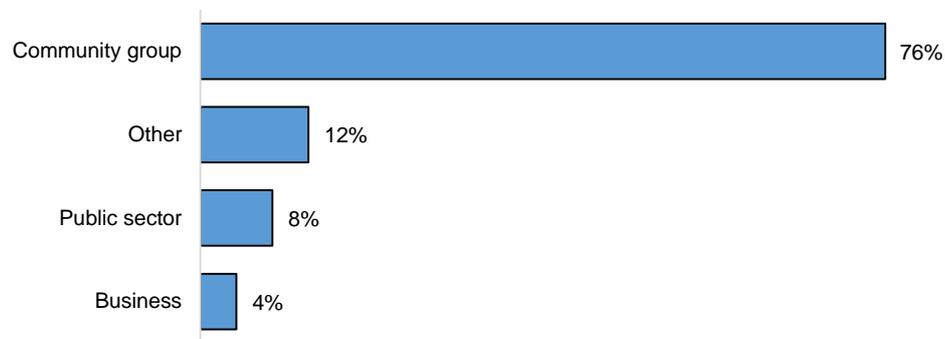
1.1 Introduction

A postal survey was conducted to gather feedback from recipients of Measure 321 funding from the SRDP. The survey was distributed in August 2016 to a total of 125 beneficiaries and received 33 responses, a response rate of 26%. Key findings from the survey are presented below.

1.2 Analysis of Findings

Over three quarters of beneficiaries were community groups. Those that responded 'other' did not specify, however, subsequent responses indicated that most of them are likely charities, [Figure E.1](#).

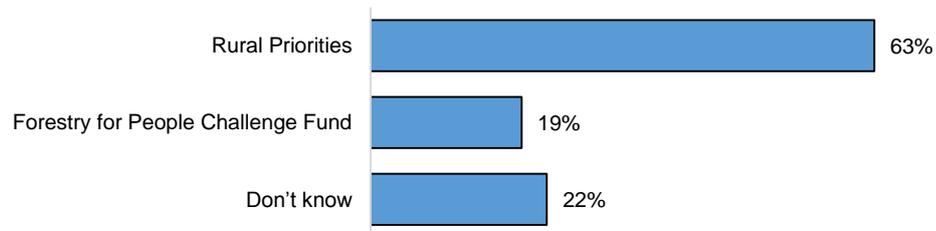
Figure E.1: Organisation Type



N=25

Almost two thirds accessed funding through Rural Priorities and around a fifth through the Forestry for People Challenge Fund. Just over a fifth did not know which funding stream they had accessed, [Figure E.3](#).

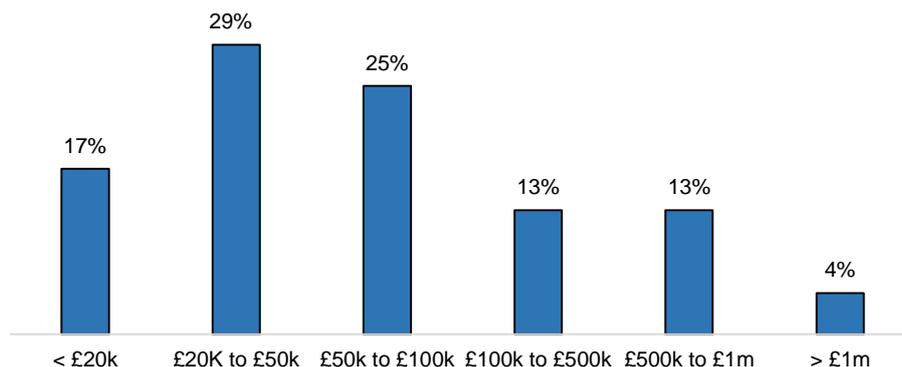
Figure E.3: Funding Stream



N=32

All respondents indicated that they had received a grant award, of which 24 specified how much. The total grant funding awarded was almost £5.2m, with an average award of £216,000 and a median of £52,000. The majority (71%) of awards were under £100,000, whilst a number were significantly larger, with the highest being almost £1.4m, [Figure E.4](#).

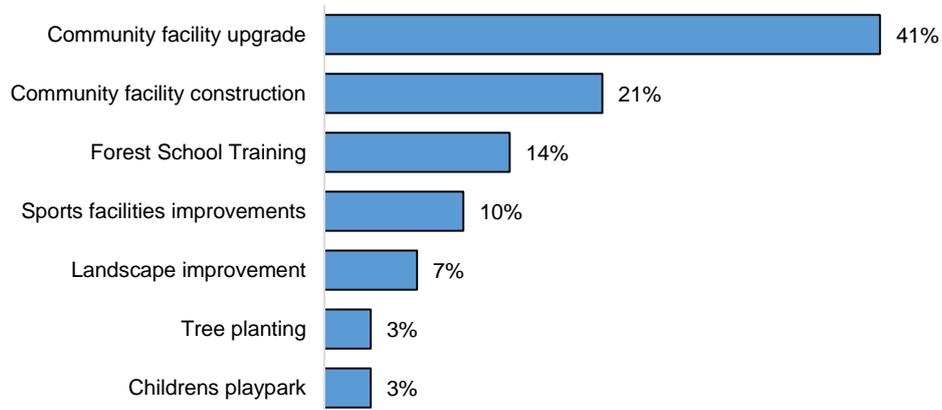
Figure E.4: Grant Awarded



N=24

The most common types of project were the upgrade, or construction of community facilities, such as village halls, heritage centres, etc., [Figure E.5](#).

Figure E.5: Project Type



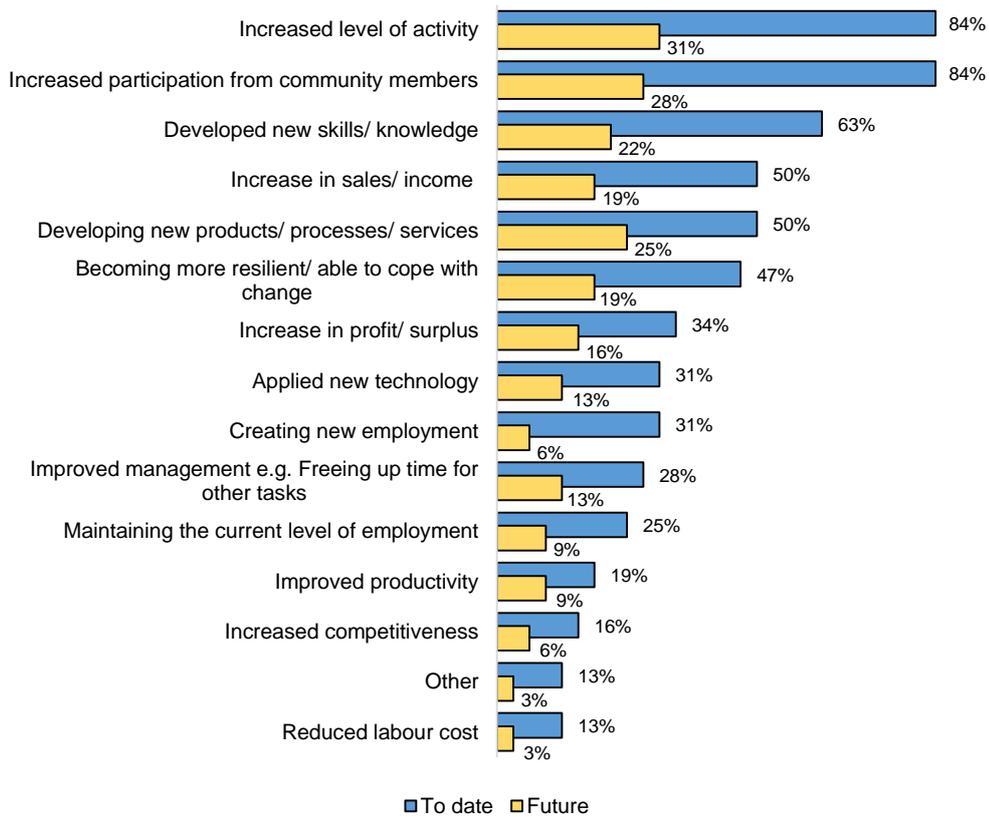
N=29

The most commonly identified benefits, both now and in future, are an increase in levels of activity and increased participation from community members, [Figure E.6](#).

Other benefits identified by 50% or more respondents were, developing new skills/ knowledge, increase in sales and income and developing new products/ processes/ services.

Future benefits are far lower than benefits to date, however this is unsurprising as the majority of projects ended prior to 2014.

Figure E.6: Benefits

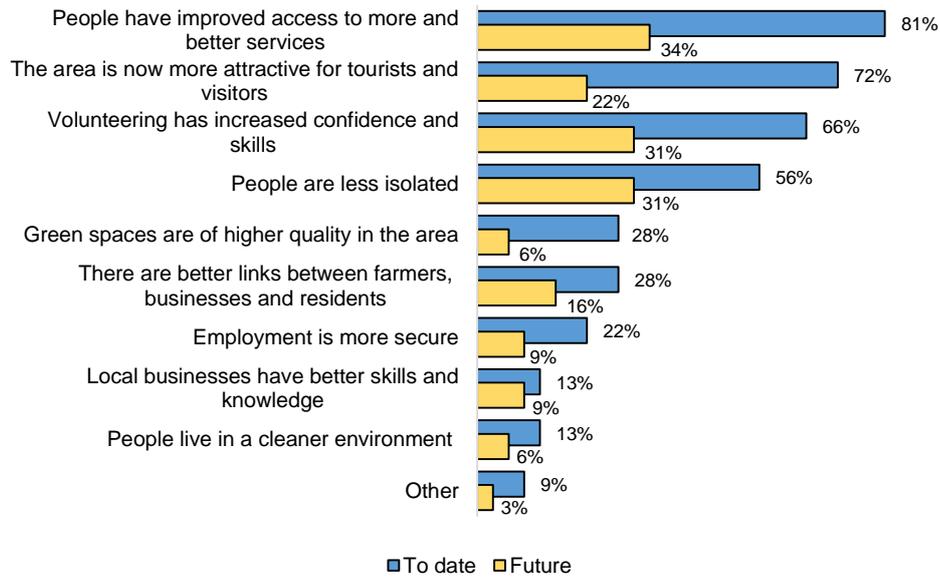


N=32

Other responses were: helped integrate new families into the village, increased training for volunteers, savings on heating costs, and retained an essential service in the village.

In terms of improvements in Quality of Life, the most commonly identified were people having improved access to services, the area is more attractive, volunteering has increased confidence and skills, and people are less isolated, [Figure E.7](#).

Figure E.7: Improvement in Quality of Life

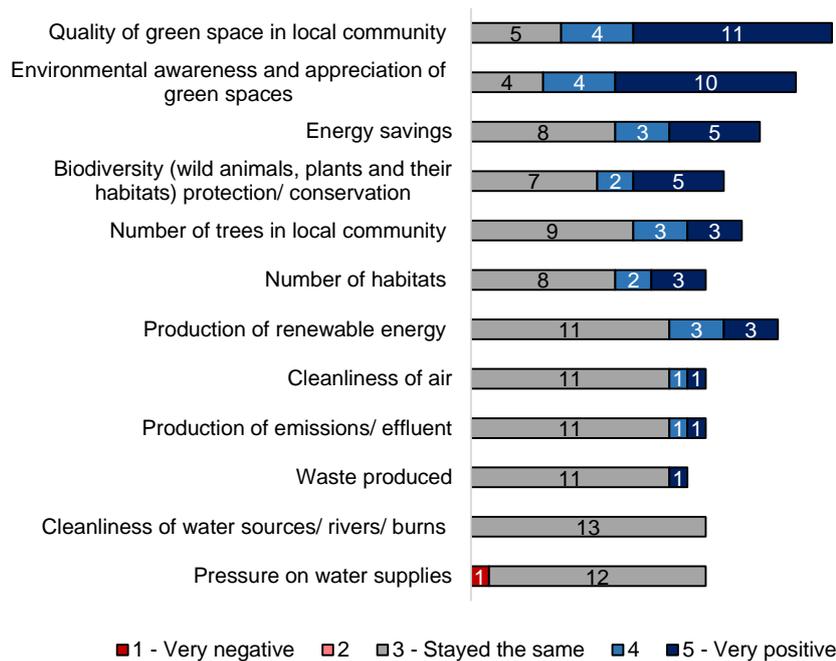


N=32

Other responses were: increase in knowledge and training (two) and increased local use of woodlands.

The most commonly identified positive impact on the natural environment due to the SRDP support was the quality of green space in local community and environmental awareness and appreciation of green spaces. However, for most aspects, such as cleanliness of water sources and pressure on water supplies, the majority reported no change, [Figure E.8](#).

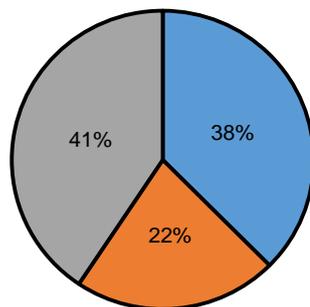
Figure E.8: Impact in Natural Environment



N=32

Just under two fifths of beneficiaries would not have undertaken their project in the absence of the SRDP support. Of those that would have, all reported that the project would either have been smaller/ different (22%) or would have started later (41%), [Figure E.9](#).

Figure E.9: Counterfactual – Would the project have gone ahead without SRDP?



- No, wouldn't have done any of it
- Yes, but the project would have been smaller/ different
- Yes, but the project would have started later

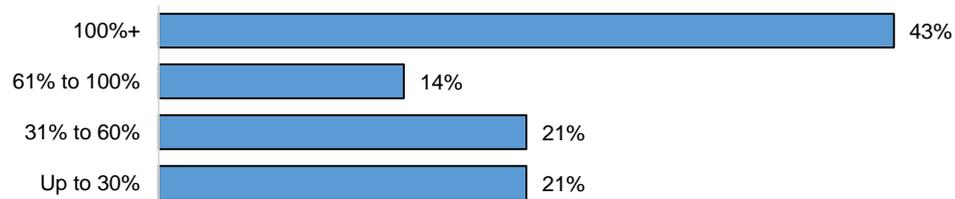
N=32

A large proportion (80%) of those who said that their project would have been smaller, different or started later reported that they would have sought alternative funding to proceed with their project.

Just over half (56%) of the beneficiaries generate income. Of those, 78% have increased their annual surplus/ profits between 2007 and 2014, whilst only 6% (one respondent) saw a decline.

The most commonly reported increase in surplus/ profit was more than 100%, [Figure E.10](#). The beneficiary that reported a decrease saw a fall of up to 30%.

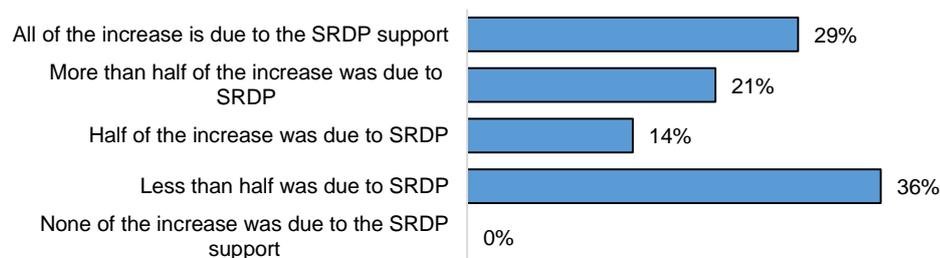
Figure E.10: Percentage Increase in Surplus/ Profits



N=14

All of those who had an increase in surplus/profit reported that it was at least in part, due to the SRDP support, with just over a third reporting less than half, and just under a third reported that all of the increase was due to the SRDP support, [Figure E.11](#). The beneficiary that saw a fall in surplus/ profits reported that none of this was due to the SRDP support.

Figure E.11: Additionality



N=14

Just under half (47%) of respondents left a final comment, some of which were extensive, particularly on the negative side. 60% of comments were positive and 40% were negative. The positive comments can be summarised as:

- grant funding was very important (seven);
- it has acted as a catalyst for further projects; and
- our centre has had a huge impact on a variety of areas since opening.

Negative comments related to:

- the claims process is very onerous and is often subject to long delays (five); and
- the application process is very laborious, particularly for small, volunteer reliant organisations.

Excerpts from the comments can be found in [Table E.1](#).

Table E.1: Final Comments

Positive	Negative
We have a centre fit for purpose in the 21st century.	I would be reluctant to seek RDP funding in future due to the very complicated application and admin process.
Grant funding to support small charitable organisations are critical to their continuation.	As we are only a small voluntary community group, had [a partner] not stepped in with an interest free loan, both the project, and the group would have been bankrupted by the ludicrous actions and painfully ill-informed bureaucracy of SRDP.
Our clubs infrastructure was greatly helped by the grant we received.	
SRDP was our total saviour when we were about to give up. It has helped the whole community. Only downside, you needed a PhD to do all the forms and understand the criteria.	The group were appreciative of the grant that was awarded, but the project very nearly did not go ahead due to the onerous claim procedure which resulted in the charity having to acquire a £250,000 loan.
We were, and remain, extremely grateful for the grant which made progress possible. We live in an enthusiastic community, where it is good to have been able to improve our facility for the wider use of the whole community.	The SRDP grant was relatively easy to achieve, but the process of claiming the funds once the project had begun was so painful and arduous as to risk the collapse of the project and financial ruin for the members. Never again.
The granting of the WIAT/F4P grants and community involvement acted as a catalyst for further projects.	There was a delay of around 14 months from submission of the claim for funding until payment was made. This caused us significant cash flow problems. It cost a lot of interest, we wasted about £2,000 of our very scarce reserves paying interest on the loan we had to take to cover the gap. We received no apology or explanation.
...the building and development of the community centre has been a huge success.	
SRDP funding of this project was key to hub being built.	We found the administration of the grant via SNH very onerous and not fit for purpose for a small community organisation without a business to generate cash flow to fund expenditure before we could reclaim it.
Many thanks for SRDPs contribution. We could not have done it without you.	