



**2015 Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)
Project Applicant Survey
Charts**

Published December 2015

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1. Introduction

In 2015 we undertook a sector wide survey of project applicants with the following aims:

- gather information on project applicants experience of the LCF;
- ascertain how easy or difficult project applicants found applying for and accessing LCF funding from Environmental Bodies (EBs) and Landfill Operators (LOs);
- investigate any barriers experienced by project applicants in accessing LCF funding; and
- gather information that will support the future regulation and development of the LCF.

The survey was sent to projects that had received LCF funds and completed one or more projects, funded by the LCF, between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2015. This represented a total distribution list of 4,842 projects. Project applicants were permitted to complete multiple surveys – one per each project completed if they wished to.

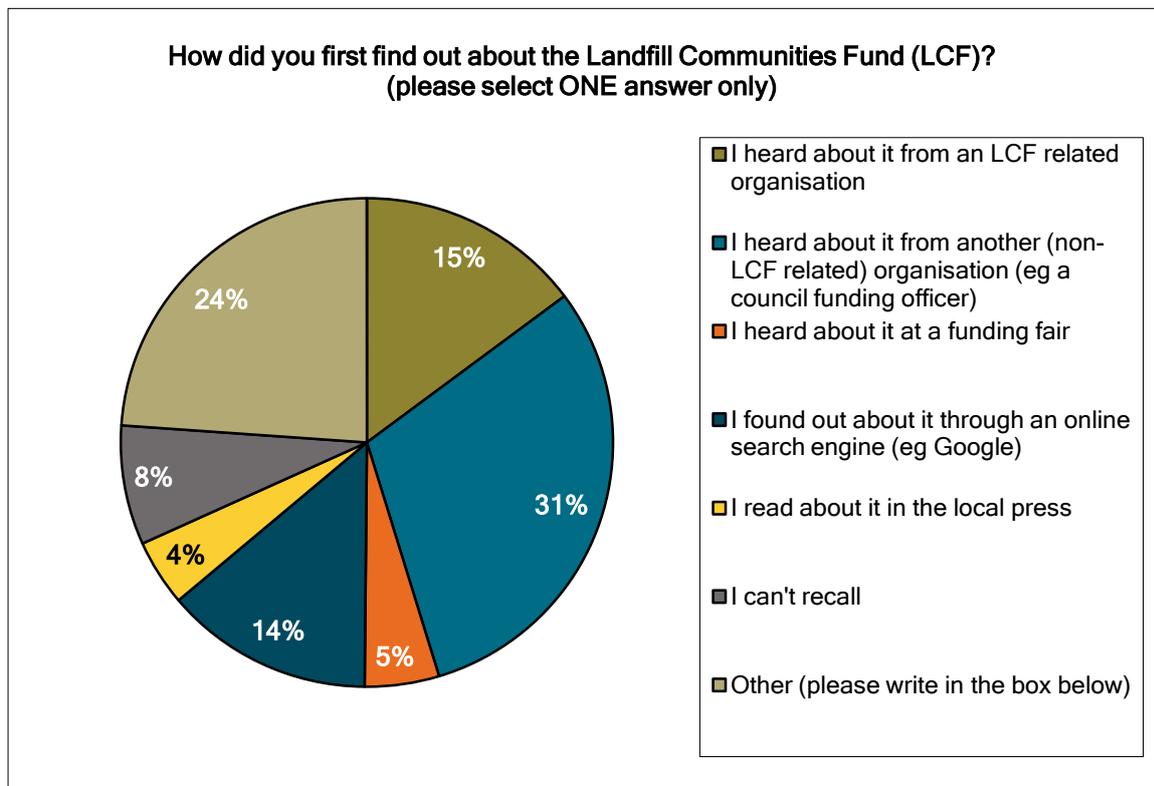
The survey ran from 10 August to 13 September 2015 and received 1,002 responses to the survey. More than 350 respondents requested a reply to the feedback they gave in the survey and these were completed by 25 November 2015.

[An overview of the findings is also available on our website](#)

2. Finding out about the LCF

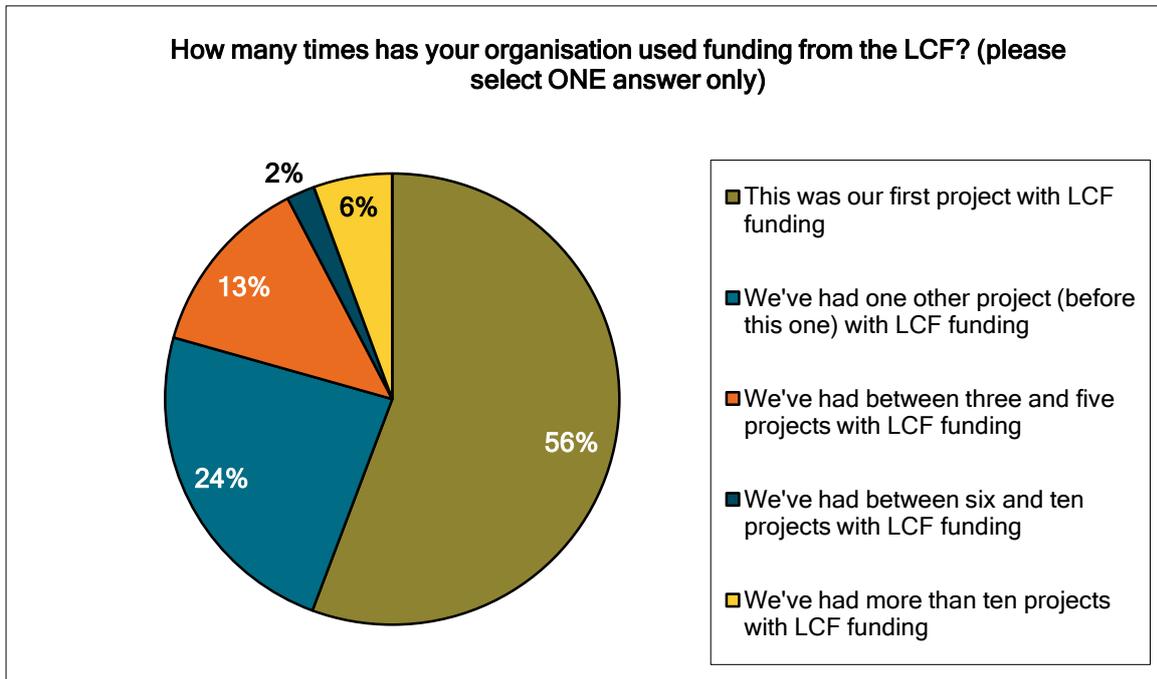
The majority of project applicants claim to have heard about the LCF from another, non-LCF related organisation (for example a council funding officer). Almost a quarter of respondents (24 per cent) listed 'other' for where they first found out about the LCF, when asked to tell us where this was, the answers included other local projects and word of mouth, their church, the parish council, friends or colleagues or to their own previous experience in different organisations.

15 per cent claimed to have found out about the LCF from an LCF related organisation and just 5 per cent from a funding fair – with almost the same percentage (4 per cent) finding out about it through the local press.

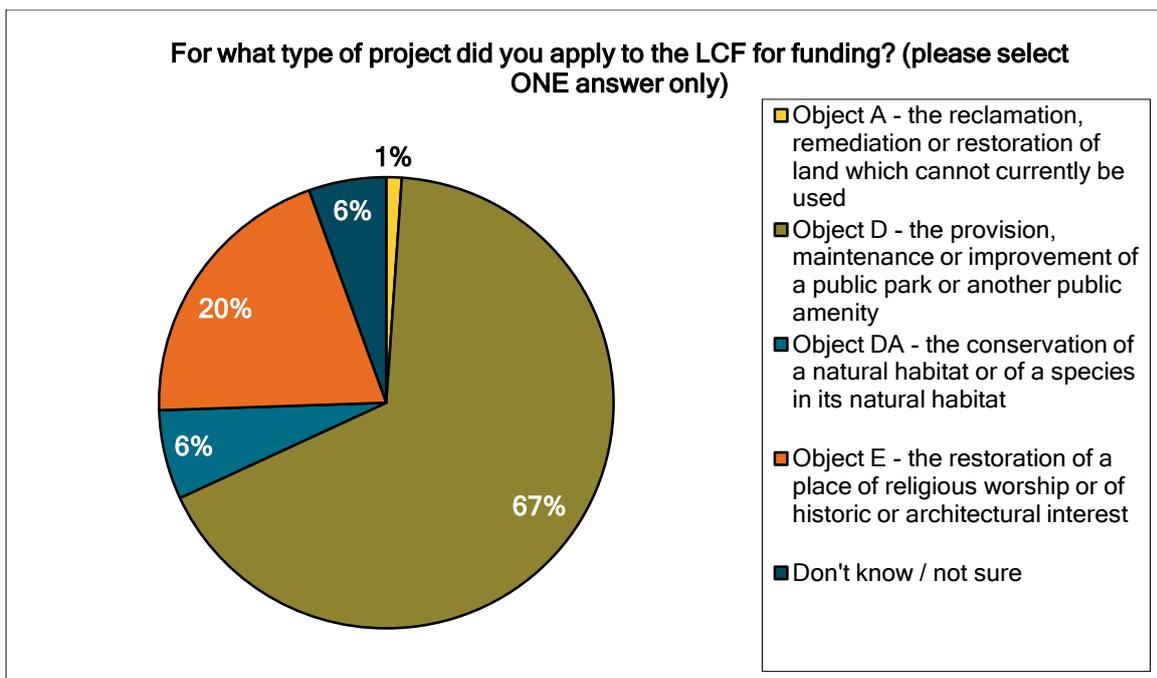


3. Project funding

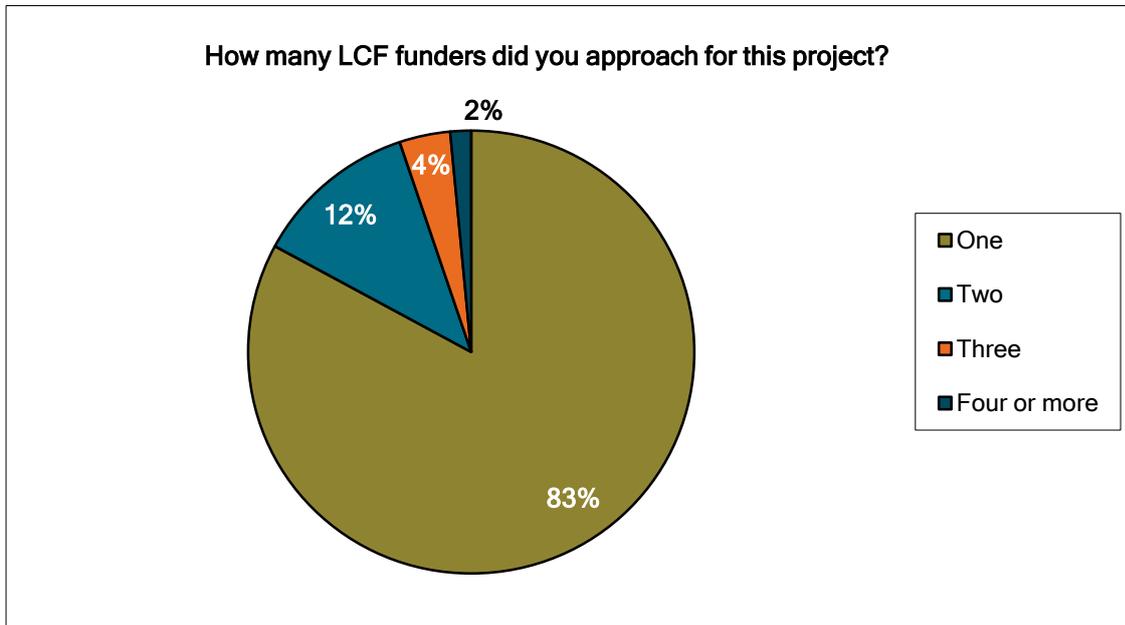
For 56 per cent of respondents this was their first project with LCF funding. Just six per cent of respondents had more than ten projects which had received LCF funding.



The vast majority of survey respondents (60 per cent) had applied for Object D – the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity, or Object E (20 per cent of survey respondents). Six per cent were unsure as to which LCF Object their project application was for.

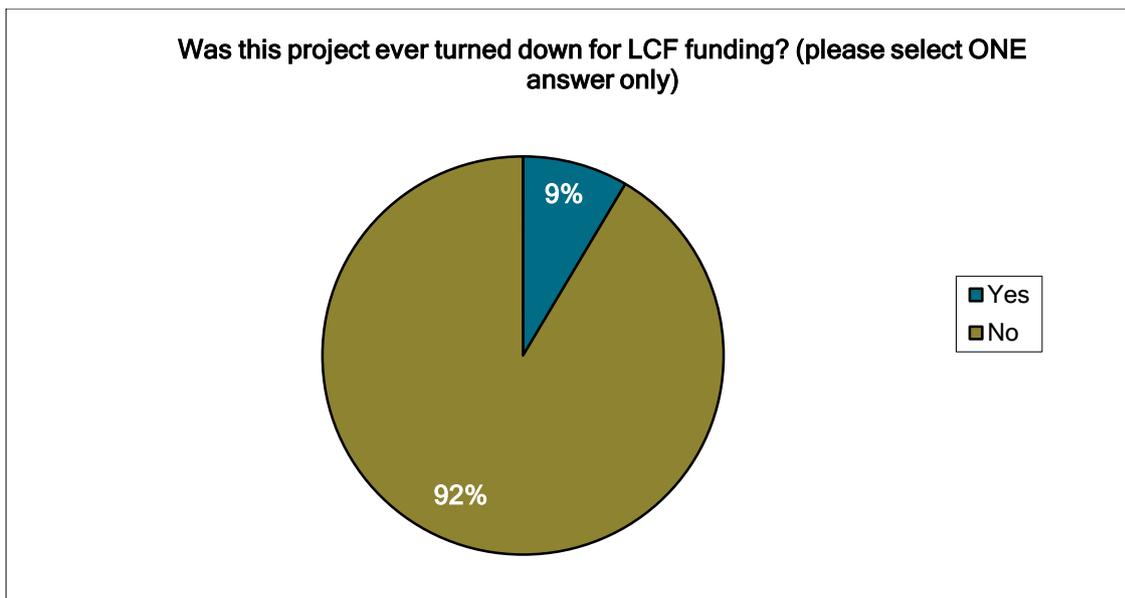


More than 80 per cent of project applicants only applied to one LCF funder for their project, however a significant minority of 12 per cent applied to two LCF funders.



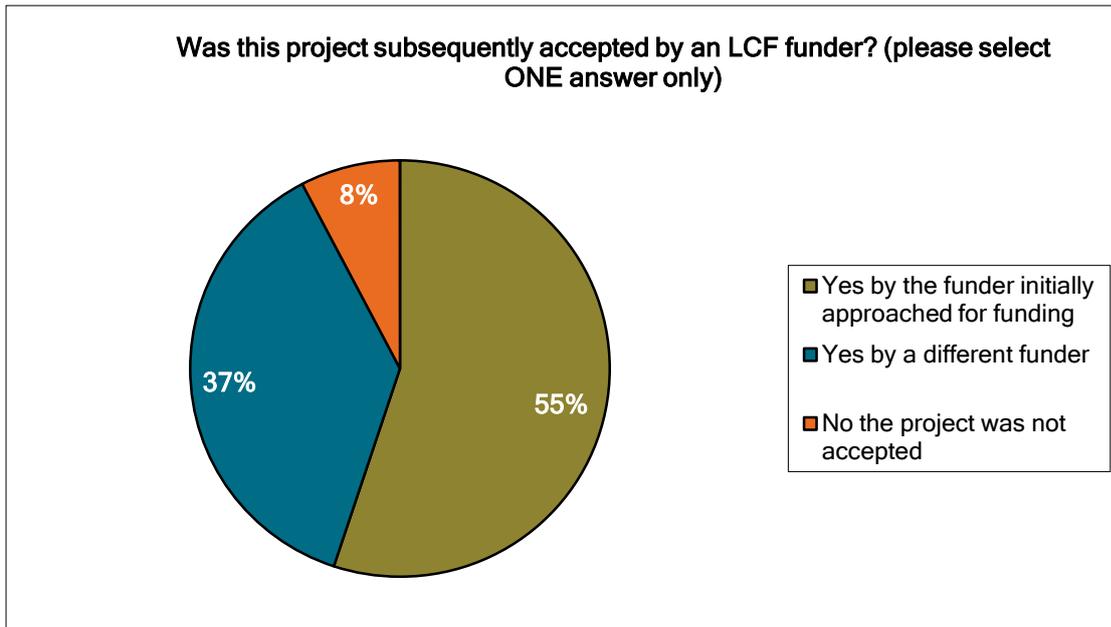
This is potentially reflected in the 9 per cent of project applicants for whom their project was turned down for funding.

Exploring why the project was turned down for funding, 30 per cent of applicants said that the funder didn't have any funds available, whilst 26 per cent said the funder never gave them a reason for why it was turned down. For 19 per cent the project didn't comply with the funder's specific criteria and 12 per cent were told that their application didn't give enough information.

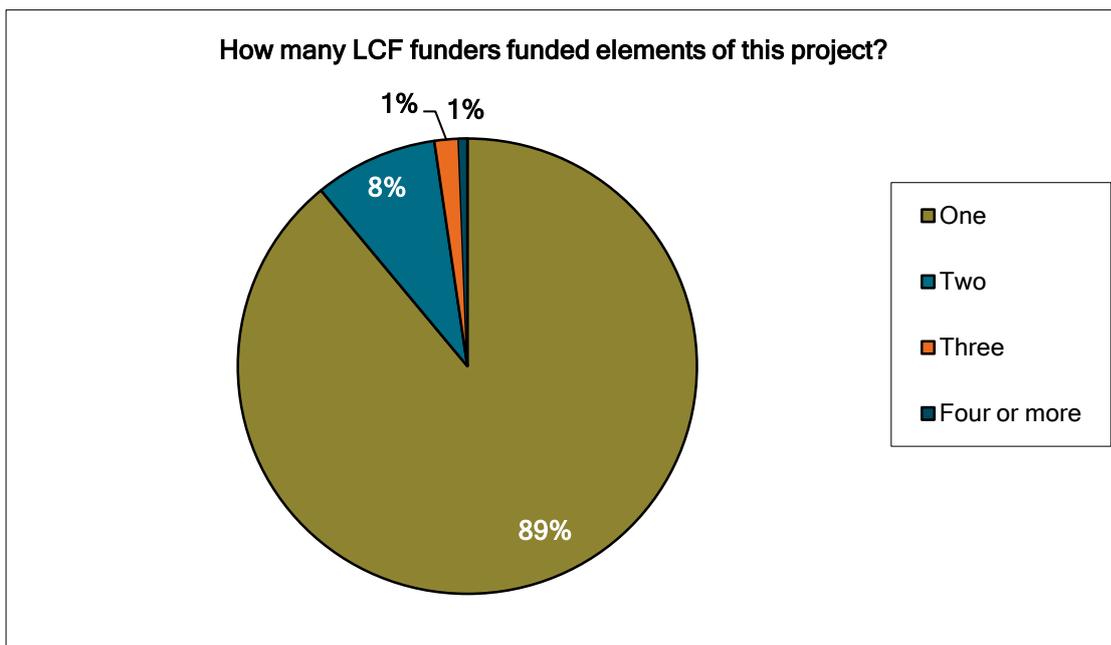


Applicants were asked if their project was subsequently accepted by an LCF funder. More than half (55 per cent) said their project was accepted by the funder initially approached, while 37 per cent found a different funder. Eight per cent told us that the project was not accepted and at this point they ended the questionnaire.

The survey also asked respondents how they made changes to the project application – 37 per cent made the changes themselves, while 14 per cent had help from the funder. In 33 per cent of replies the project applicant didn't make any changes to the application, instead finding a different funder for the project.



For the majority of project applicants (89 per cent) there was just one LCF funder involved in their project. Just two per cent had three or more LCF funders.



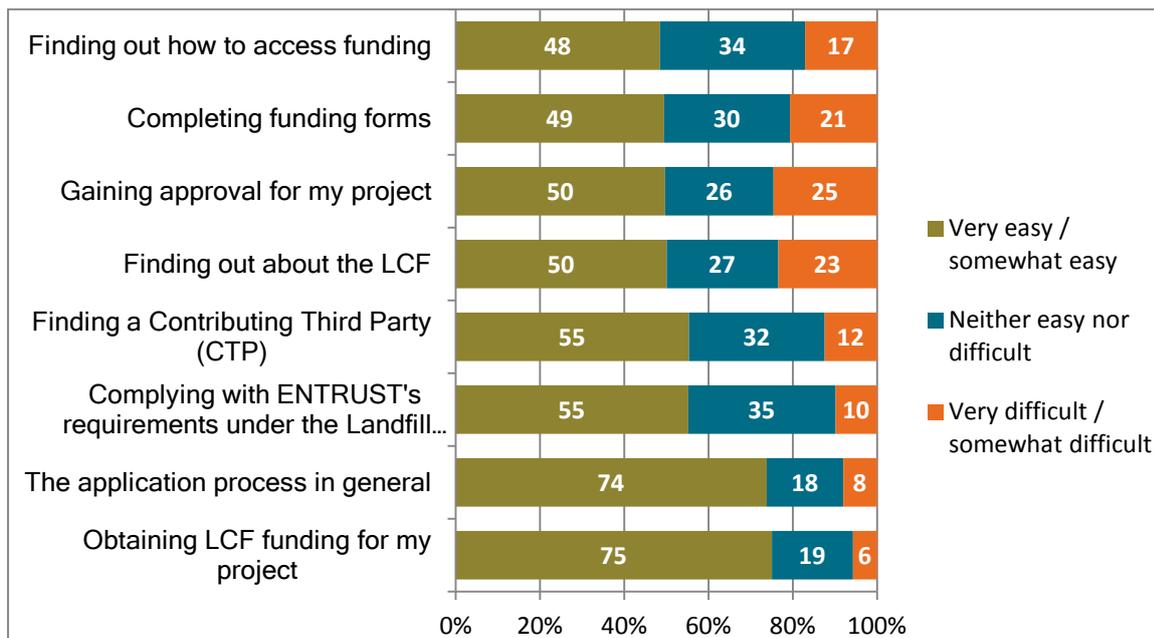
4. How easy or difficult was it to access LCF funding

Project applicants were asked to consider various aspects of LCF funding and tell us how easy or difficult each of the aspects were, using a scale of very easy through to very difficult. For analysis the following chart shows responses to 'very easy' and 'somewhat easy' amalgamated, and 'very difficult' and 'somewhat difficult' amalgamated.

Three quarters of project applicants who responded to the survey considered 'obtaining LCF funding for their project' easy. Just six percent claimed to have had difficulty. Broadly at least half of respondents found most aspects of LCF funding either very easy or somewhat easy.

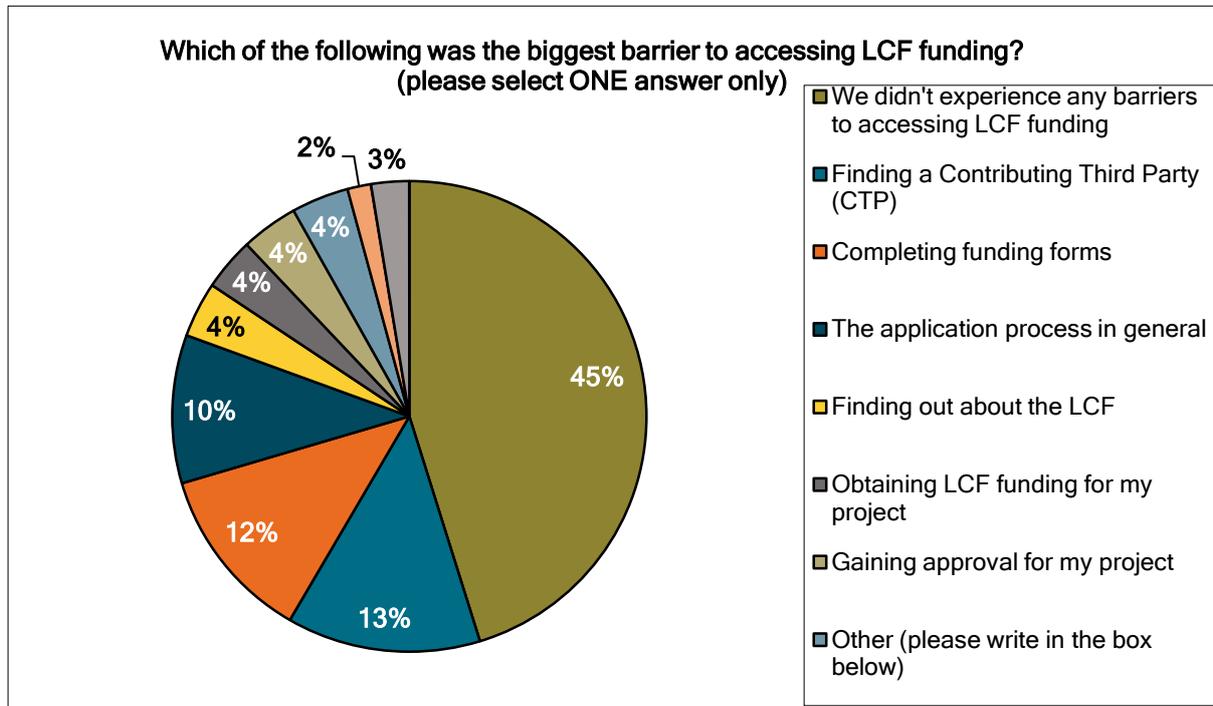
The areas with the highest level of difficulty for project applicants were:

- Gaining approval for my project – 25 per cent had difficulty;
- Finding out about the LCF – 23 per cent had difficulty;
- Completing funding forms – 21 per cent had difficulty;
- Finding out how to access funding – 17 per cent had difficulty; and
- Finding a CTP – 12 per cent had difficulty.



5. Barriers to accessing LCF funding

To further understand the impact that various aspects of the LCF have on project applicants, we used the same list to ask respondents what they felt the 'biggest barrier to accessing LCF funding' was. Almost half (45 per cent), felt that they didn't experience any barriers to accessing LCF funding. Following this, the biggest barrier (for 13 per cent of project applicants) was finding a CTP, while 12 per cent struggled with completing funding forms.



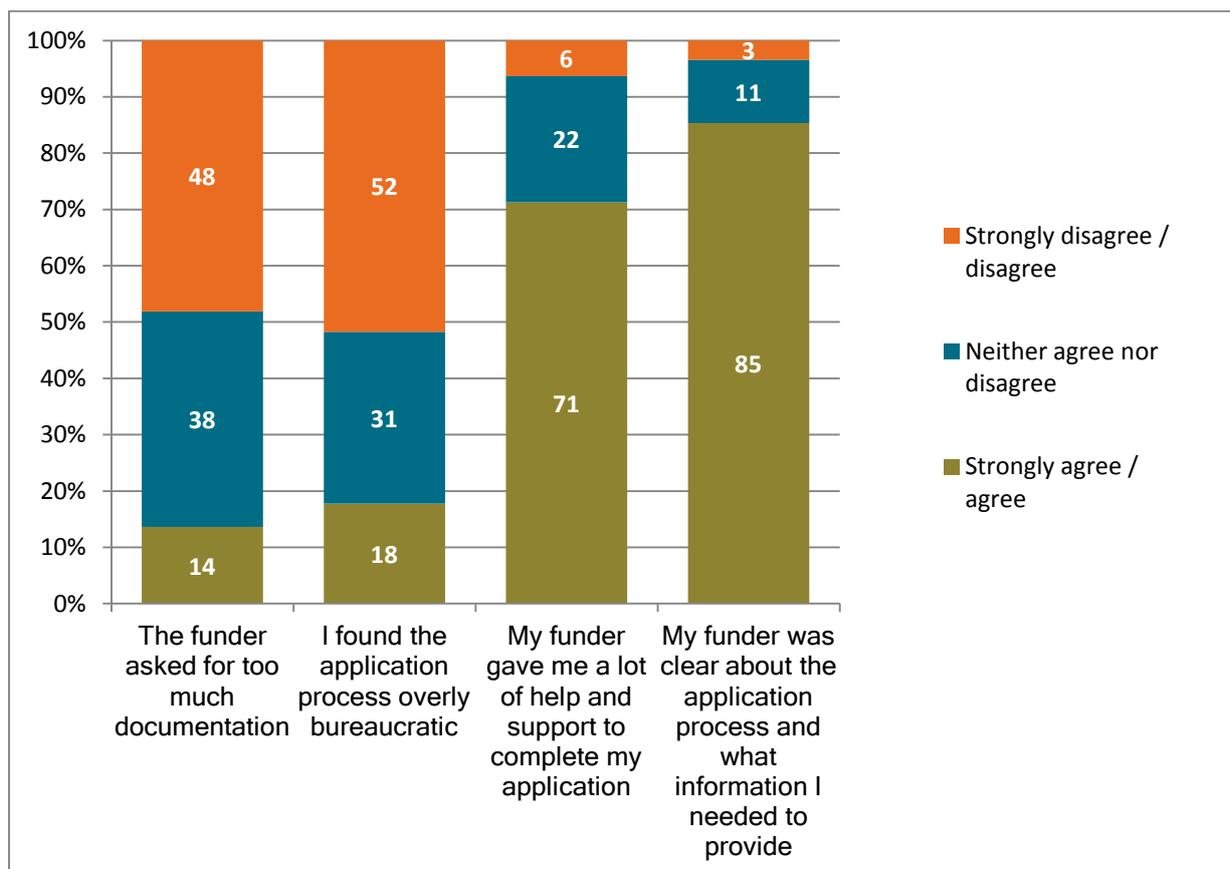
6. The funders application process

The survey also asked project applicants about their experiences of their specific project funder. They were asked to agree, or disagree with a series of statements. For analysis the chart below details responses to 'strongly agree' and 'agree' amalgamated, and 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree' amalgamated.

When asked if the funder asked for too much documentation, almost half (48 per cent) disagreed, whilst a significant minority (of 14 per cent) agreed that there was too much documentation required. However, amongst the open ended feedback several respondents commented that, whilst initially they felt that the documentary obligations were onerous, they had come to appreciate that given the sums of money being applied for it was 'only right and appropriate' that documentation and evidence be sought.

Again, a significant minority – almost one in five (18 per cent) project applicants found the application overly bureaucratic. However, a little over half (52 per cent) disagreed.

71 per cent agreed that their funder gave them a lot of help and support to complete their application and an even greater number (85 per cent) agreed that the funder was clear about the application process and what information was needed.



7. Funder's staff

Project applicants were very appreciative of their funder's staff. Many commented in the additional feedback section naming specific individuals as having been invaluable to their application being successful.

Almost all, 95 per cent, agreed that their funder's staff were 'helpful' and 83 per cent felt they were 'professional'. Of the positive attributes that could be selected, the one least chosen by project applicants was 'knowledgeable', however 70 per cent of respondents still selected this.

Helpful	95%
Professional	83%
Friendly	77%
Supportive	76%
Easy to get hold of	72%
Knowledgeable	70%

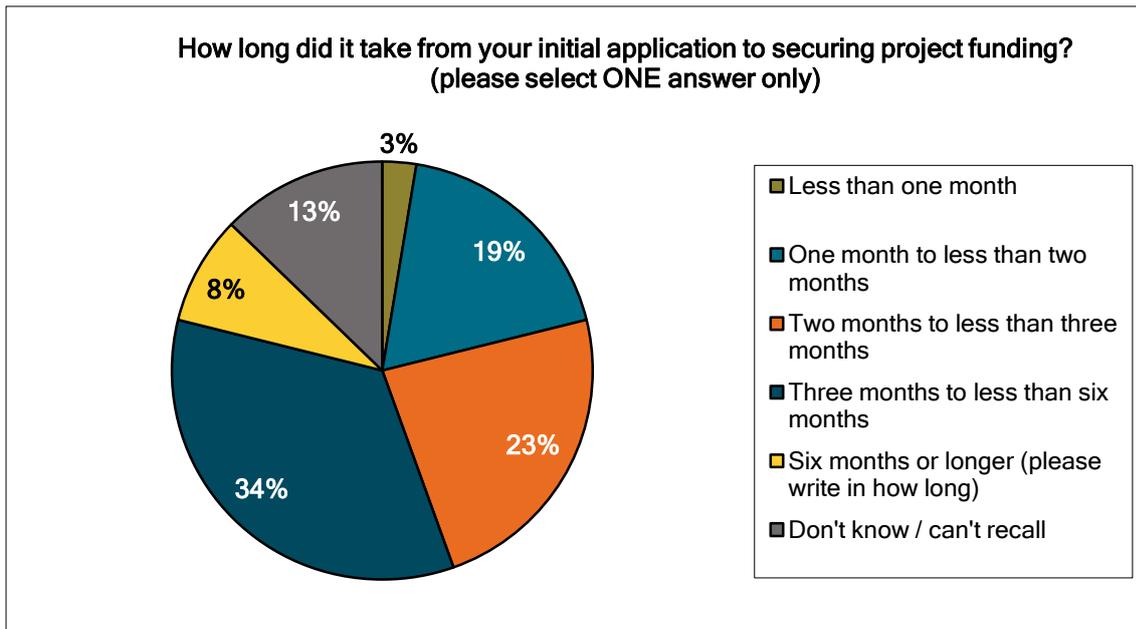
There was a very low response rate for any of the negative attributes – with the highest 'Hard to get hold of' just registering for 2 per cent of project applicants.

Hard to get hold of	2%
Unhelpful	1%
Lacking knowledge	1%
Unsupportive	1%
Unfriendly	0%
Unprofessional	0%

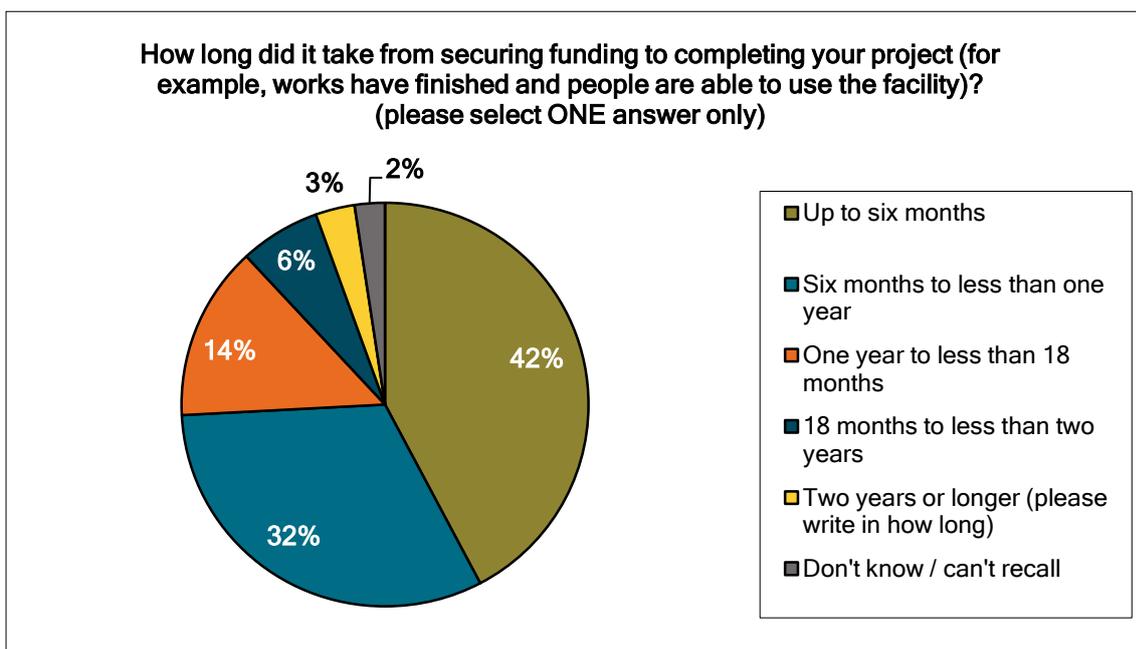
8. Timescales

The survey also explored the timescales that project applicants experienced as part of accessing LCF funding.

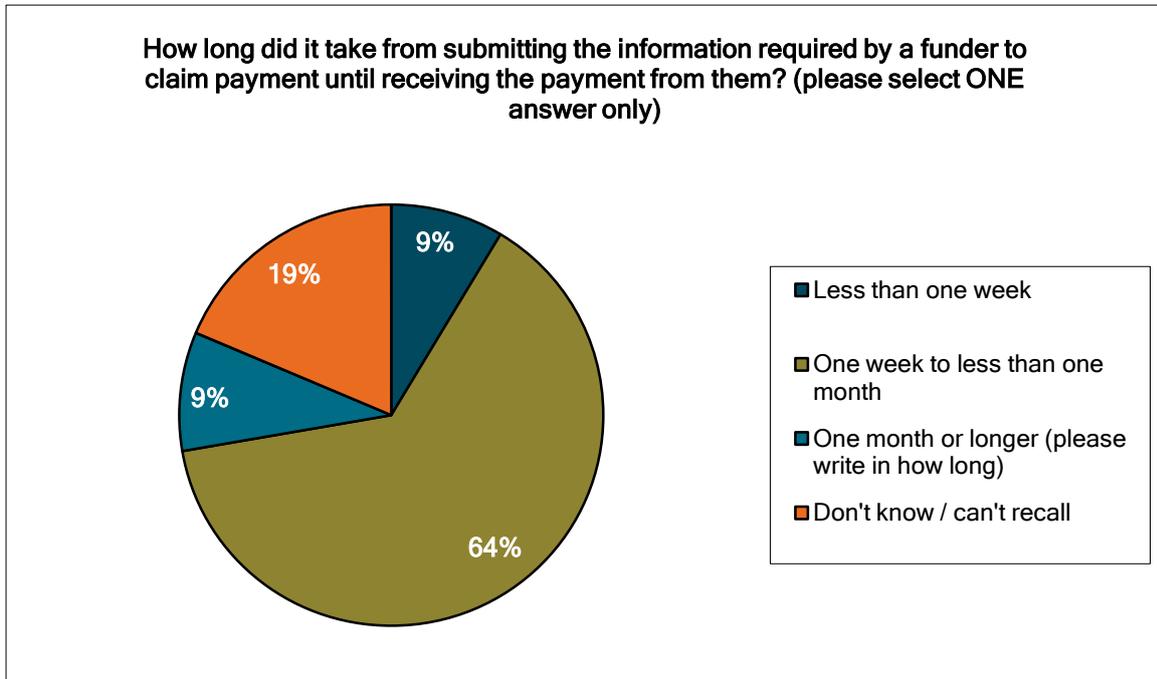
A little over one third (34 per cent) of project applicants claimed that it took them between three months and six months from their initial application to securing project funding. In total, it took less than six months for 79 per cent of applicants to go from initial application to securing project funding.



Applicants were asked how long it took from securing funding to completing their project. 42 per cent completed within six months and a further 32 per cent had completed within one year. Almost a quarter (23 per cent) took longer than one year to complete.

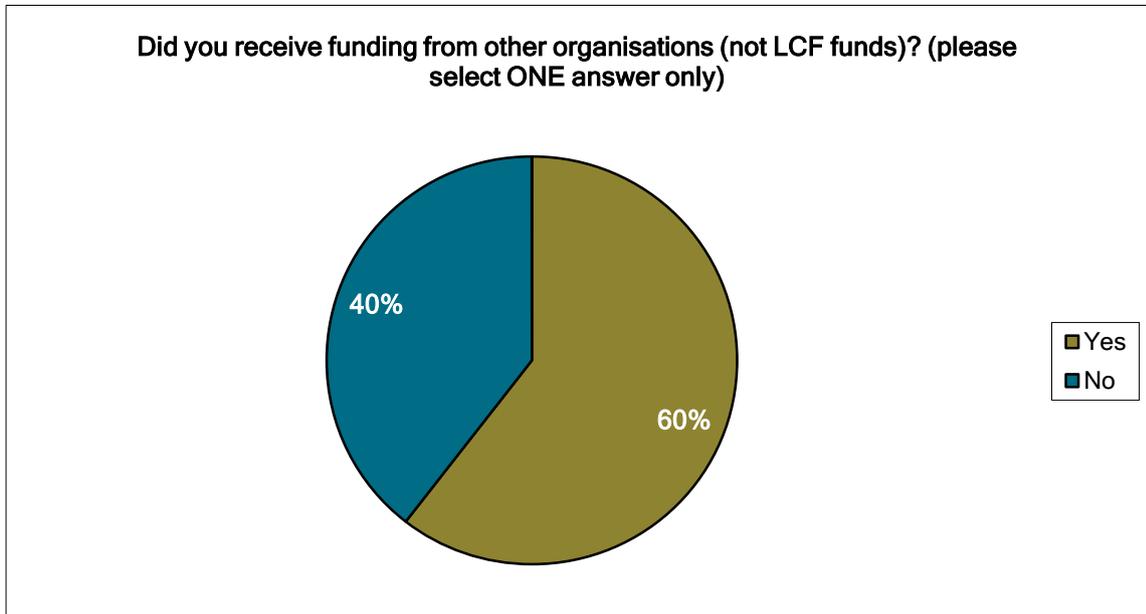


Finally, respondents were asked how long it had taken from submitting the information required by a funder to claim payment until receiving the payment. The majority (73 per cent) either received their payment within one week or within a month. However, one in five (19 per cent) either don't know, or could not recall how long it took to receive payment.

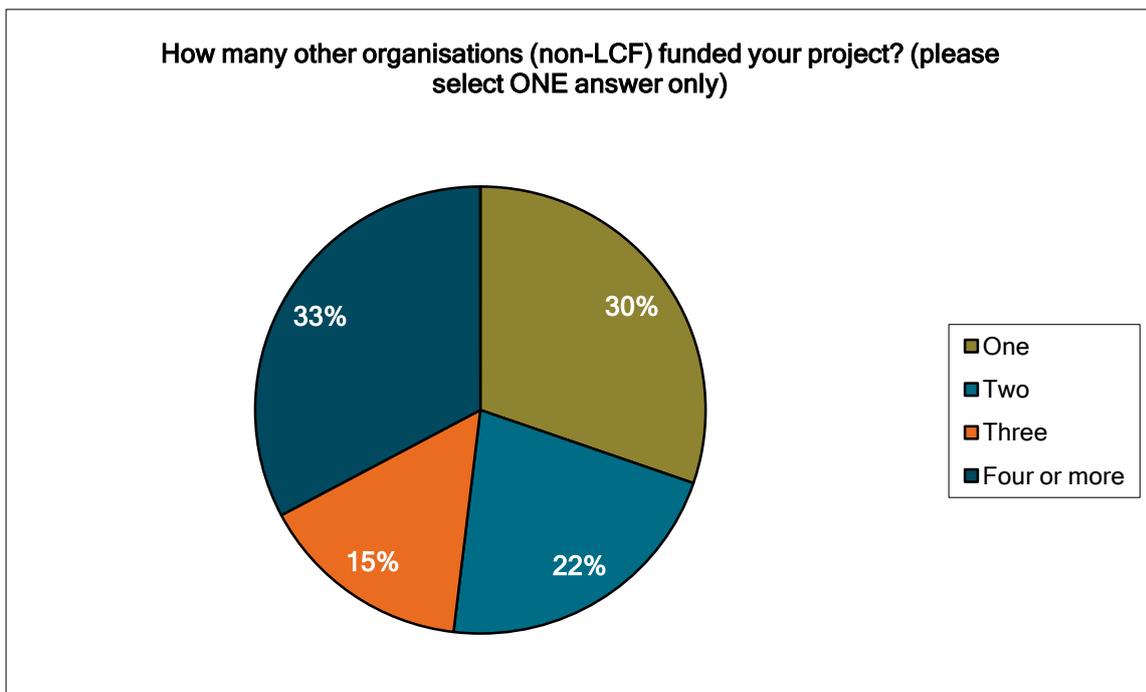


9. Funding from non-LCF funders

60 per cent of project applicants received funding from other organisations (outside of the LCF). This question did not clarify whether respondents should include CTP as a source of funding from 'other organisations,' as it was felt that this might overly complicate the question and confuse respondents.



Of those who received funding from other (non-LCF) organisations, almost one third (30 per cent) had one non-LCF funder, whilst a further third (33 per cent) claimed to have four or more funders that weren't part of the LCF.

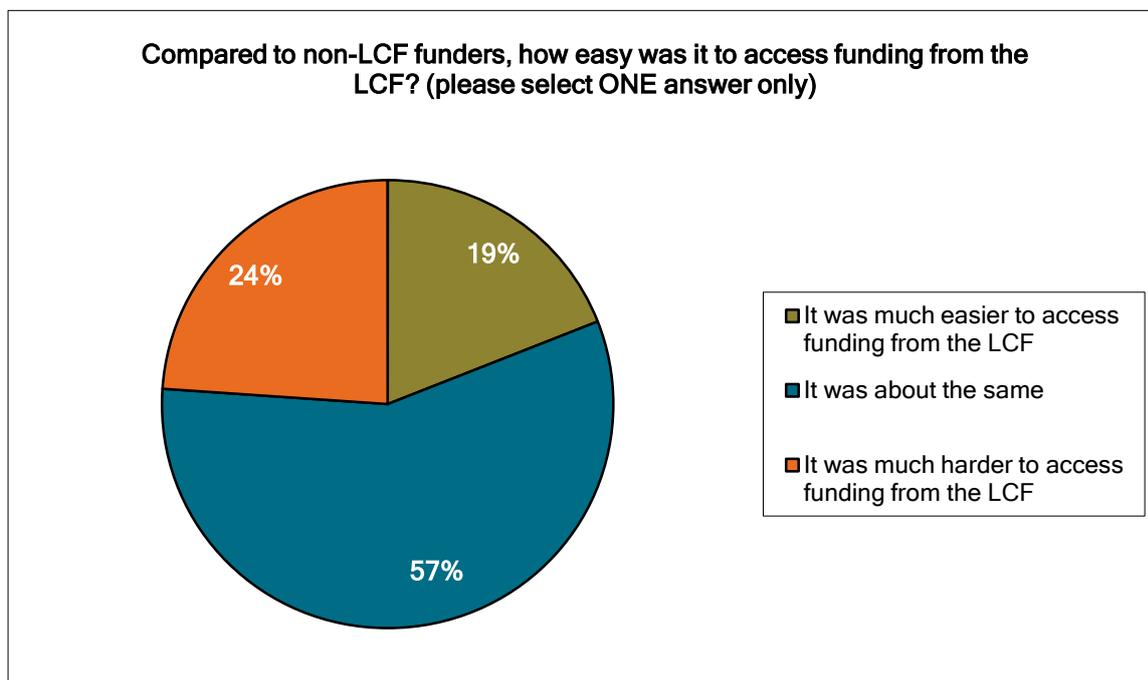


10. LCF funding compared to non-LCF funders

The survey sought to understand how easy it is to access funding from the LCF, compared to non-LCF funders. All project applicants who claimed to have had funding from other non-LCF sources were asked to respond to this question.

When asked about how easy it was to access funding from the LCF compared to non-LCF funders, the majority (57 per cent) felt it was 'about the same'.

Almost one quarter (24 per cent) felt that it was 'much harder to access funding from the LCF', whilst a slightly lower number (19 per cent) felt it was 'much easier to access funding from the LCF'.



11. Statements about the LCF

Finally, respondents reported a very strong sense of support for the LCF when asked to agree, or disagree with statements relating to the outcomes of their project and whether they would either recommend, or use, LCF funding in the future.

99 per cent said that they agreed with the statement 'our project benefited our community/and or the environment' and also with the statement 'our project delivered its intended outcomes'.

Whilst a notable 15 per cent of respondents agreed with the statement 'The LCF is too bureaucratic', 90 per cent of respondents claimed that their project could not have happened without LCF funding and 51 per cent claimed that securing LCF funding helped them to secure other funding for the project.

