

# LBAP Survey Initial results from 21 respondents

Views were invited from those responsible for developing, coordinating and delivering Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) via a structured questionnaire survey, on how LBAPs can support securing positive effects for biodiversity from development in the wider context of LBAPs' functions. The survey was conducted during June 2021.

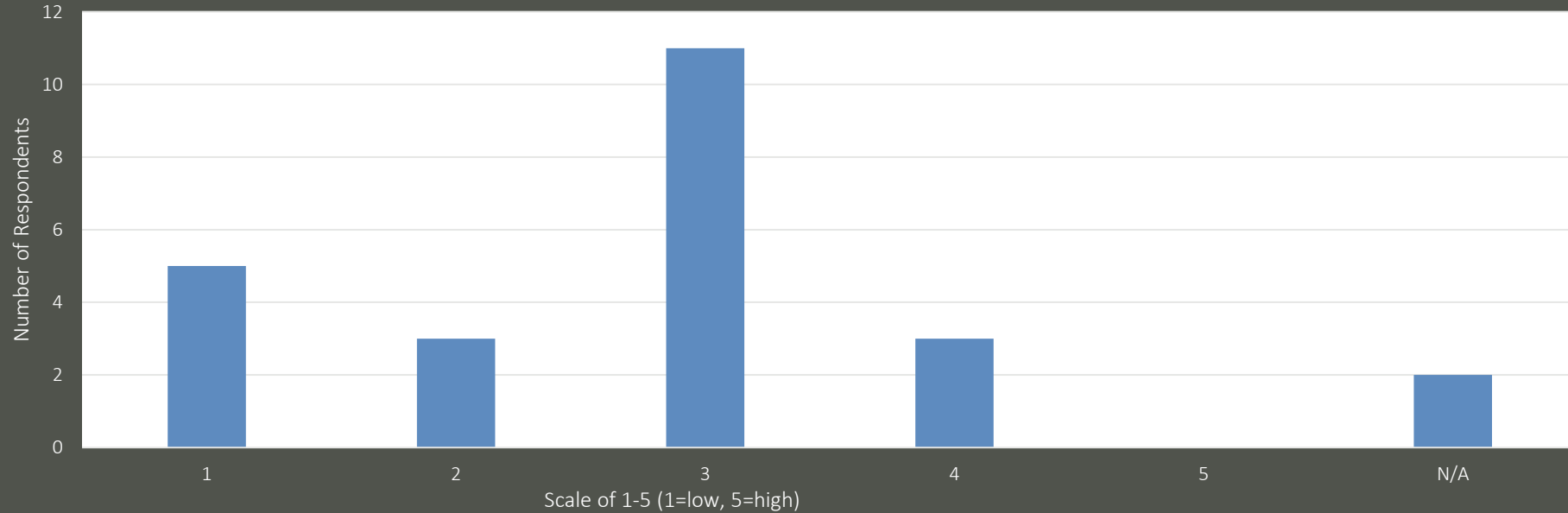
A total of 26 planning authorities are represented in the responses (25 local authorities + 1 national park) from 24 respondents (1 respondent was answering on behalf of all 3 LA within the LBAP Partnership).



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# 1.1 On a scale of 1-5 (1=low, 5=high) how useful a tool do you feel that the current LBAP is to inform securing biodiversity benefits in association with development planning and development management?



Scale	Respondents
1	5
2	3
3	11
4	3
5	0
N/A	2

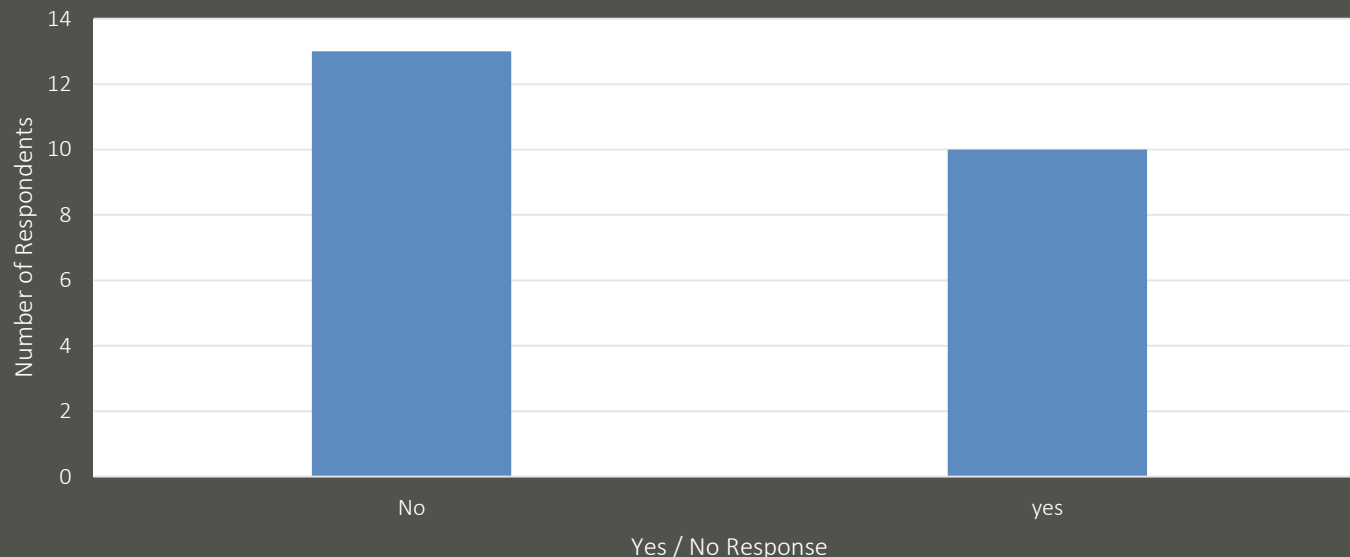
## Negative

- LBAP is objective/ project / action based = 6
- LBAP community action based = 3
- LBAP actions poorly taken up by planners = 4
- LBAP out of date = 4
- LBAP not just for planning has other purposes = 12
- LBAP lacks detail and scope for securing PEfB=7
- LBAP needs to be read with further guidance=4

## Positive

- LBAP has development applicable actions= 4
- Good design and development guidance reference LBAP = 5
- LBAP relevant to support LDP =3

## 1.2 Is the LBAP referenced in the LDP / Supplementary Guidance as the main source of information and advice to guide planning and development on biodiversity? Y/N?

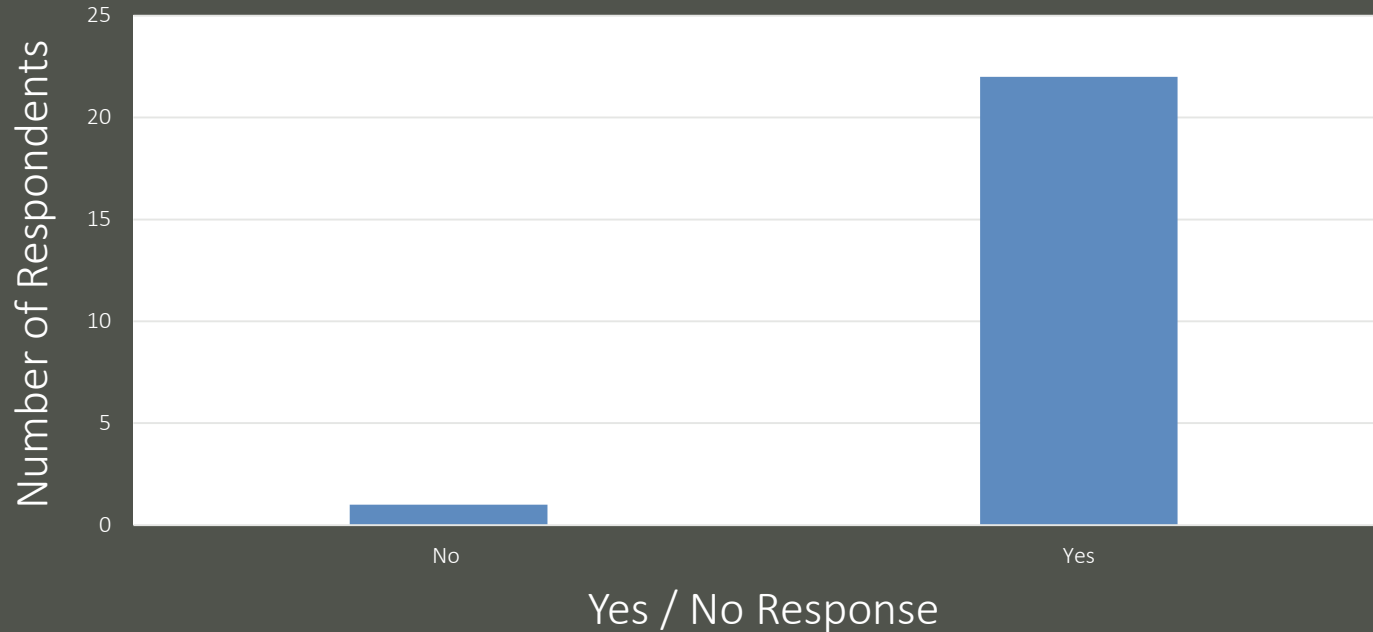


Yes / No	Respondents
No	13
Yes	10
Unanswered	1

If “no” where is LA specific biodiversity advice provided to planning and development?

- In supplementary guidance =7
- Planned to be in supplementary guidance=2
- Through green network supplementary guidance=2
- Biodiversity advice given when possible effects on Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites=2
- From biodiversity officer = 1
- From LDP = 1
- Planning policy =2
- The LBAP is not suitable to deliver this = 3

### 1.3 Does the LBAP identify biodiversity priorities and protected species and habitats for the area covered by the Planning Authority? Y/N?



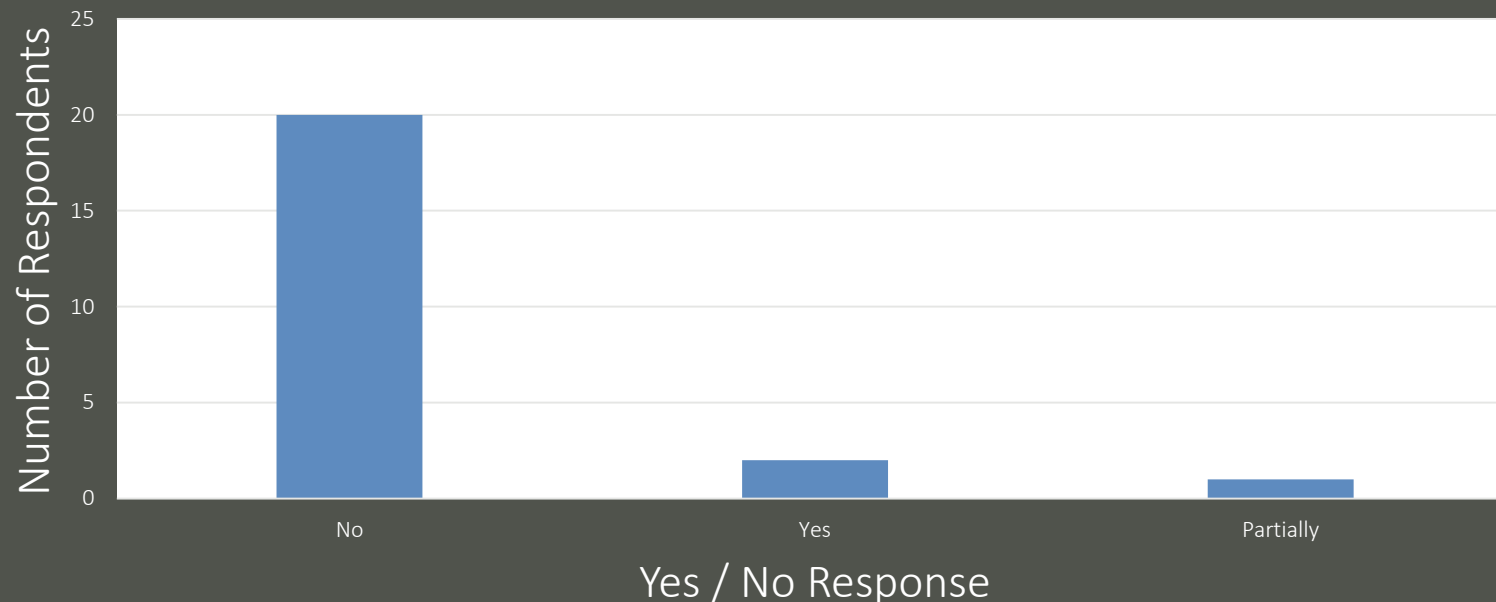
Yes / No	Respondents
No	1
Yes	22
Unanswered	1

If yes; a. How? (i.e. by use of written lists, Latin names, maps, map scale)

- Species Lists provided = 17
- Habitat lists = 11
- LBAP actions associated with species lists = 6
- LBAP actions associated with habitat lists = 7
- Habitat maps in LBAP = 4
- Species maps in LBAP = 2
- LBAP flagship species listed=2
- Green corridors / networks listed = 2
- Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS) maps in LBAP = 2
- No maps as lack records = 1
- Ecosystem based LBAPS = 3

Are priorities identified at a range of scales? For example, priorities to inform small scale developments (single house, areas less than 1 hectare), to larger scale (e.g. 250+ housing developments, business parks etc.)?

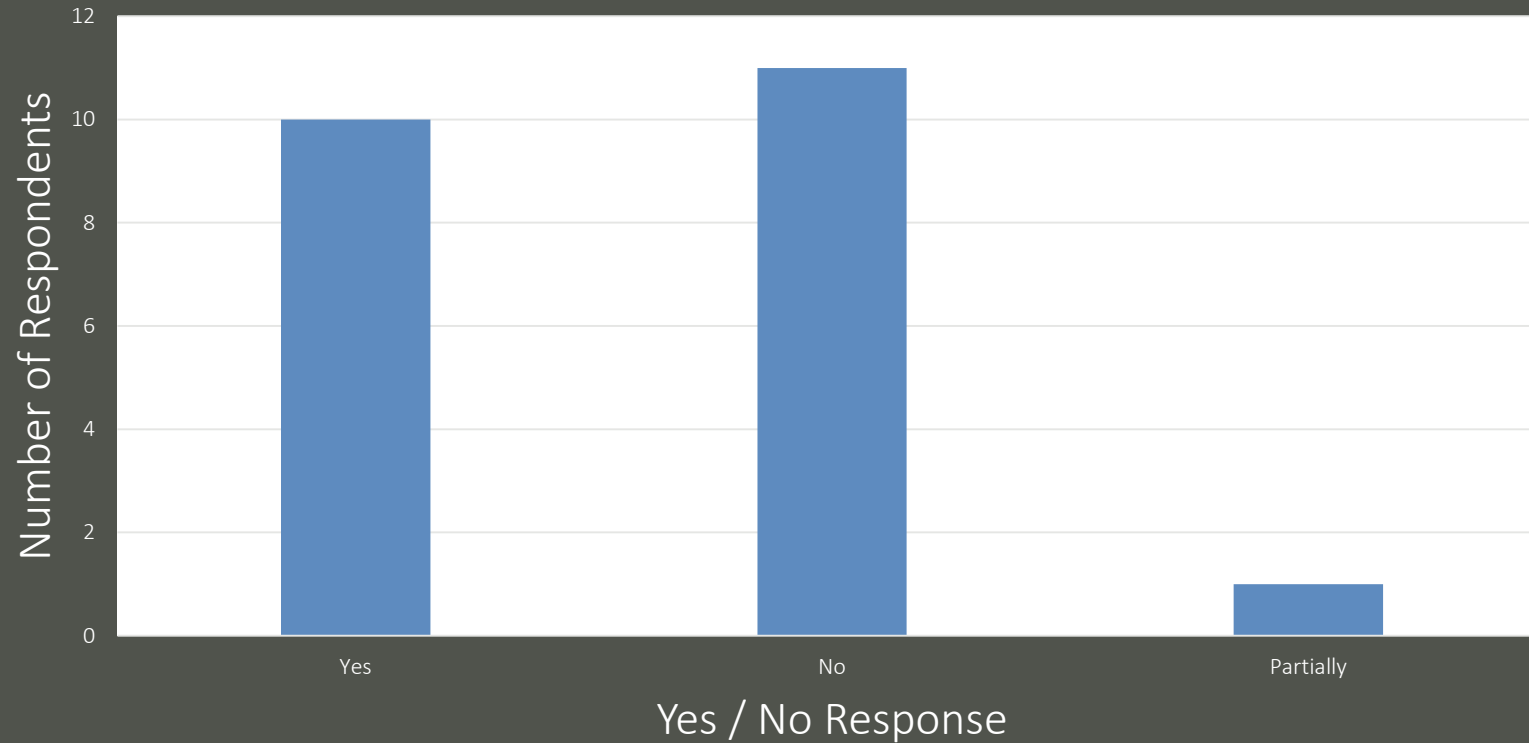
Explain



Yes / No / Partially	Respondents
No	20
Yes	2
Partially	1
Unanswered	1

- Priorities of scale in LDP / Guidance = 5
- Some priorities considered at landscape scale (not necessarily development related) =2
- Development scale considered when effecting LINCS= 2
- EIA / SEA influences scale recommendations = 1
- LBAP officer gives advice to scale = 1
- Not considered a priority for the LBAP=2
- LBAP not designed for this level of detail =1

# 1.4 Are specific measures for safeguarding and enhancing priority habitats and species described to inform the planning and development process? Y/N?

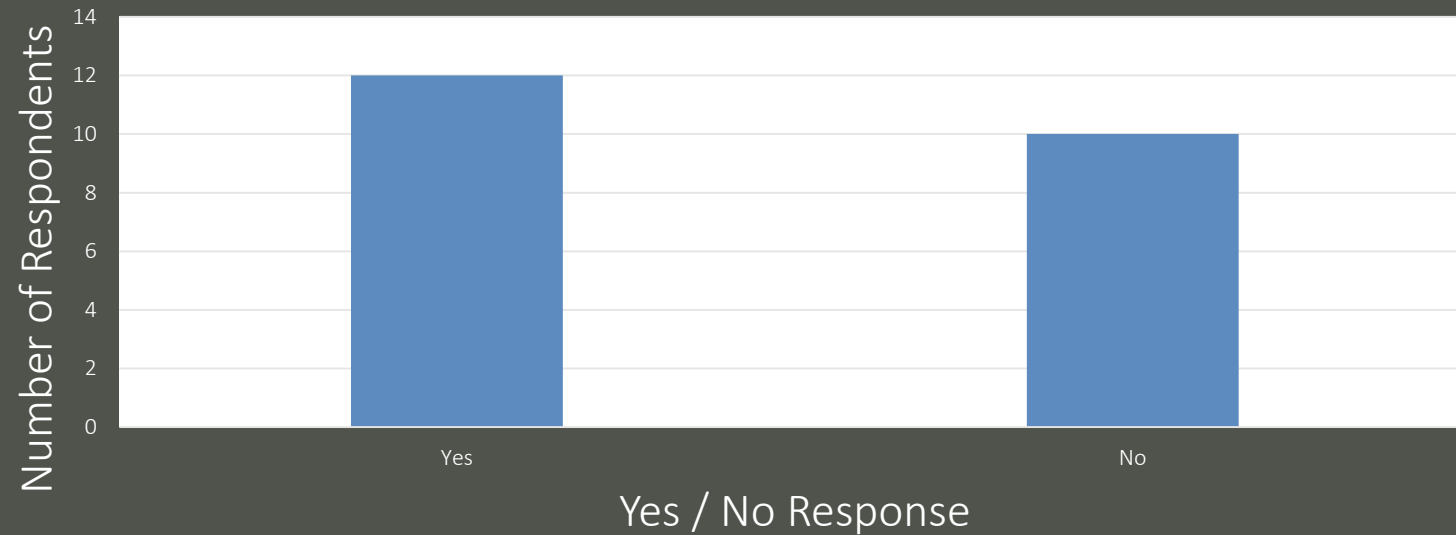


Yes / No / Partially	Respondents
Yes	10
No	10
Partially	1
Unanswered	2

Explain, providing or referencing an example

- Through Guidance documents = 8
- Through listed LBAP actions = 8
- Through LINCS = 2
- Through protected species / nationally designated sites =1
- Through EIA / SEA = 2
- Through LDP = 1
- LBAP not specifically for planners =2

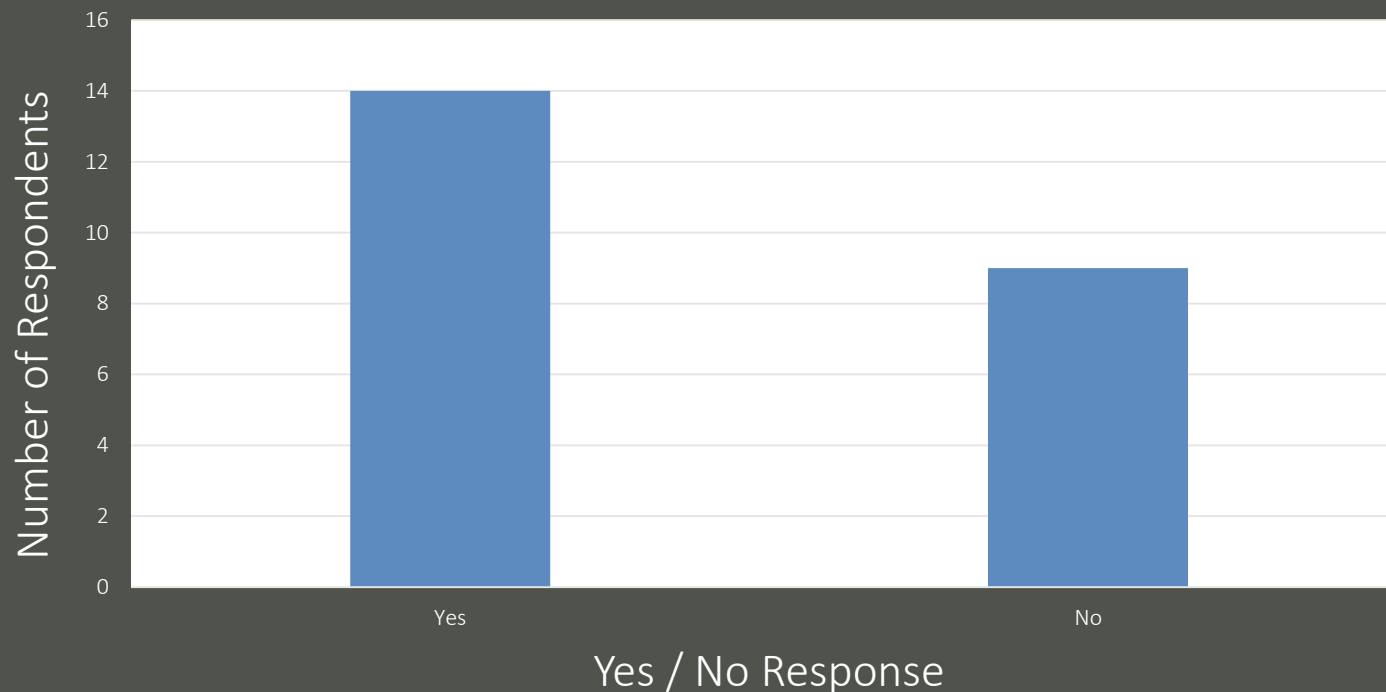
## 1.5 Are measures to integrate biodiversity enhancing features into the built environment described in the LBAP? Y/N?



Yes / No	Respondents
Yes	11
No	10
Unanswered	2

- Through LBAP Actions = 12
- LBAP has specific urban / built environment section = 6
- Through LDP / Guidance = 4
- In LBAP but only for specific features e.g. SUDS = 3
- In LBAP has to be read with additional guidance = 2
- LBAPS lack needed detail = 2
- LBAPS not appropriate as no statutory power = 2

## 1.6 Does the LBAP include ecological habitat networks? Y/N?

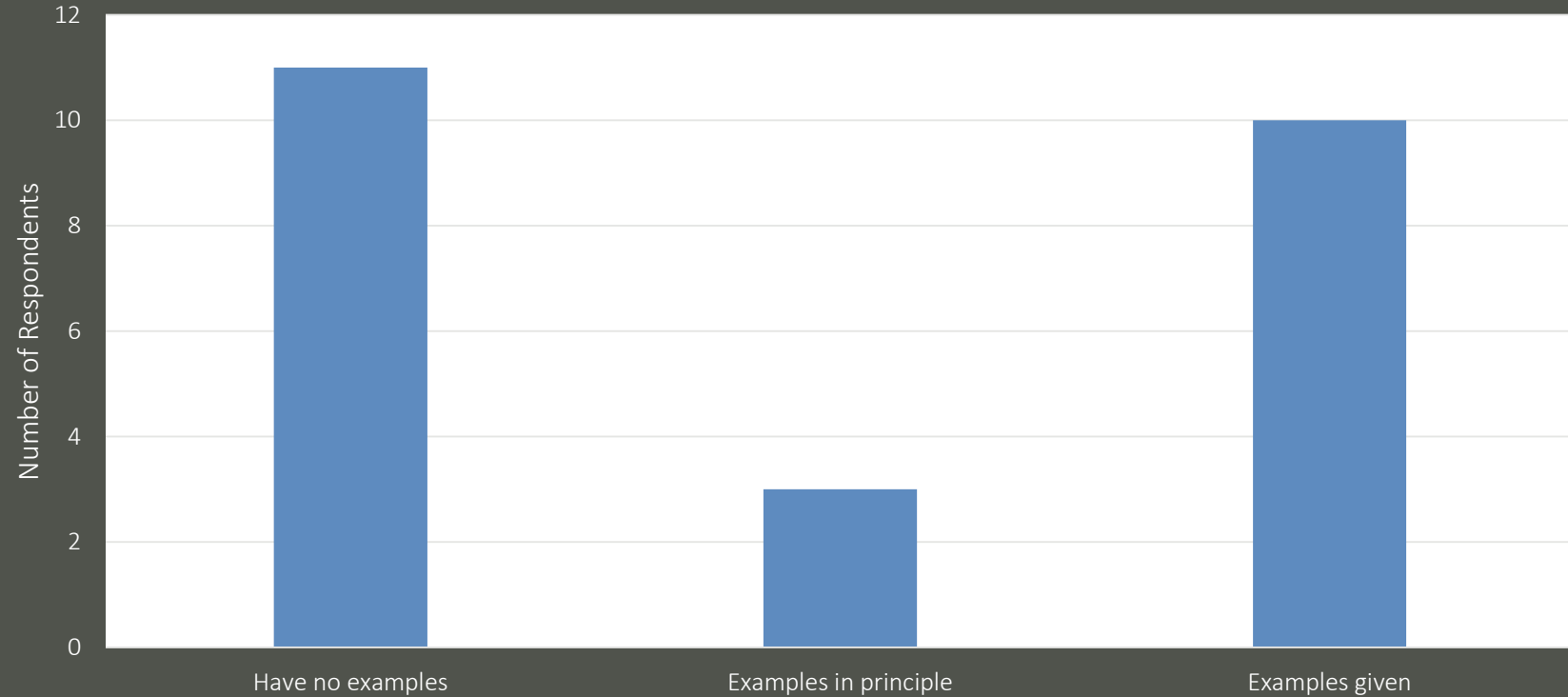


Yes / No	Respondents
Yes	14
No	9
Unanswered	1

- Recognized in LBAP - term used = 6
- Habitat network creation/ recognition = 6
- Has woodland network = 2
- Connectivity only recognised at landscape scale = 2
- Includes modelling of habitat connectivity=2
- Given in separate guidance = 1
- Link to Neighbours LBAP habitat network = 1
- Too much detail needed to be covered in a LBAP = 1
- As part of ecosystem restoration actions =1
- Habitat network actions for key species =1

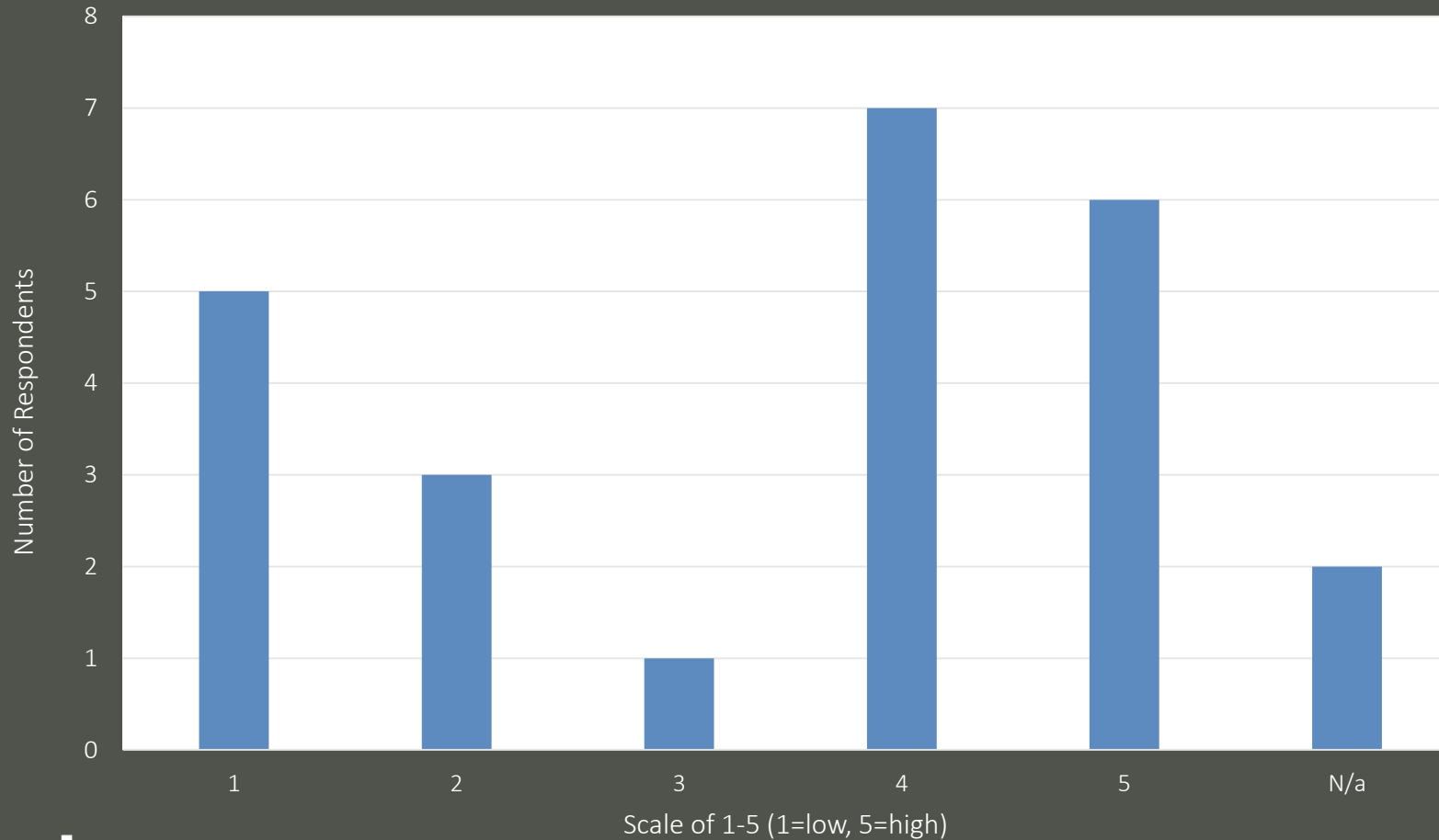


# 1.7 Can you provide any examples where good outcomes/ positive effects for biodiversity have been achieved through the development/planning process by developers?- Please briefly describe or reference one or two examples



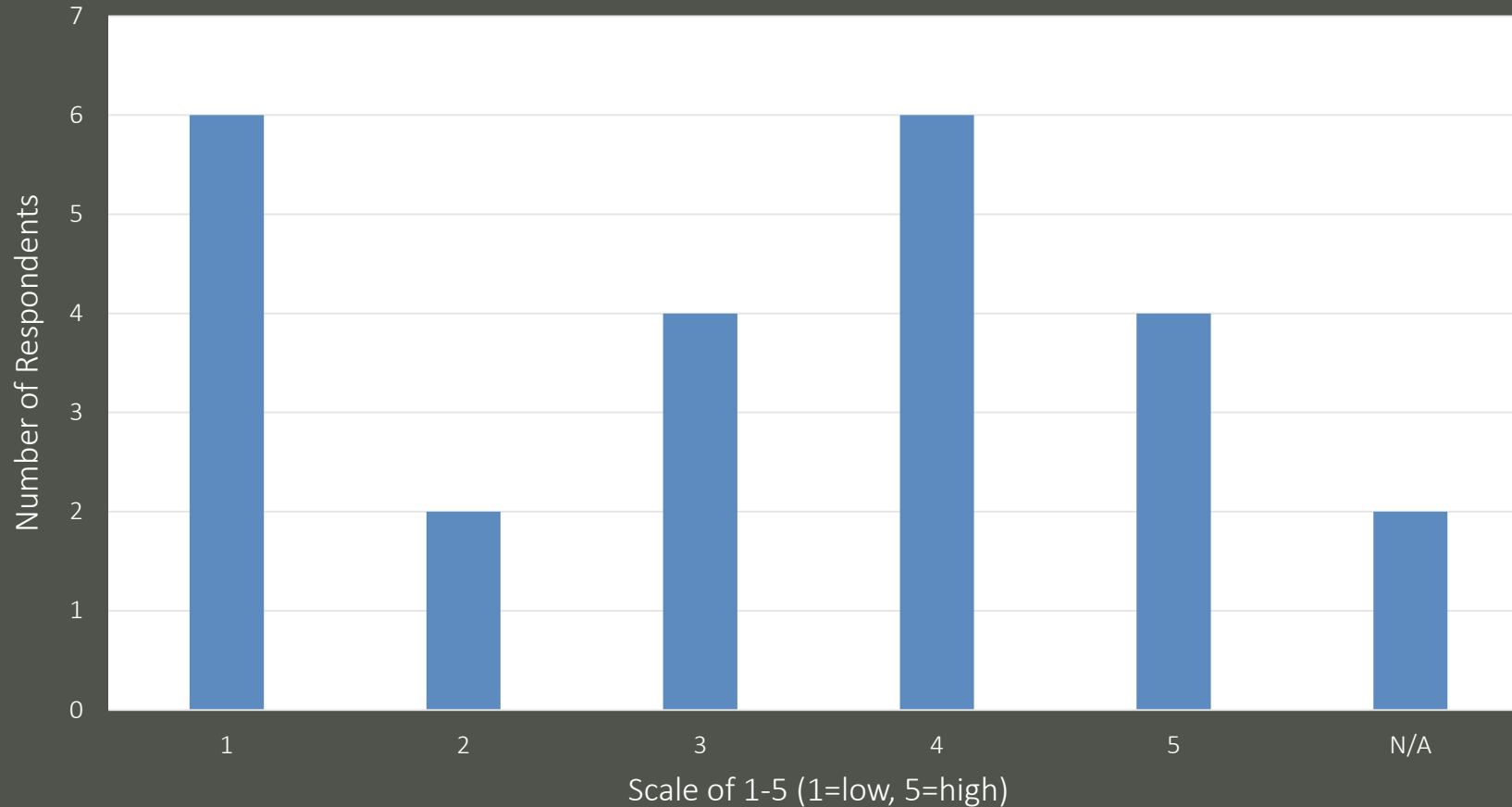
Providing examples	Respondents
No examples to give	11
Examples in plan	3
Examples given	10

1.8 On a scale of 1-5 (1=low, 5=high), how easily do you think that information presented in the current LBAP is accessible and can be easily understood by planners and developers not fully conversant with biodiversity /ecological language and principles? For Planners



Scale	Respondents
1	5
2	3
3	1
4	7
5	6
N/A	2

1.8b On a scale of 1-5 (1=low, 5=high), how easily do you think that information presented in the current LBAP is accessible and can be easily understood by planners and developers not fully conversant with biodiversity /ecological language and principles? For Developers



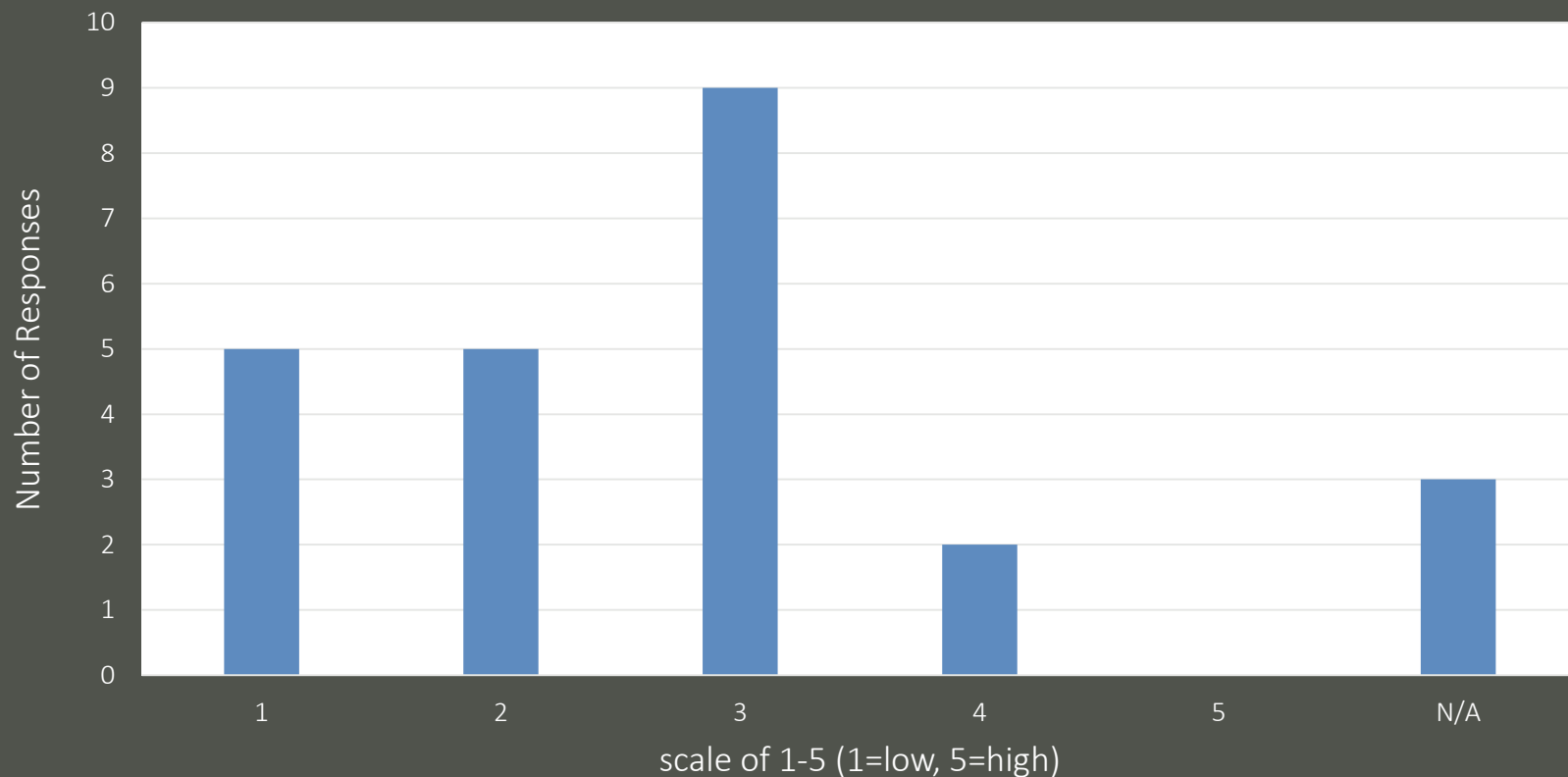
Scale	Respondents
1	6
2	2
3	4
4	6
5	4
N/A	2



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2.1 On a scale of 1-5 (1=low, 5=high), how relevant would you say that LBAP Partnership or assigned implementing body is, to delivering positive effects for biodiversity alongside the development/planning process?



Scale	Respondents
1	5
2	5
3	9
4	2
5	0
N/A	3

## 2.2 What opportunities are there to further support delivery in practice of positive effects alongside the development/planning process, and how can these best be facilitated? Think about resources, expertise, time, training, guidance, process...

### Opportunities

- Lots – limited resources, limit actions =4
- Give LBAPS statutory standing = 3
- Creation of new guidance = 2
- Build into new LDP=1
- Greater links between biodiversity officers and planners = 1
- Stronger legislation = 4
- Utilise partnership expertise to help planners =1
- Increase community involvement = 1
- Encourage offsite compensation for biodiversity = 1
- Clarify ecological expertise developer should take on =1
- Ensure biodiversity actions carried out early in development to prevent them being forgotten / lack of money = 1
- Linking LBAP actions and development can help secure funding =1

### Resources

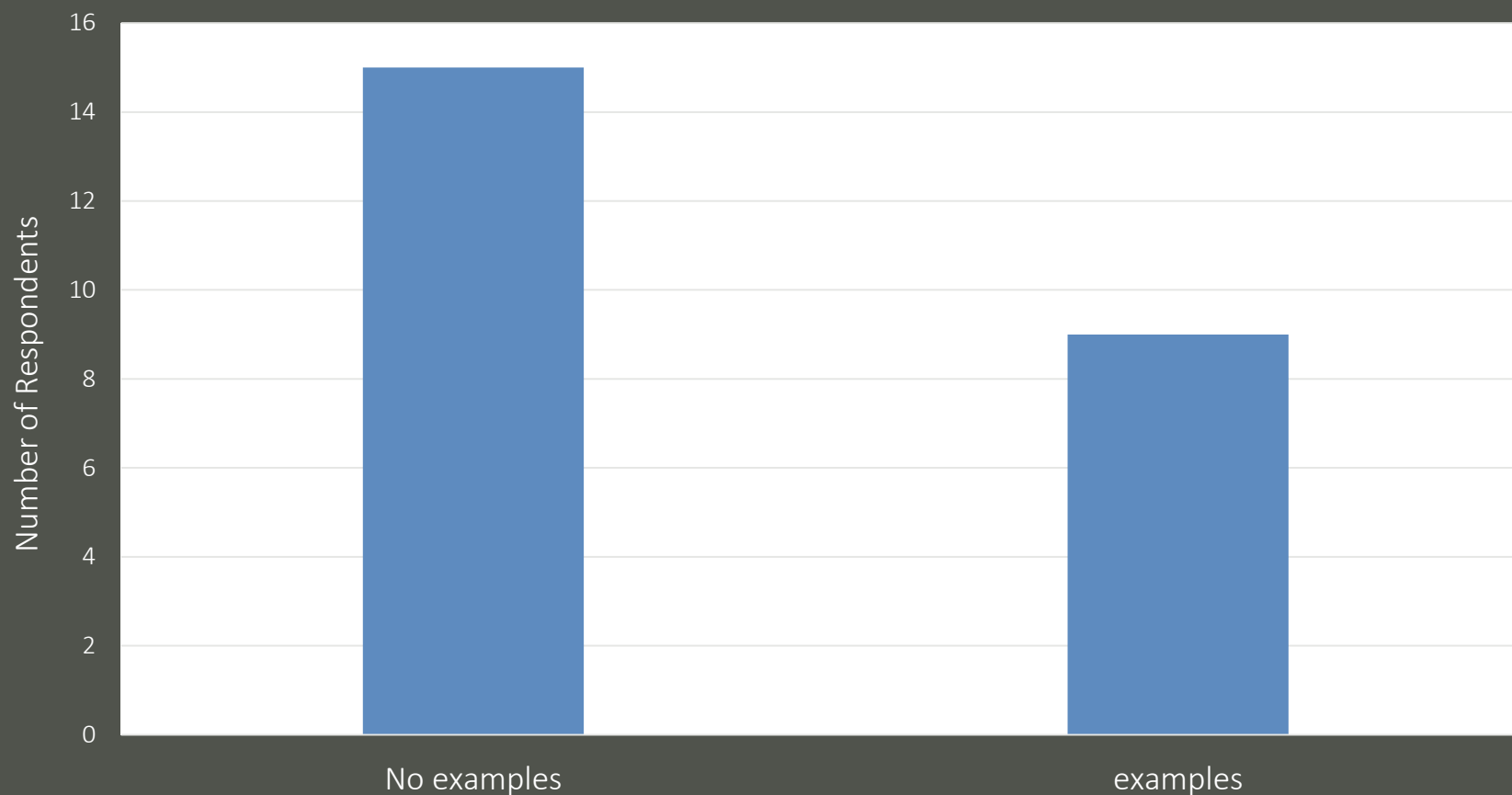
- More Staff = 12
- Lack of expertise = 8
- More time = 7
- Greater assistance, support, resource and guidance from NatureScot = 6
- Training for planners = 4
- Train planners to recognise PEfB = 2
- Developer training = 2
- LA need more enforcement powers = 2
- Creation of standard planner guidance = 2
- Creation of standard developer guidance =2
- LBAP not linked directly to planners-lack communication = 3
- LBAP partners need more staff = 1
- Need funding for LA ecologist = 2
- More resource in general = 2
- Need for record Centre = 1
- National standard for PEfB needed = 1
- Needs to be greater built in to policy =1



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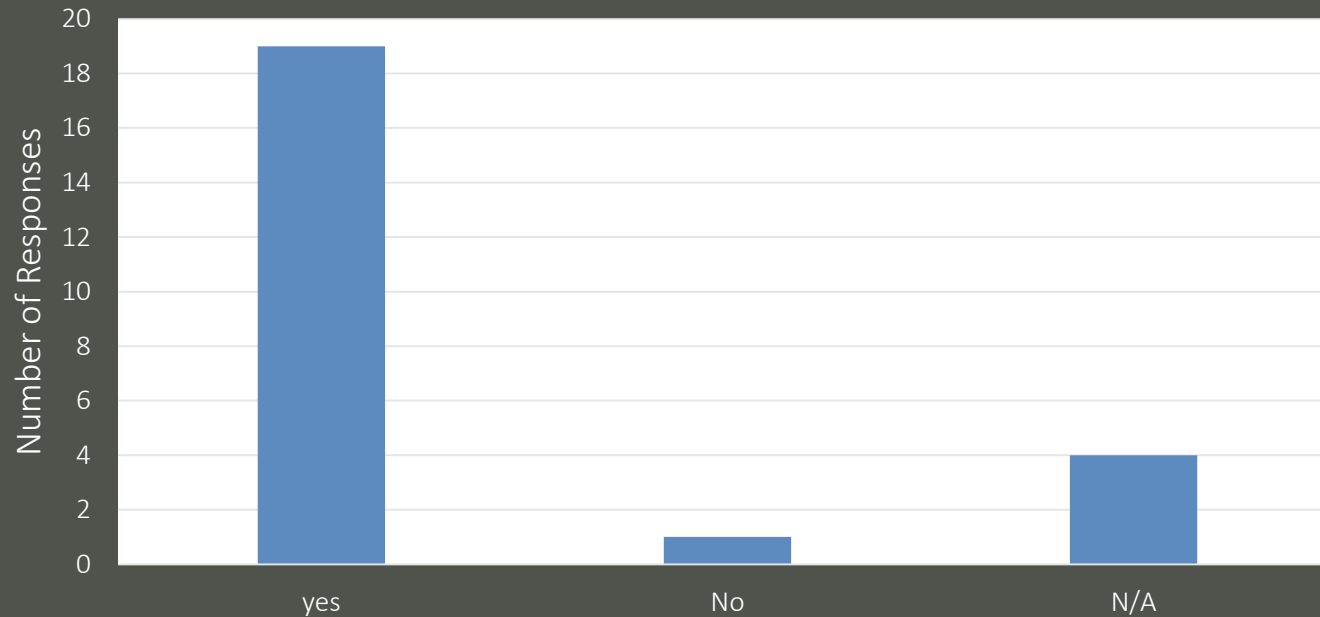
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## 2.3 Can you provide any examples where positive effects for biodiversity have been achieved alongside the development/planning process by or closely with LBAPartnerships?



Examples given	Respondents
No examples to give	15
Examples given	9

## 2.4 Are there barriers to the current practice and capacity of Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships and their ability to influence planning policy? Y/N?

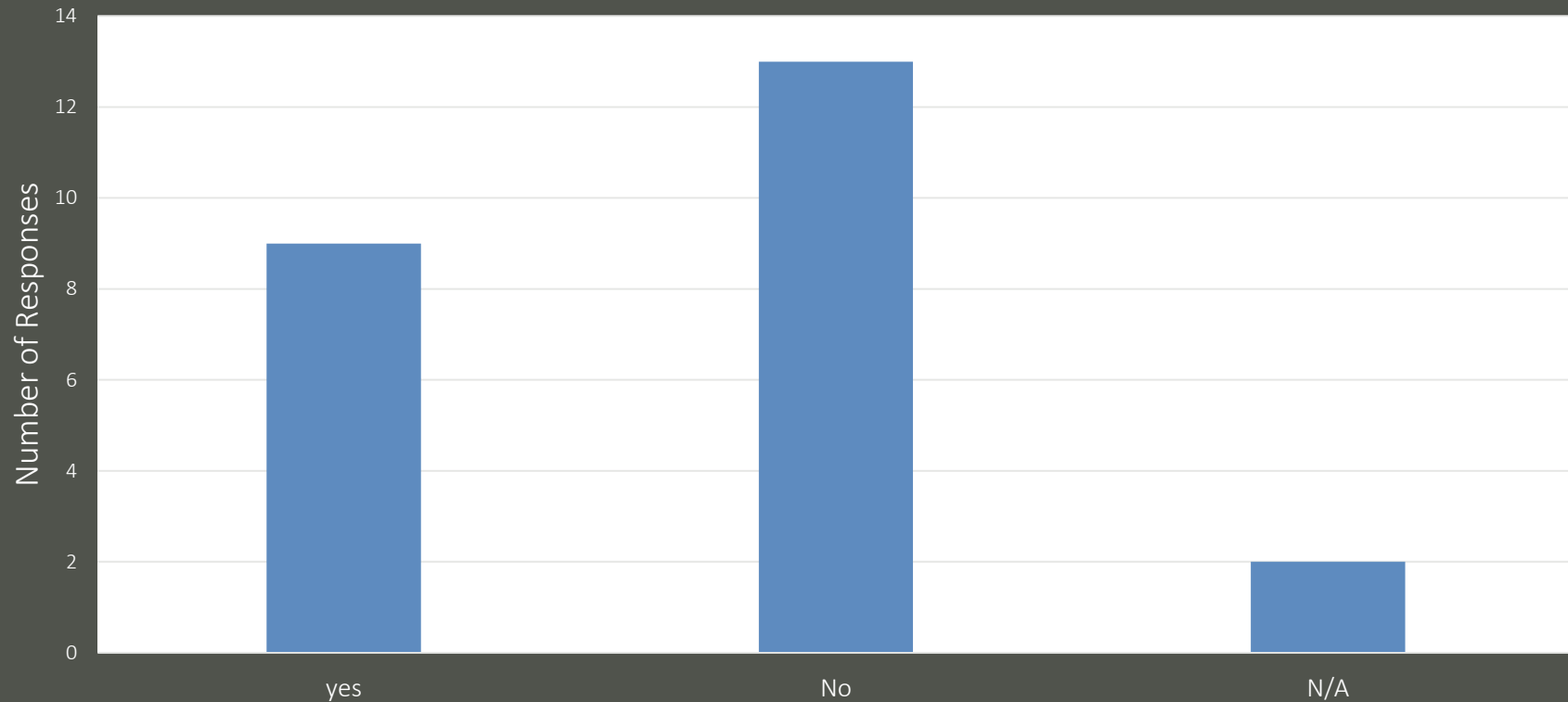


Yes / No / N/A	Respondents
Yes	19
No	1
N/A	4

### If yes, please explain

- Resources in General = 9
- Lack staff = 8
- Lack of expertise = 6
- No statutory requirement to produce/ follow LBAP = 4
- Unclear what will be need from development for Biodiversity= 3
- Partnership dormant = 4
- PEfB beyond current legal requirement = 3
- No LBAP partnership = 2
- Loss of LBAP officer = 2
- List of 15 additional barriers collated from responses. 24 in total

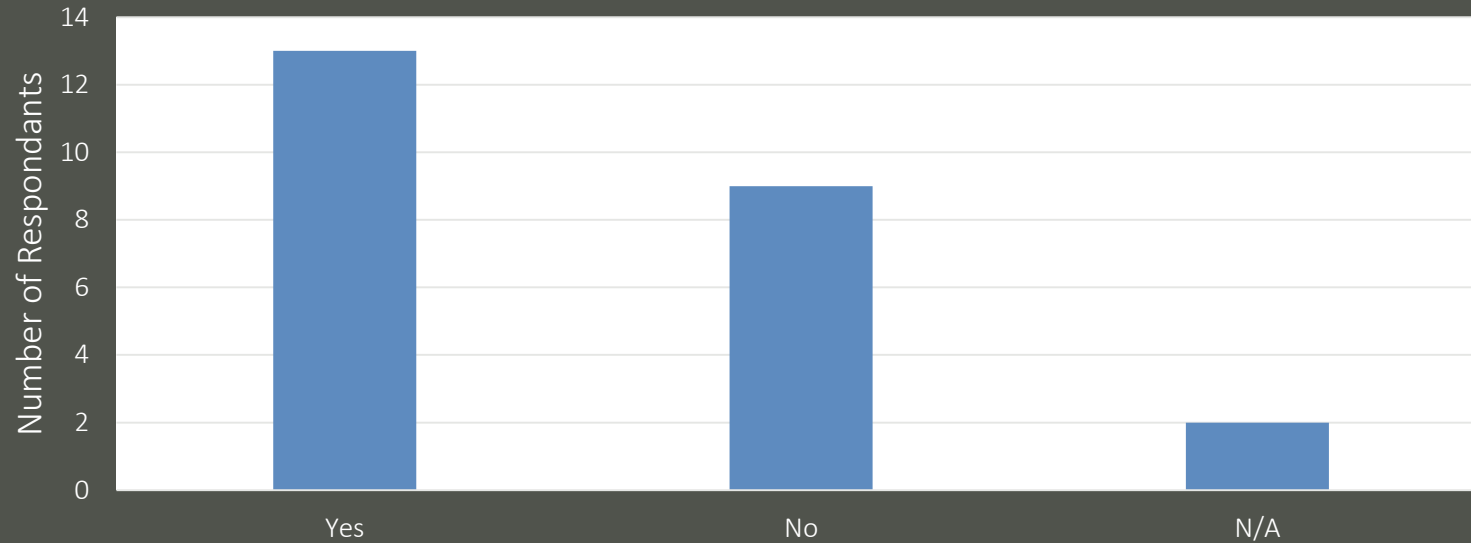
### 3.1 Do you think the current system already works well in your Planning Authority? Y/N?



Yes / No / N/A	Respondents
Yes	9
No	13
N/A	2



### 3.2 Do you think information in the LBAP could be better configured to inform planners and developers in securing positive effects for biodiversity? Y/N?



Yes / No / N/A	Respondents
Yes	13
No	9
N/A	2

#### If yes, explain

- Should be presented as separate guidance = 6
- Any separate guidance should be LBAP linked= 3
- Not the purpose of LBAP = 4
- LBAP need redesigned for purpose = 6
- LBAP too out of date = 2
- Need heavy resourcing = 1
- LBAP info could better inform LDP = 1
- Better link between LBAP and planning guidance=1
- Current system works = 1

### 3.3 What would help you to make LBAP's as useful as possible in supporting planning and development to secure positive effects?

- More resources in General = 5
- Greater guidance in general needed = 5
- Guidance needed on how an LBAP is created for this purpose = 5
- New legislation / policy needed =4
- Greater support, involvement and guidance from NatureScot = 4
- Planning and development is a planning not an LBAP matter = 3
- More Staff = 2
- More funding = 2
- Training needed for planners = 2
- Disseminate biodiversity information to wider council staff = 2
- Increased use of technology to spread information =2
- Greater access to ecology advice = 2
- Make a separate guide linked to LBAP = 2
- Links needed between LBAP and planning =3
- give power and role to partnership to put forward PEfB to planners =1
- Greater planning enforcement = 1
- Need good case studies to follow = 1
- Conferences to share guidance and good practice = 1
- LBAP would need redesigned = 1
- More time needed = 1
- LBAP need reference to further guidance notes =1
- More information of how PEfB will be measured = 1
- LBAPS need link to LDP = 1
- Align LBAP with strategies like greenspace, NBS and natural capital =1
- Need for record centre = 1
- Biodiversity staff need training in planning = 1
- Shift away from protect sites and species to biodiversity in general =1
- SuDs systems under utilized for there biodiversity potential =1



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### 3.4 Are there specific areas of support required by planners and developers to make the available information more easily accessible and / or understandable? Explain

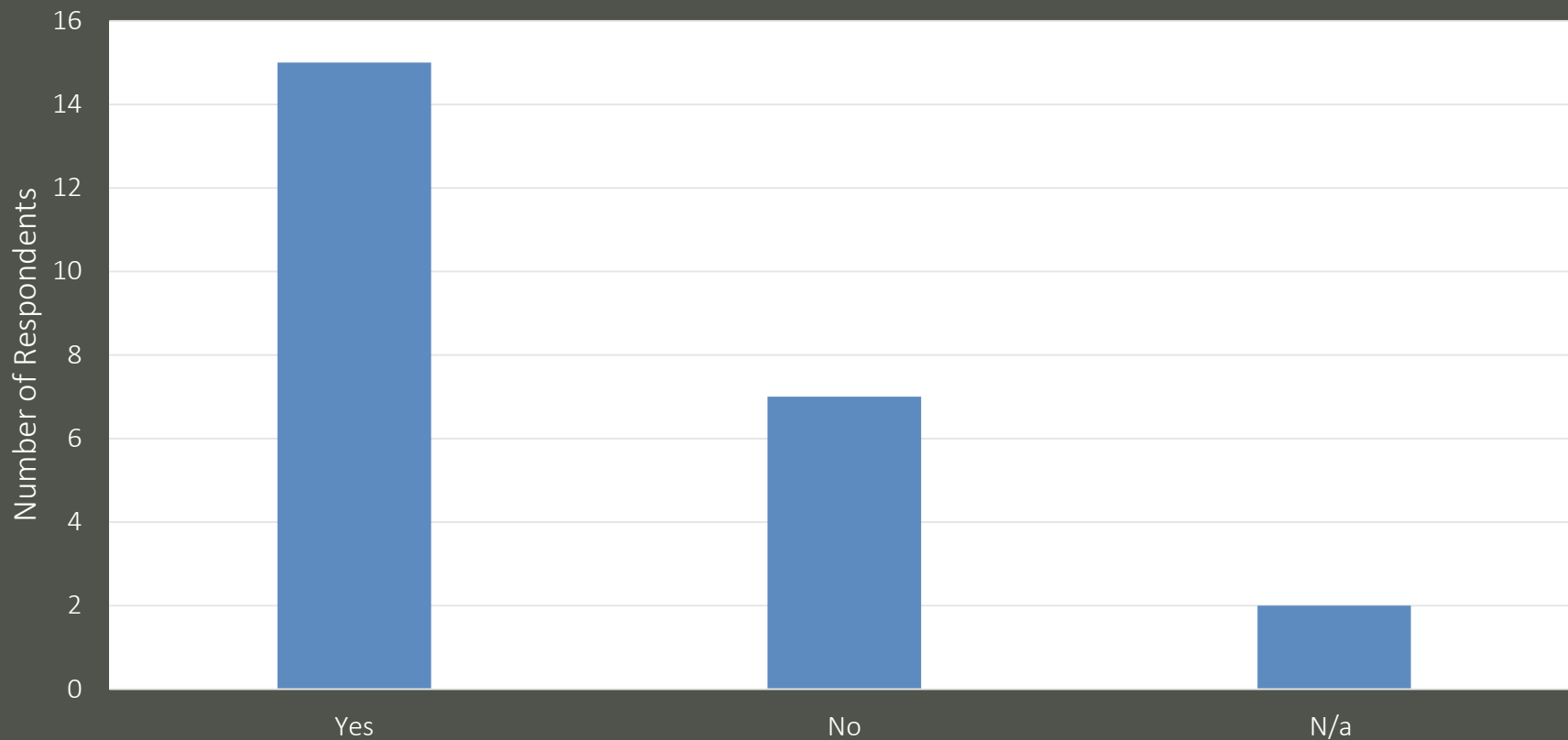
- Training needed = 7
- More resources = 6
- Need for more ecology advice to be available = 6
- More statutory requirements on planners and developers causing raising of biodiversity priority = 5
- Lack of support for biodiversity from planners / LA = 3
- Guidance on how to deliver PEFB = 4
- Need for BNG tools = 2
- Provision of local ecology data = 2
- Separate guidance documents needed = 3
- Sign post to existing resources = 1
- NatureScot Providing training = 1
- Encourage developers to have ecologists = 1
- Clear guidance on measuring positive effects for biodiversity = 1
- Clear guidance on developer responsibilities = 1
- Developers might not look at voluntary advice and LBAPS = 1
- Set clear minimum net gain = 1
- LBAP not made for this purpose = 1
- Already exists = 1
- Simplify guidance to be easier understood by non ecologists = 1
- Need case study of good examples = 1
- Guidance needed to help guide planners in technical areas = 1



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## 4.1 Are you planning to review, update (or produce) an LBAP? Y/N?



Yes / No / N/A	Respondents
Yes	15
No	7
N/A	2

## 4.1 Are you planning to review, update (or produce) an LBAP? Y/N?

If yes a. What are the intended start / completion dates?

- Before 2023 = 9
- 2026-2030 = 4
- No date set hoped in near future to address = 3
- In progress but stalled = 2

If no a. Explain

- Can't update LBAP, team does not have experience = 1
- Development action decided on habitat statements these kept updated = 1
- No resources to have LBAP = 1
- No plan to have an LBAP - hoped other coming council policies will fill gap = 1

b. What factors do you expect to influence timing?

- Lack of resource in general = 7
- Lack of funding = 3
- Lack of Staff = 2
- Lack of expertise = 2
- Delayed by Covid = 1
- Scottish biodiversity strategy needs to translate to local level = 1
- LBAP delayed as partners worried it has little regulatory effect = 1



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## 4.1 Are you planning to review, update (or produce) an LBAP? Y/N?

4.1 b. What factors do you expect to influence timing? For example alignment with Forest and Woodland Strategy / Open Space Strategy / Biodiversity strategy?) Explain

policy / strategy reasons for effecting time scale

- Scottish biodiversity strategy = 6
- LDP = 4
- The Forest and Woodland Strategy = 2
- National and international strategies taken into account = 2
- Alignment with all new strategies = 2
- NPF4 = 1
- Local green network strategy = 1
- Outcome of Cop15 = 1
- Alignment with Climate Change Strategy = 1
- Clyde climate forest strategy = 1
- peatland action = 1 \* aligning LBAP goals with peatland action to secure funding to allow actions to happen



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# How is the LBAP preparation typically resourced (e.g. LA staff, Planning staff, other partnership staff / external contractors etc.)?

- By LBAP partnership = 9
- LBAP / Biodiversity officer = 8
- Greenspace officer = 1
- Environment officer = 1
- Planning staff = 5
- LA staff = 4
- Unclear lead on LBAP left, no replacement = 4
- Input of volunteer time = 3
- External contractor = 3
- LA biodiversity team = 1
- LBAP committee = 1
- Staff member taken on with developer funding from biodiversity off setting = 1
- Biodiversity and planning staff in collaboration = 1



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