



HBF Planning Conference

16th September 2019

Building capacity in Local Planning Authorities

Anna Rose, Head of the Planning Advisory Service

www.pas.gov.uk

This 20 minute session.....

- What is the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)
 - How planning works (or should work)
 - What are we doing to help LPA's?
 - What have we found out?
 - What could you do to help?
 - Some key messages for you to takeaway
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What is PAS?

- Funded by MHCLG to support English planning authorities

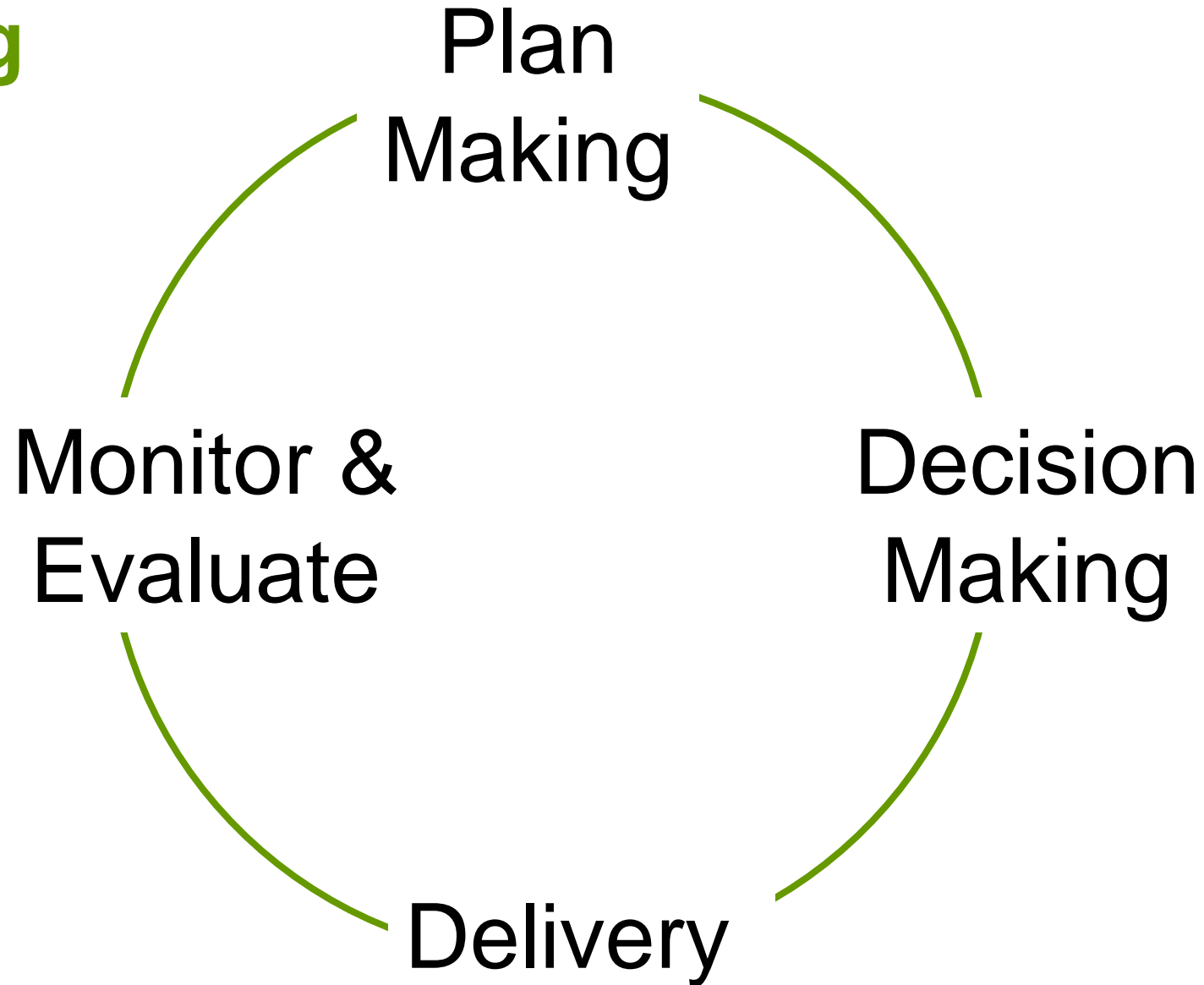
“[PAS] exists to support local planning authorities in providing effective and efficient planning services, to drive improvement in those services and to support the implementation of changes in the planning system”

- We are employed by the LGA
 - There are only 7 of us
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PAS - Building capacity

- We work with Councils to find solutions.
 - We build these solutions into tools and advice for all Councils.
 - We link Councils sharing similar issues together.
 - We use officers and members from Councils to talk to others about their experiences.
 - This builds capacity and we all learn.
 - We don't work for Councils, we work with them.
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Planning System



So what are we doing to help LPA's?



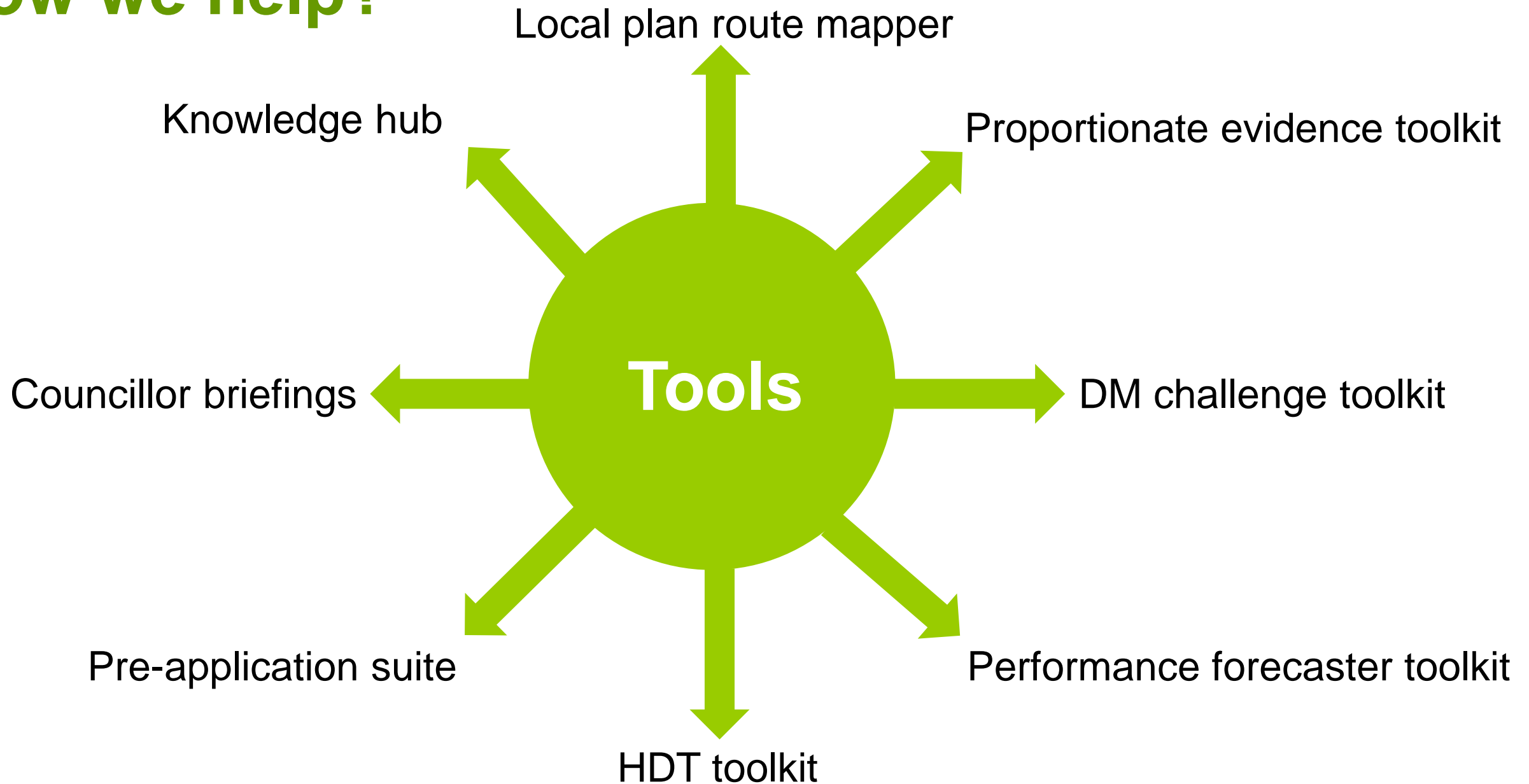


Developer Contributions & Viability

Local Plans

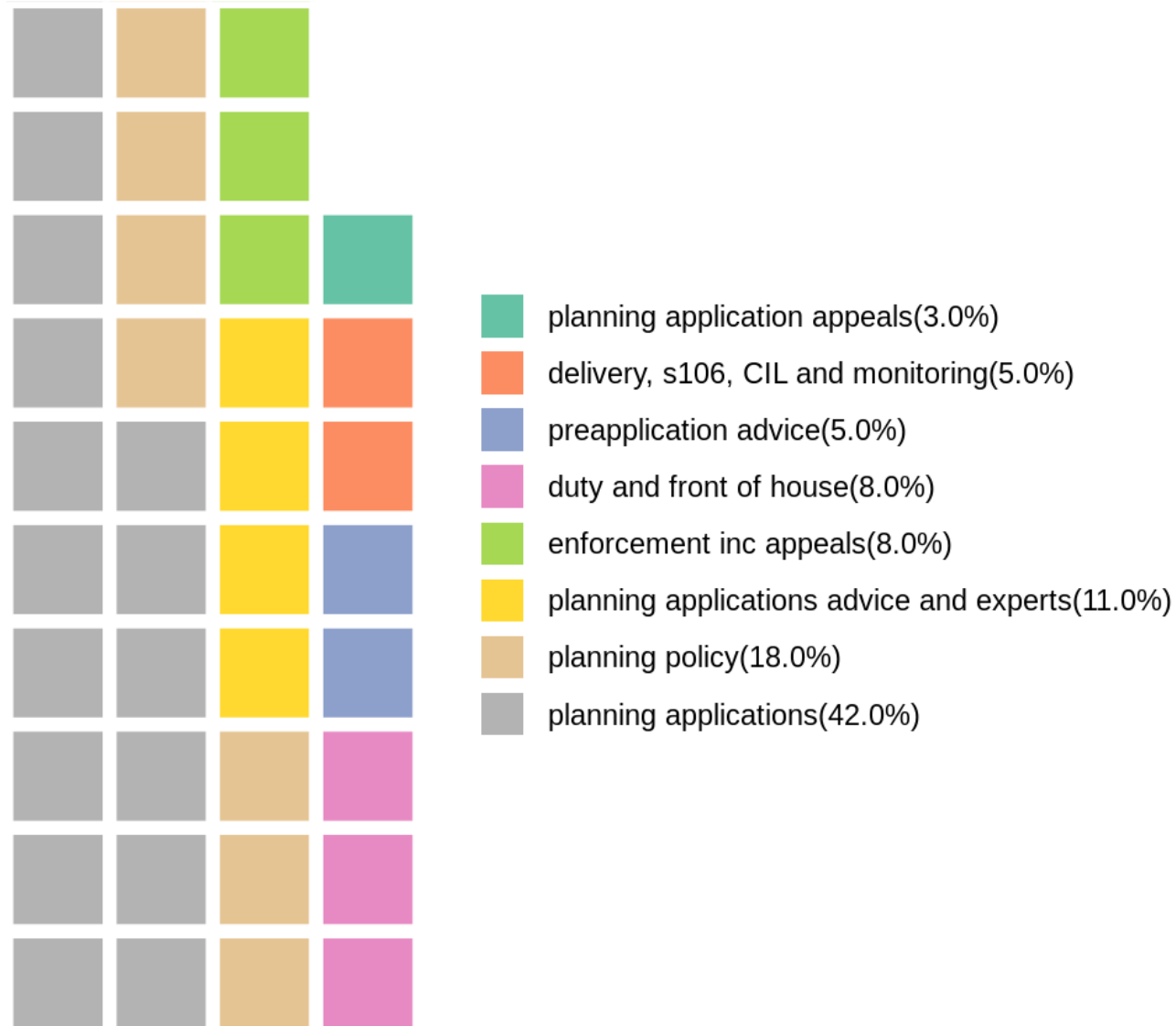
Strategic Planning

How we help?



What have we found?

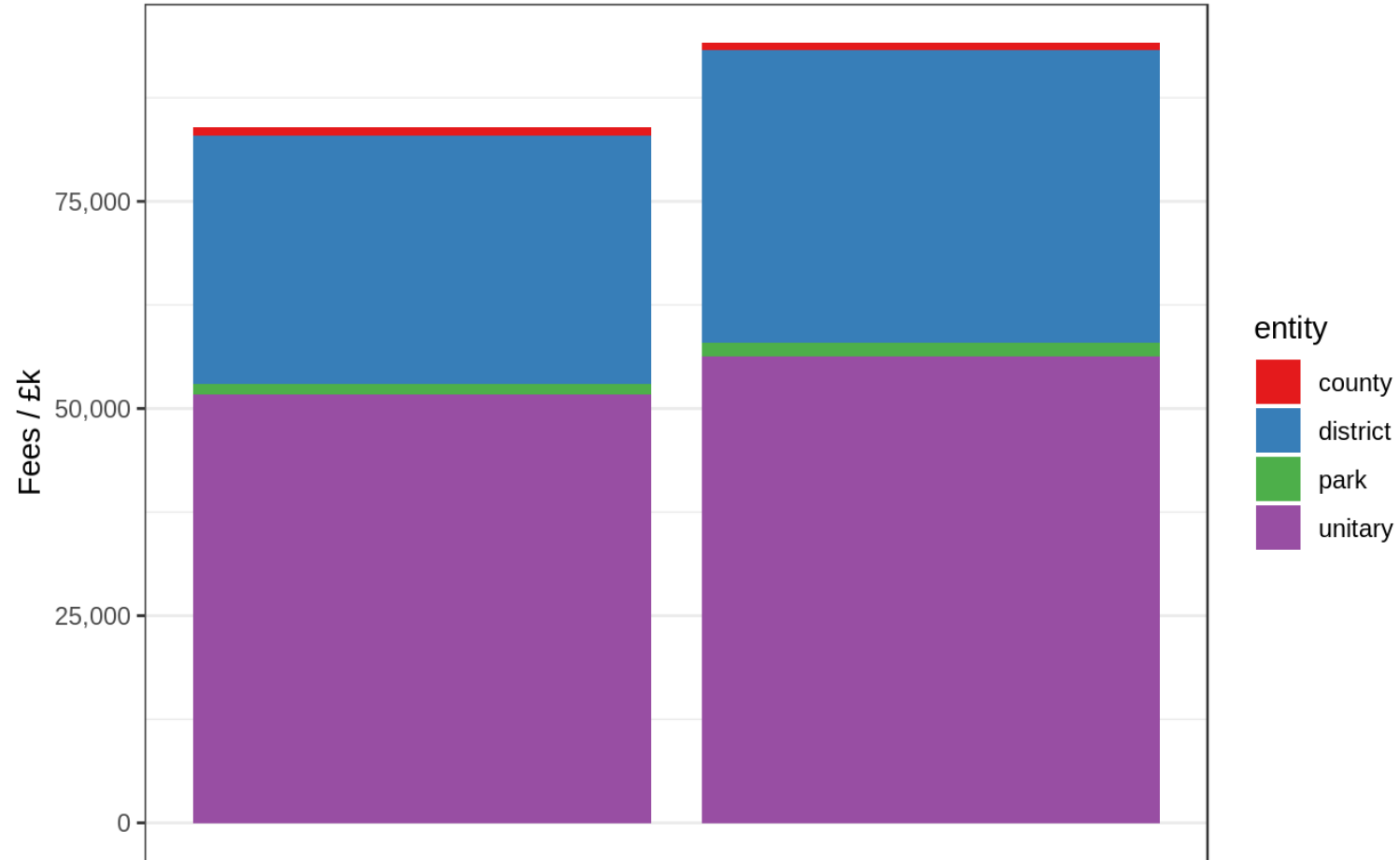
The national average planning team =38



Source: PAS 2019 Survey

Fees up £10.2m = 12.1%

Total fee income 2017 to 2018



Source: PAS 2019 Survey

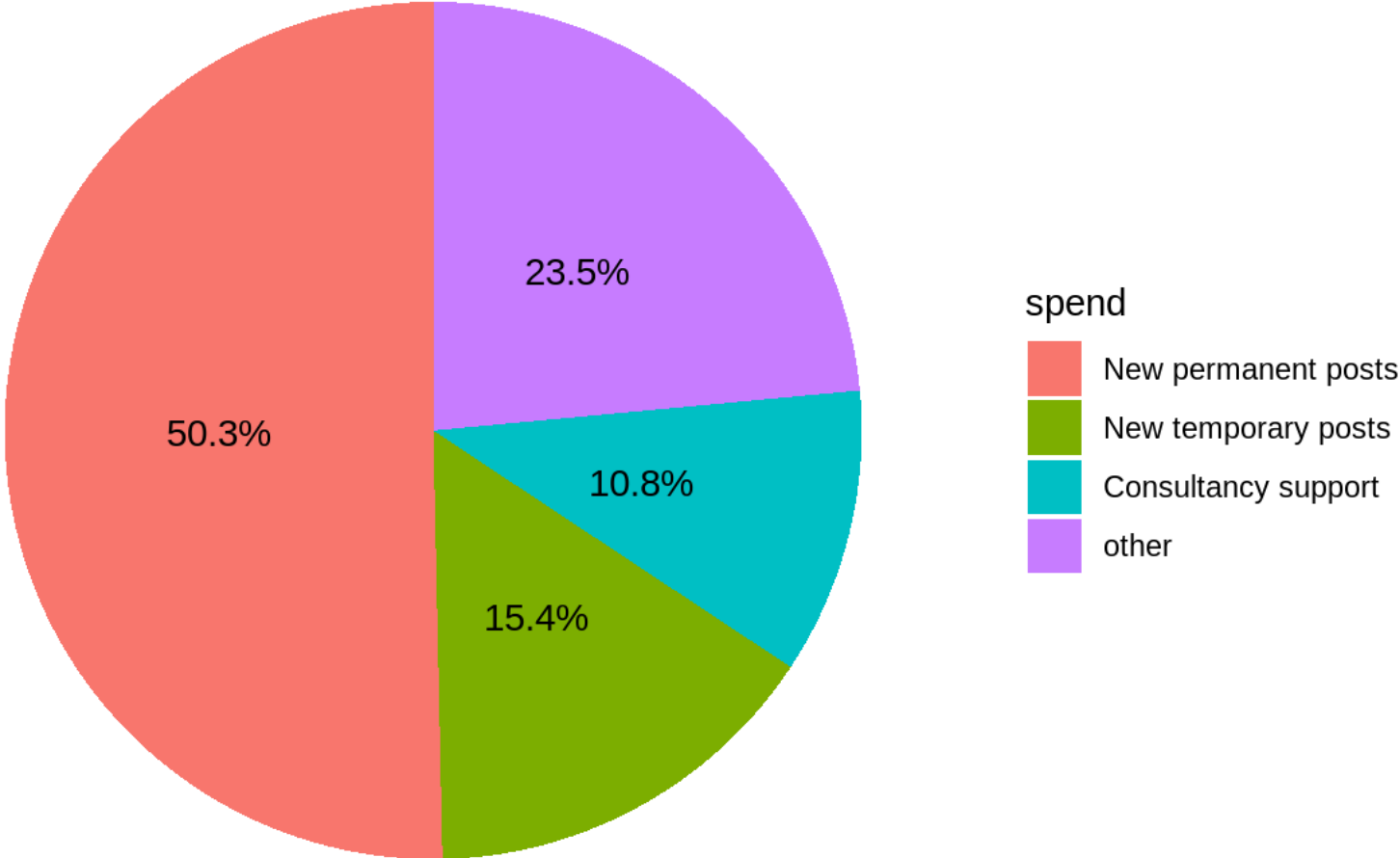
But not everywhere

Total fee income 2017 to 2018



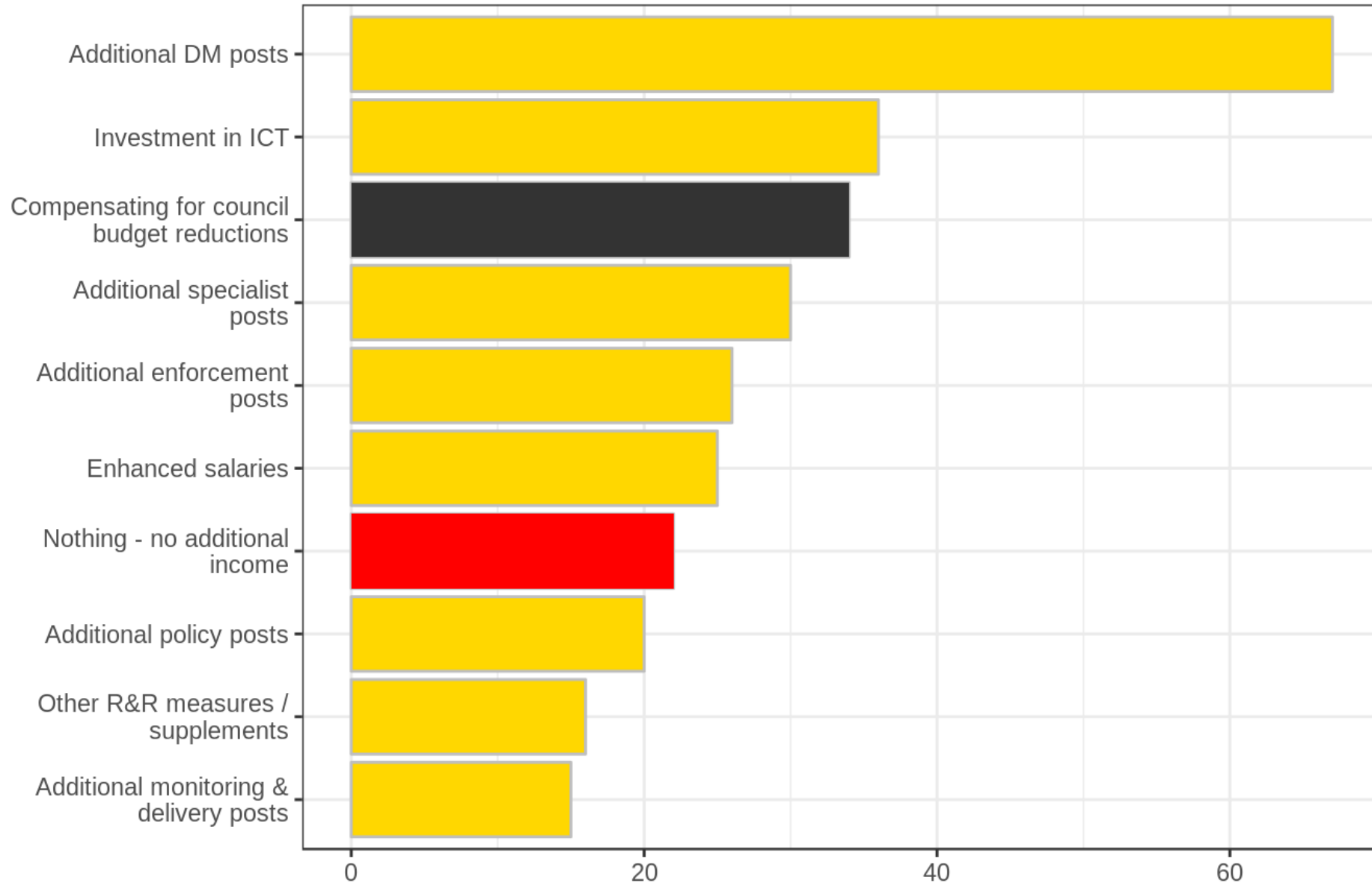
Source: PAS 2019 Survey

How was the extra money spent ? n=67



Source: PAS 2019 Survey

What was the additional fee spent on?



Resources - issues

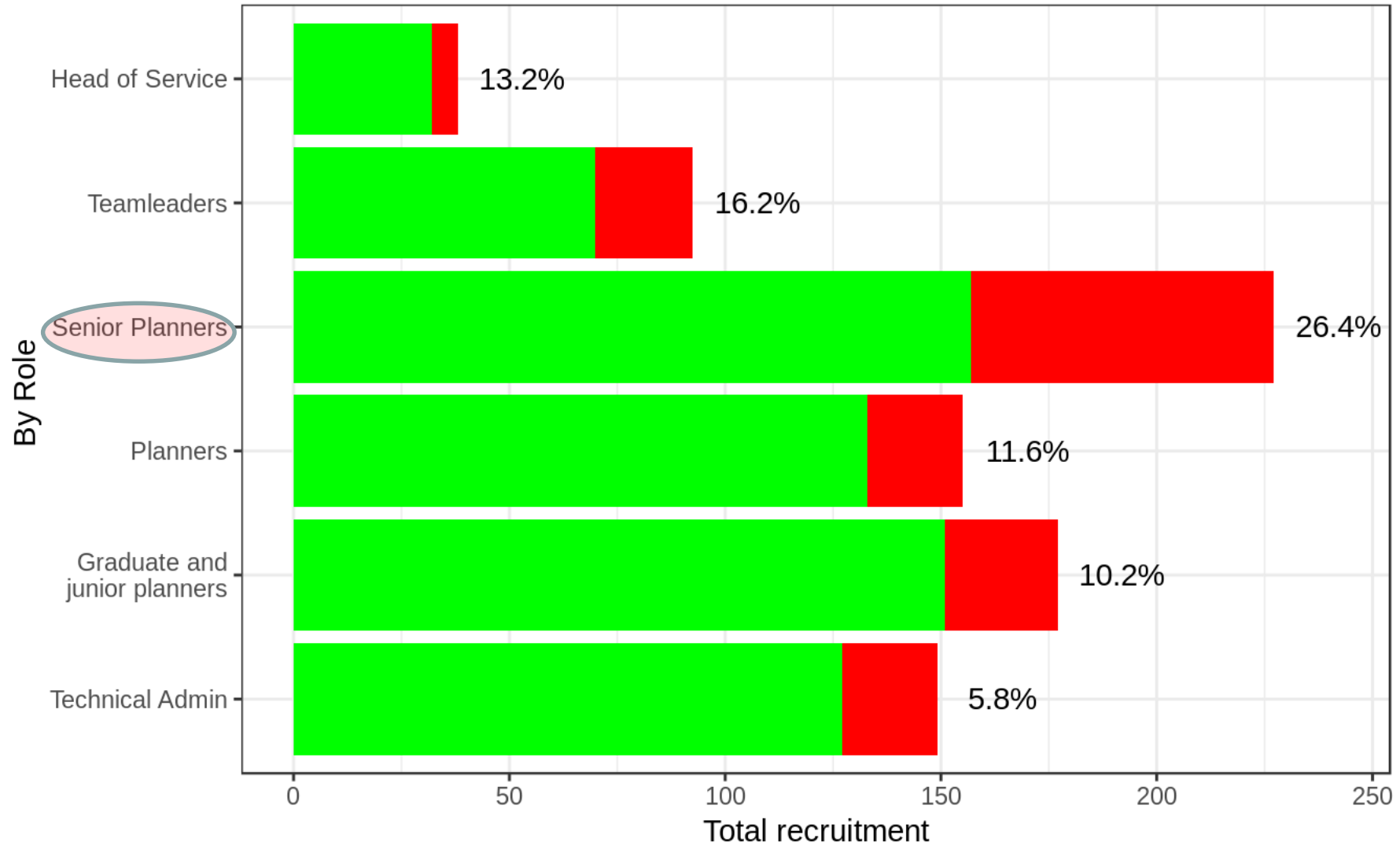
- Resilient and successful councils are surviving (not thriving)
 - Capacity (skills & experience) as big an issue as resources (bums on seats)
 - Public Sector Planning – (not) valued / an attractive career
 - Competing with private sector in a small pool / 'cannibalisation' (e.g. HE/PINS) and in London
 - Agencies plug gaps, at a cost (£ and quality)
 - More retiring than entering the profession
 - Fees (heavily subsidised); ring-fencing matched by budget reductions
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Resources - solutions

- “Growing their own” planners (grad/apprentice schemes)
 - Fast-tracking experience - risk-based approaches
 - Recruiting outside the planning discipline
 - Paying more; market supplements / career grades
 - Sharing resources
 - Maximising discretionary income
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Recruitment: success (in green) and failed (in red)

Percentage is the reported fail rate



Source: PAS 2019 Survey

What could you do to help?

It's not just about 'bums on seats'

- Many Councils no longer have training budgets
 - Many officers pay their own professional membership fees
 - Quite often, it is only senior officers who network
 - Planners tell us that they struggle to get to our events
 - Our events are free
 - They can't afford the travel costs
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Imagine if I had just described your organisation

Planners can't accept gifts or hospitality but they can;

- Benefit from your training sessions
- Be involved in research that you are undertaking
- Share their experiences with your teams and vice versa

We all need LPA's to work well and we all have a role in making this happen.

Key takeaways

1. PAS builds capacity in local government.
 2. We have an excellent reputation but there are limits.
 3. There are not enough planners in Councils.
 4. Planners in Councils have limited access to CPD.
 5. We all need planners to stay in Councils. So we all need to play our part in making that an attractive proposition.
 6. You have the ability to help.
 7. It's never just about money.....
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Thank you for listening

Email pas@local.gov.uk

Web www.local.gov.uk/pas

Phone **020 7664 3000**

Twitter [@Pas_Team](#) [@EPlanna](#)