

NLCF Development Phase Survey Analysis Overview

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Purpose of this Document

- To provide a short summary of overarching trends in survey responses.

What was the Survey and why did we do it?

"The Survey" was a 68 question survey with 10 sections as follows:

1. Who are you?
2. How is Transition going for you and your group?
3. What the support needs of your group, from your perspective?
4. A Deeper look at working with Diversity and Inclusion
5. The Value of Regional Networks
6. Thematic Networks
7. Research
8. National Hub for England and/or Wales
9. A Closer Look at Scotland Communities Climate Action Network and Transition Scotland
10. We also offered a webinar with Rob to talk about his new book and ask him questions in recognition of the time spent on completing the survey.

This document will provide a short summary for sections 1 through 9. It is a living document and will be expanded on for the purpose of providing evidence towards the National Lottery Community Fund full bid.

Section 1: Who Filled Out the Survey?

269 people started the survey. However, 5 simply filled out the first page, leaving 264. The breakdown by Country and Transition Group number looks like this:

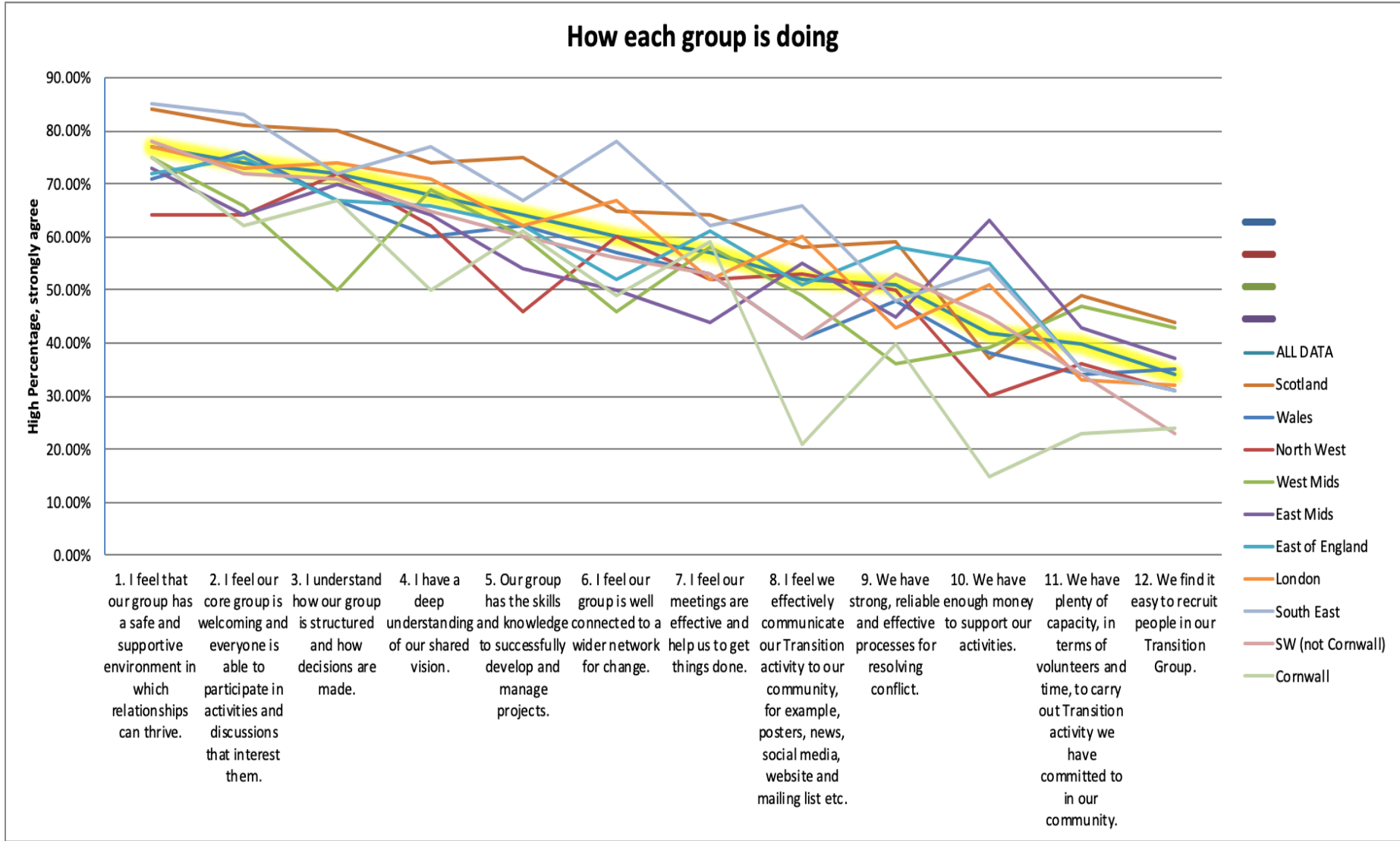
Country	Number of Responses	Number of Groups
Scotland	90	12 (Transition) 33 (other)
Wales	17	7
England	157	79

The average number of people responding in England and Wales was 2.02 per group. The average response for Scotland was 2 per group. However, there were 52 responses from Scottish Transition groups (an average of 4.3 per group) and 34 from non -Transition groups (an average of 1.03 per group). Groups with 4 or more respondents are:

Country	Group	Region	Number of Respondents
Wales	Abergavenny		4
England	Transition City Liverpool	North West	5
	Transition Stourbridge	West Mids	4
	Transition Belper	East Mids	6
	Transition Bungay	East of England	6
	Transition Leytonstone	London	4
	Transition Town Hastings	South East	5
	Transition Eynsham Area	South East	4
	Transition City Bristol	South West (not inc. Cornwall)	7
	Transition Town Totnes	South West (not inc. Cornwall)	6
Scotland	Transition Linlithgow		20
	Transition University of St.Andrews		8
	Sustaining Dunbar		6

Section 2: How is Transition going for you and your group?

214 Respondents completed this section of the survey. The graph below shows the percentage agreement towards 12 statements, answered by a sliding scale. The higher percentage noted, the stronger the agreement. The highlighted line in the middle of the data set is the average response across all data. Each colour then represents the data from a geographical region, chosen by the respondent.

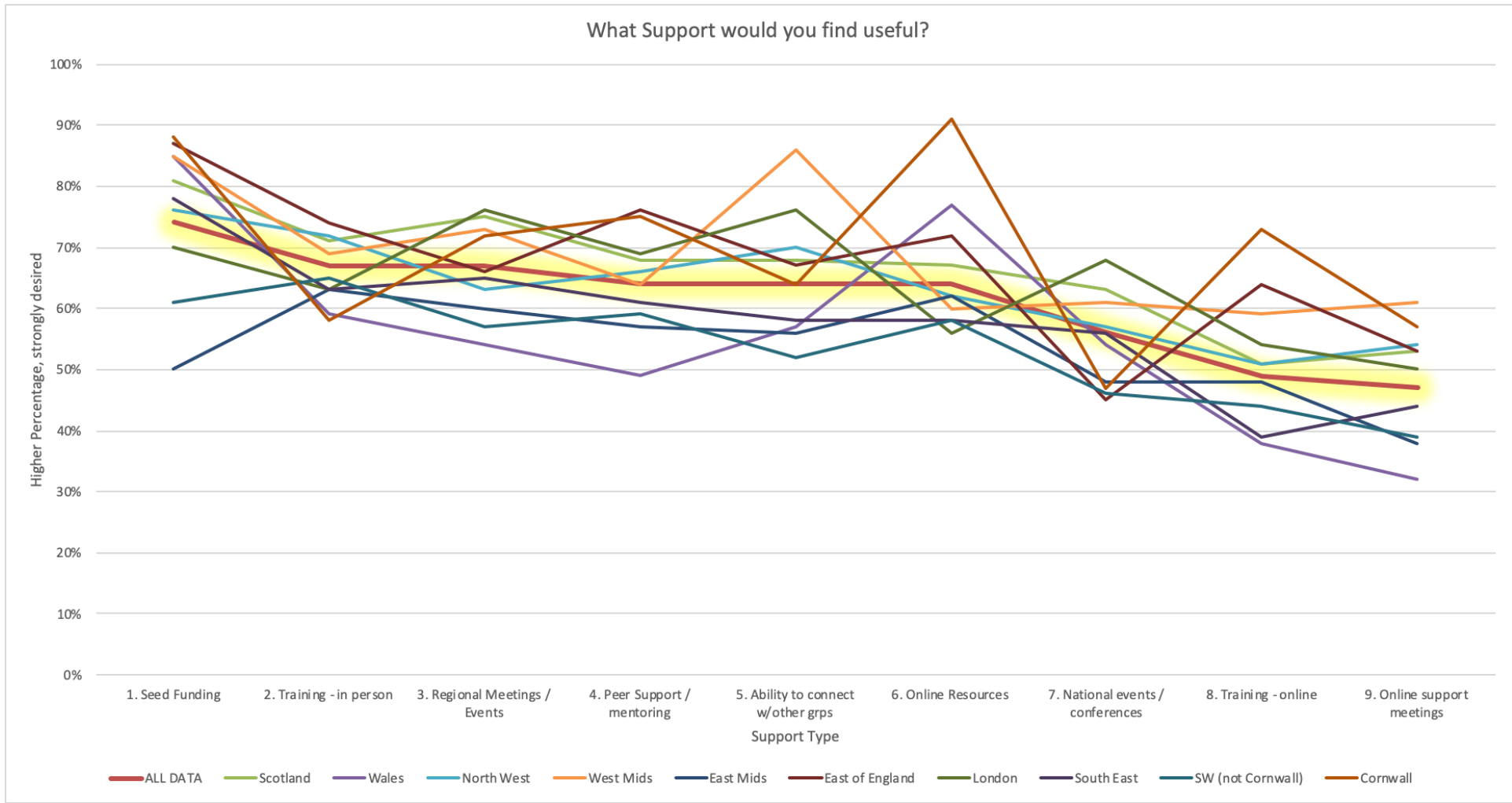


We then asked narrative questions for respondents to share "Further Comments" and outline "any other challenges". Key trends were:

- Limited capacity stifles ambition, including a need to re-energise the core group to do the supportive admin tasks...
- Its a challenge to externally Communicate and raise awareness of local activity - needing to tell their story and invite people to join in.
- The Role of Transition in local, diverse networks, particularly in relation to work with Local Authorities declaring climate emergency, and increase in activism through Extinction Rebellion and local school strikes. This relates back to limited capacity to respond thoroughly to local contexts, perhaps indicating a glass ceiling to volunteering?
- More specifically, there was a major trend of groups trying to work with Local Authorities
- Money and fundraising - the need for more resources to do what groups wanted to do.
- There is a smaller trend of Transition groups being "holders of the local story" or as a "signpost to networks and groups being active in the area"
- Conflict resolution within groups and healthy groups more widely.

Section 3: What are the support needs of your group, from your perspective?

173 respondents completed this section of the survey. The graph below shows the average responses to a series of support types. Respondents answered by adjusting a sliding scale to indicate weighting of agreement. The highlighted burgundy line is the average for the whole data set. Each colour then represents the data from a geographical region, chosen by the respondent.



We then asked two open questions eliciting narrative responses:

- Have you seen any support given to other groups that was really effective, if so, what was it?
- From your point of view, what support would make a real difference to your transition group?

The strong trends coming from these questions were:

- Funding, money and/or grants built capacity, provided cover for the administrative tasks of running a group and enabled projects to happen at larger scale.
- Partnership working/development support was seen to be effective.
- Local Authority support - not always present.
- Large regional gatherings/peer mentoring/networking/sharing best practise - network building and being active within those networks.
- Healthy groups, wider participation.
- Strategic planning.

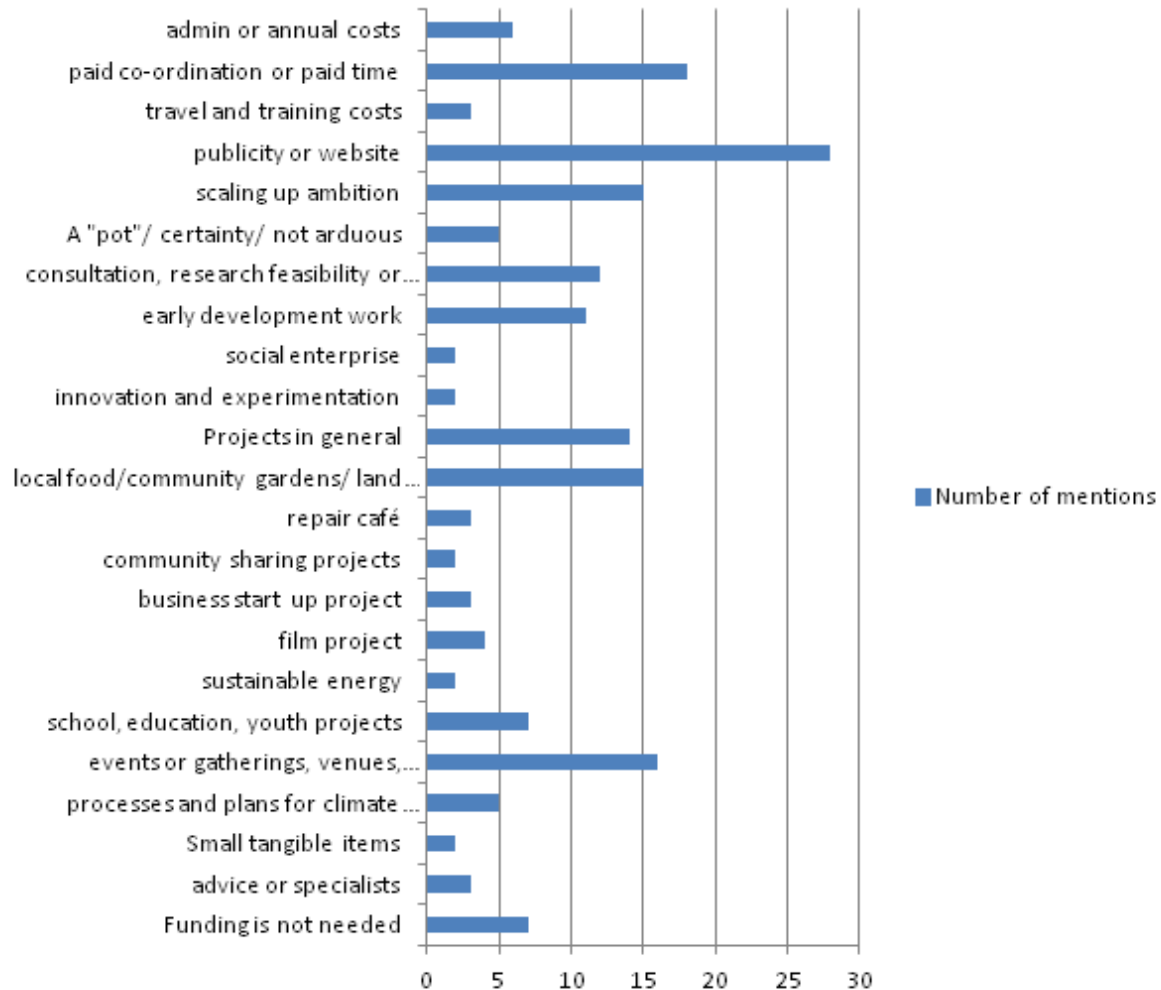
We then asked for more detail on what seed funding might be used for.

If you said that you would find seed funding helpful, can you describe what area of work you think this could help, and how that would make more difference than other types of support?

The main themes of answers to this question were:

1. **Capacity:** building the capacity of the group through paid time or core costs, money to pay for basics and to be able to scale up the ambition of the group, or for core work like co-ordination or publicity/communications/website.
2. **Start-up or early work, experimentation:** consultation, research, feasibility, business planning, the difficult early stages of projects or social enterprises, opportunity for experimentation.
3. **Projects:** the specific costs of project work, particularly frequently mentions of local food or community garden projects, and the costs of putting on events and gatherings.

Number of mentions



Section 4: A Deeper look at working with Diversity and Inclusion

We asked 3 open ended questions:

- We are really interested to hear from Transition groups that have successfully engaged with different sectors in your community, including the most marginalised who suffer from social exclusion. Please let us know about any projects / activities / engagement that have been successful in doing this in your community.
- What sort of support do you feel would be most helpful to your group in widening the range of people involved in your activities?
- What sort of support do you feel would be most helpful to your group in engaging and benefiting marginalised communities.

Over a hundred respondents completed this section. Key feedback is that:

- Offering activities for free/low cost and using multiple methods to promote encourages diverse participation.
- Loads of activities and projects were highlighted as examples of effective inclusion, including community gardens and repair cafes.
- A diversity of projects and groups in local networks of which Transition is a part increases reach considerably in larger urban centres.
- The projects highlighted as strong in this area are projects that are visible and out in the community.
- Relationships and trust take time and consistency to develop.

Section 5: The Value of Regional Networks

154 people responded to the 3 questions we asked about regional networks. The questions were:

- If based in England did you attend any of the following Regional Network workshops, meetings?
- Are you aware of an emerging Transition Regional Network or part of a regional facebook group in your area?
- How helpful would you find it to have more support and connection with Transition Groups nearby?

Only 21 of the 154 people indicated that they have attended a regional network meeting. Of those, only 12 were aware of an emerging network in their region. Those respondents were based in Bristol, Cornwall, Leicester, Lewes and London.

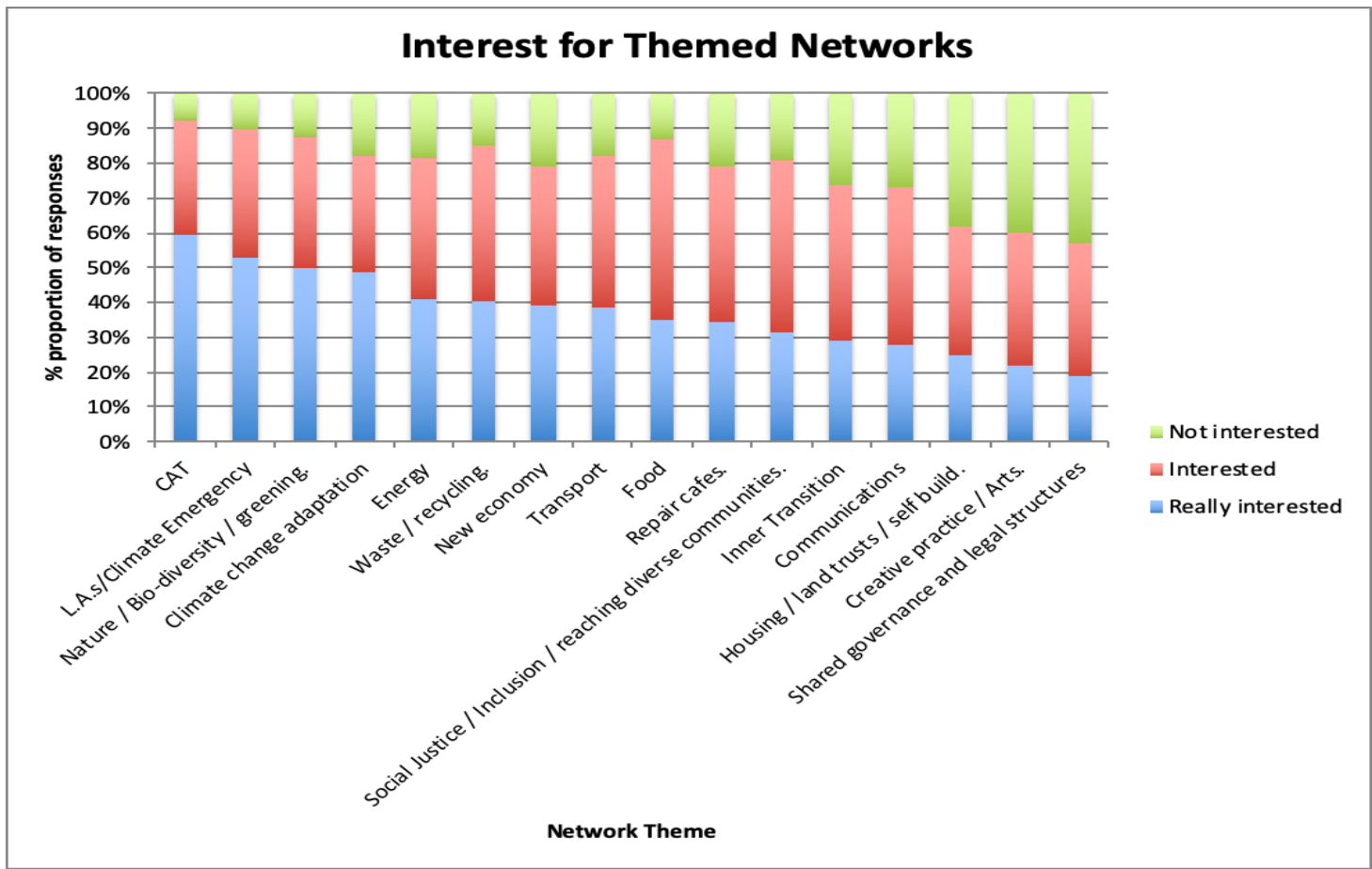
Overall, 51 of the 152 respondents were aware of emerging regional networks in their area.

Looking at the data in different ways, it appears that respondents in all circumstances (eg. being aware of regional networks, or having attended regional meetings) were, on average, 65% in agreement with the idea. This is slightly increased to 66% for those who were aware of a regional network in their area and up a bit more to 69% for the 21 people who had attended a regional meeting of some sort.

87 Respondents offered peer support, 53 of which expanded on their skillset. The range of skills offered was typically huge, offering much vindication of the breadth of activity under the Transition Towns banner.

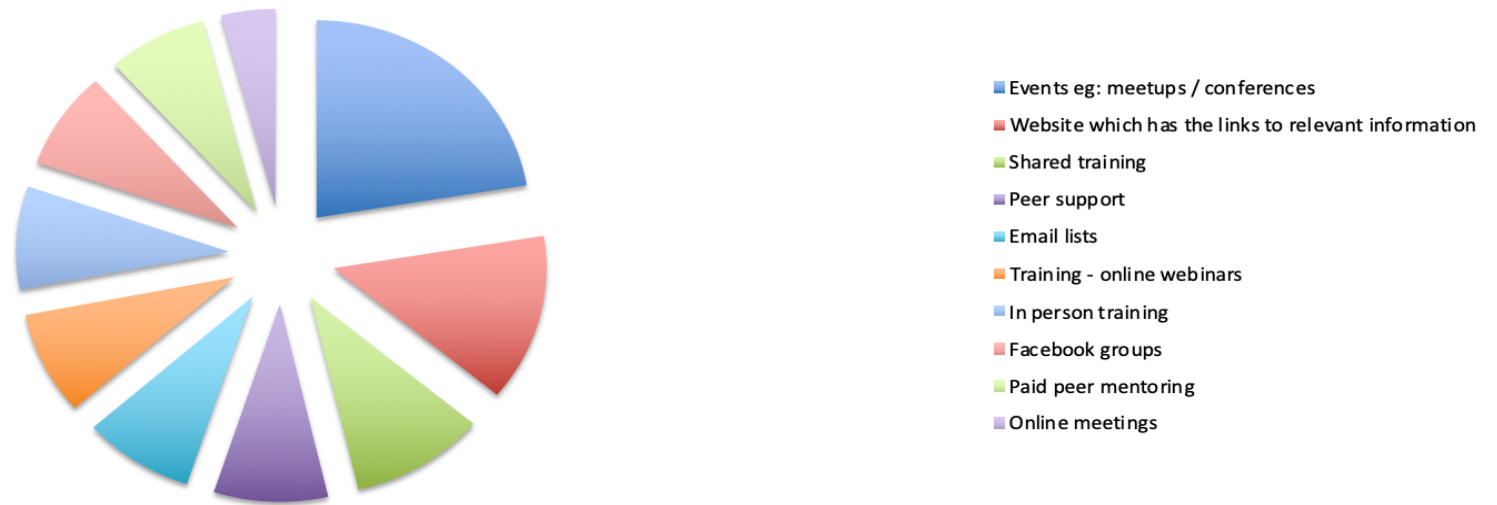
Section 6: Thematic Networks

152 Respondents completed this section of the survey. They were asked to mark “Really interested” “interested” “not interested” next to each area for which we could create a thematic network or community of practice.

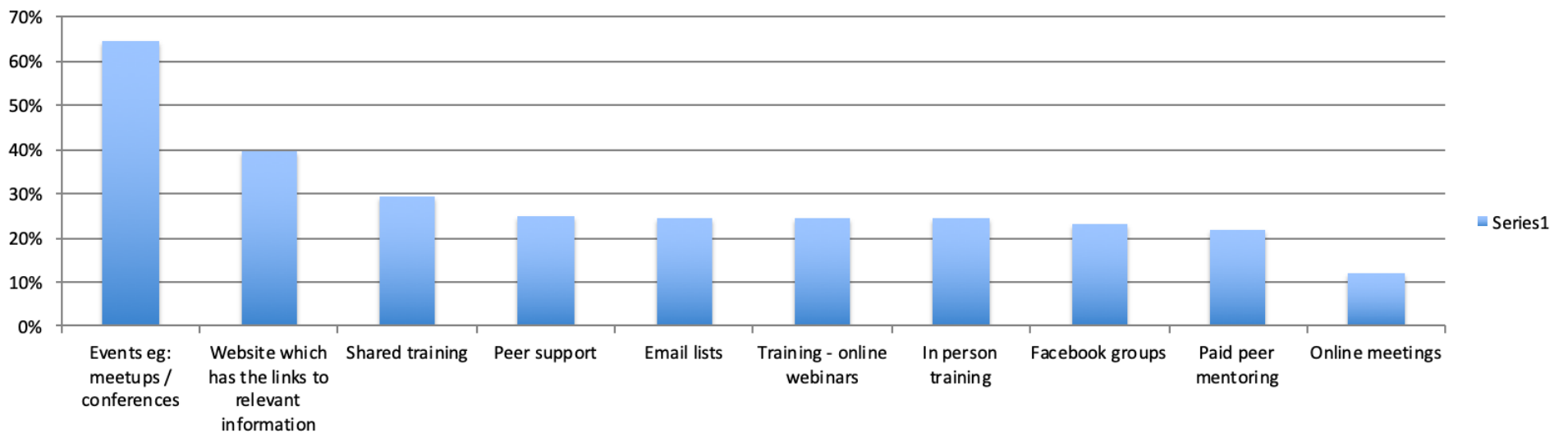


Note: “CAT” means working with Zero Carbon Britain on toolkits to apply Zero Carbon thinking to Transition activity.

Pir Chart Showing preferred ways for Thematic Networks to be run



Graph showing % of Respondents in favour of different methods to run Thematic Networks



Section 7: Research

We only asked one question around research, if respondents would want to be active in research more fully. Out of the 147 responses, 87 were positive showing a healthy body of Transitioners interested in research.

Section 8: National Hub for England and/or Wales

Respondents were asked to rate the proposal for an England and/or Wales Hub on a sliding scale. The average response was 69% in favour.

Particularly for the respondents who scored their response low, there was a concern over individual's time and the value of committing time to a National Hub. There was also a reflection of building on existing networks, rather than Transition starting its own National Hub. However, some of those who scored less than 50% saw value in regional networks above a National structure. There was also a perception of travel being a barrier to engagement.

Those who scored higher than 50% saw real value in sharing best practice, connecting communities, supporting smaller groups by a national network, collaborating with other groups, help, advise, information, to create bigger impact.

And Ros Bedlow (Transition Leytonstone), "I am fully supportive of the idea of a national hub, having experienced the London and SE hub and how helpful that can be."

36 Respondents said they would be interested in being part of a Caretaker Group to explore and begin a National Hub structure and take care of any emerging regional networking in England and Wales.

Section 9: A Closer Look at Scotland Communities Climate Action Network and Transition Scotland

Responses from Transitioners in Scotland were most illuminating around 3 questions. The first was the open comments submitted around the health of your Transition Initiative. Here's the abridged highlights:

- Our lack of core funding is our biggest constraint
- The mansion where we rented a room next to our community garden was closed nearly a year ago. The council has reached the view that it is too expensive to renovate £2m. This has meant our community garden has not had a meeting room or a toilet in that time...
- Some groups struggling with basic means to carry out action due to lack of funds
- ...the continual need to fill out endless funding applications for small amounts saps the will to live, let alone get involved.
- The job I'm doing in Transition Stirling has been really important and supportive for me and the community. It helps me a lot in understanding the current environmental challenges, as well as connecting with my local community.
- The Transition Scotland team is doing a great job, although with more volunteers, resources and funding they could continue developing more projects, reach and help more people, and ultimately, creating a more powerful and resilient community.
- I am part of TS working group and ... I feel we need outside help to develop our collaborative and supportive muscles more. Inner Transition aspects would be wonderful to develop in the group.

Secondly, the answers around "what sort of support do you feel would be most helpful to your group in widening the range of people involved in your activities?" proved insightful:

- Networking with local groups to share best practice. Understanding national and regional structures and targets for inclusion and where we can best support these
- Hearing about how people in similar types of communities have managed this.
- Compelling stories of how community-led groups have managed to achieve results
- it would be good to share experiences with other groups but also have some targeted training about engaging wider community

And finally, as Scotland already has a Hub structure, we asked "What would you like most from a Transition Scotland Hub? What should be the focus of its energies?" Respondents were asked to select from a list. 39 answered and here are the big trends:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Focusing on supporting existing groups, and networking between them | 56% |
| • Strengthening outreach and inclusiveness across all groups | 54% |
| • Building regional networks in different parts of Scotland with a national Hub | 49% |
| • Forming and supporting new groups that share the transition vision | 49% |
| • Focusing on thematic networks (as mentioned earlier in the survey) | 46% |
| • National Hub is less a priority than regional networks | 26% |

[We take this last point as a double negative

– i.e. that a Transition Scotland Hub is as important as regional networks]

Section 10: Key Quotes illustrating the needs expressed

"We are ticking over with the few sustained projects we have, but with a heightened sense of emergency we would like to do a lot more, for which we need more capacity." Ros Bedlow, Transition Leytonstone

"I just feel we need to be so much more visible to the community as a whole and really reach to help as many people to get involved as possible!" Ell Wood, Kidderminster

"Financially we run on the proverbial shoestring." Win Magyar, Transition Bookham

"We were quiet for a while and now trying to establish a formal core group and more active volunteers to help cope with the capacity and interest we've had through social media. We need help to scale up as the two volunteers trying to organise everything will soon burn out." Susan Jones, Transition Stourbridge

In terms of the main things that people said that **seed-funding would make a difference to:**

1. **Capacity:** building the capacity of the group, scaling up the ambition of the group, or for core work like co-ordination or publicity/communications/website.

"What we need is dedicated time and resources to put ideas into action" – Jo Harvey, Sustainable Wantage

"A small grant would encourage us to be more ambitious in what we could try to achieve. Dover is a deprived area and most volunteers and supporters have little spare cash so we do not concentrate on fundraising and mainly do free/ no cost activities." – Liz Hayes, Transition Dover

2. **Start-up or early work, experimentation:** consultation, the difficult early stages of projects or social enterprises, opportunity for experimentation.

"Many projects require significant amounts of early research, feasibility studies and applications for funding. These all take time and it is very difficult to capture enough hours of volunteer time to move projects forward at a reasonable pace." – Andy Maybury, A Greener Hawick

"It would be invaluable for people with new ideas that sometimes take a small amount of money to get off the ground - it helps support innovation." – Hilary Jennings, Transition Town Tooting

"Small/quick funding for feasibility studies and pilots" – Suzy Goodsir, Greener Kirkcaldy

3. **Projects:** the specific costs of project work or events.

"Small pots of funding without arduous application processes would be great. At the moment there are a few small things we need that would really benefit our transition activities." – Kate Meakin, Hastings

"There are lots of projects we'd like to explore or expand on but need the financial back up to do so." – Pauline Cory, Transition Town Worthing

"Create a costed plan to start delivering a response to climate emergency" – Bryan, Liverpool

On the idea of an England and / or Wales Transition Hub:

"It is needed - a national voice to represent the interests of transition groups and to raise the profile of the work being done at a local level - particularly during this time when many councils have declared climate emergencies." – Tony Webster, Transition Belper

"It is important to have a properly supported and resourced national structure for the transition movement in the UK, as it continues to develop in response to the climate emergency." – Denise Davies, Ealing Transition Initiative

"I think it's a crucial development." - Jonathan How, Transition Penwith