

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ECONOMIC, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2023 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cirs J A Arbuckle (Chairperson), B G Dawson (Deputy), S J Arbuckle, A R Burgess, J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, M R K Flight, G A Hope, R J Innes, B J Minehan, J C Rosene, T P Sowman and Mayor N P Taylor.

Present via Teams

Clr B A Faulls.

In Attendance

Mr M F Fletcher (Chief Financial Officer), Mr D G Heiford (Manager, Economic, Community & Support Services) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apology

Cirs J Arbuckle/Dawson

That the apology for absence from Clr S R W Adams be received and sustained.

Carried**EFC-0923-80 Declaration of Interests** -

Clr Hope declared an interest in Item 4 – Marlborough Research Centre Research Allocations 2023/24.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Glyn Walters, Council's Communications Manager, and Dr Virgil Troy and Natalia Rik of SIL Research were present for the following item.

EFC-0923-81 Resident Satisfaction Survey 2023 C315-20-148

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present the results of the 2023 Resident Satisfaction Survey. The full survey is available at <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings> and a copy of the presentation from Dr Virgil Troy and Natalia Rik of SIL Research is filed in CM (Record No. 23195457).

Mr Walters reported that Council undertakes an annual resident perception survey to identify their satisfaction with Council services. Most services have targets for resident satisfaction that are set in the Long Term Plan and reported on each year in the Annual Report. Council's overall satisfaction level has generally been comparatively high over the last decade. This year it increased to 66% from 62% in 2022. Council's overall satisfaction rating is ahead of the New Zealand council benchmark of 58%. Despite the negative impacts of extreme weather events and inflationary cost pressures, Council has fared reasonably well overall. Compared to 2022, satisfaction levels have been consistent across most services, with very high positivity in some areas, while continuing to match or out-perform national benchmarks.

Mr Walters further reported that 35 out of 46 (76%) services rated by residents achieved satisfaction of 60% or above, with 12 services achieving 80% satisfaction or higher, which is similar to last year. The top performing services were cemeteries (87% satisfaction); public sports grounds (86%); civil defence and emergency management (85%); libraries (85%) and drinking water (85%). The most notable declines were in flood protection, urban stormwater and solid waste services. The decline in the perceived satisfaction of flood protection and stormwater management was most notable in Havelock, Awatere, Western Wairau and Marlborough Sounds residents. Also of note was that the lowest scores for many individual services occurred in the Marlborough Sounds, Awatere and Western Wairau. This might be expected as many Council services are not directly provided in these areas and they were severely affected by the high intensity rainfall event in August 2022. Related to this is that our rating system recognises this by either not charging for a service or

charging at a lower level. More residents (58%) believe the Council provides sufficient opportunities for people to have their say compared to 2022 (48%). Satisfaction with the Council's communications rose to 74% from 67% in 2022. Roads scored 40%, just below the national average benchmark of 43%. Seven out of 10 negative comments for roads related to potholes and repairs, with additional concerns raised about Marlborough Sounds' roads. Marlborough District scored higher than a comparative group of councils which have also suffered recent severe weather events. Members noted that the numerous wet weather events over the last two years year not only damaged the Sounds, Northbank, Waihopai and Awatere roads, they also impacted on the whole network, diverting resources away from Marlborough Roads' regular maintenance activities.

Mr Walters responded to a question on how Council handles the information by advising that managers get a copy, and each department then acts on service improvements as much as they can in their area. Mr Walters also responded that it is also up to Elected Members to identify any areas that they would like council staff to focus on as part of the upcoming Levels of Service reviews.

Cllrs J Arbuckle/Dawson:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Neil Henry, Council's Manager, Strategic Planning & Economic Development, was present for the following item.

**EFC-0923-82 Marlborough Research Centre Research
Allocations 2023/24 E100-011-01**

Mr Henry reported that the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of the research allocations by the MRC Trust for 2023/24 financial year.

Mr Henry noted that the Marlborough Research Centre (MRC) receives an annual grant from Council to fund primary industry related research activities. MRC are required to provide Council with a report on its annual research allocations, which was attached the agenda.

Clr Hope noted his conflict but also provided comment on the item advising that MRC will again report to the November Committee meeting looking back on last year and to report on what actually happened. This report is just the first part of the process.

The Mayor raised a point that not all the research allocations appeared to be research rather they were non-research internships, scholarships, conferences etc and that she would like to see more alignment around research and funding. Clr Hope responded that all projects funded are related to research. The Mayor requested that a paper be brought back to the Committee exploring the allocation of Council funding to MRC to align with Council's environmental outcomes. Mr Henry explained that Mr Alan Johnson (Council's Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager) had been appointed to the MRC Advisory Committee and this was something that he could drive at that Committee.

The Mayor/Clr Croad:

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That a report be provided to an Economic, Finance & Community Committee exploring the allocation of Council funding to the Marlborough Research Centre to more tightly align with Council's environmental outcomes.**

Carried

NB: Clr Hope declared a conflict of interest in the above item and did not vote on this issue. Clr Dawson abstained from voting on this issue.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Dorien Vermaas, Council's Economic Development Portfolio Manager, and Mr Mark Unwin, Council's Economic Development Programmes Manager, were present for the following item.

EFC-0923-83 Economic Development Update E100-010-01

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the activities and achievement of Annual KPI's of Council's Economic Development team between Economic, Finance and Community meeting

13 June 2023 until 23 August 2023. Ms Vermaas and Mr Unwin spoke to the Committee with the aid of a presentation (filed in CM - Record No. 23195458).

Ms Vermaas' report covered detailed comment on the Leadership Programme Pillar, the Tech & Innovation Pillar, Business & Workforce Capability, Storytelling Pillar, Screen Marlborough and Other Activities.

Members were advised that the Tech & Innovation Hub completion has been delayed until the new year.

It was noted that a report will be presented to the next Committee meeting on information on the Screen Plan and its benefits. Screen Marlborough continues to field international inquiries.

**Cllrs Croad/The Mayor:
That the information be received.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 10.05 am and resume at 10.21 am.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Tessa Dever, Council's Financial Accountant, was present for the following item.

EFC-0923-84 Financial Report for Council – Period Ended 30 June 2023 F275-001-01

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present the interim year-end results for the 2022-23 financial year.

Staff reported that the draft Annual Report was currently being compiled to enable Audit New Zealand to provide Council with an opinion on the financial statements. It was planned that the audit opinion will be provided in time for Council to adopt the final Annual Report in October. It was reported that changes to the interim financial results will occur as preparation of the Annual Report is finalised. The report detailed these changes.

Members discussed whether two variation trigger points for reporting details on the financial report were needed - \$100,000 for the first six months the year, and \$200,000 for second six months of the year. This would make the commentary in the report smaller and easier to digest. This only affects the commentary not the figures provided. Members agreed to this change.

The report also noted that Council has funded a budget of \$82.4M for capital expenditure in the 2022-23 Annual Plan despite having a \$120.0M (including \$37.6M of carryovers from previous financial years) capital works program.

**The Mayor/Cllr Dalliessi:
That Council receive the Financial Report period ending 30 June 2023.**

Carried

EFC-0923-85 2022/23 Budget Carryovers F225-007-01

Staff reported that the purpose of the report was to obtain Council approval for 2022/23 budget carryovers to be incorporated into the 2023/24 budgets.

The Team funding line was discussed, and it was agreed that staff undertake an exercise to ascertain no further payments are required and if not remove that line.

**Cllrs Croad/Dawson:
That Council agree that the 2023/24 budgets be amended to incorporate the 2022/23 carryovers; with the proviso that the Team funding line of \$50,000 be removed following an exercise by staff to ensure no further payments are required.**

Carried

EFC-0923-86 Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 July 2023

F270-36-21

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to advise Council on the overdue debtor position as at 31 July 2023.

Cirs J Arbuckle/Croad:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0923-87 Rates Report as at 31 July 2023

F270-36-21

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to advise Council of the rates position as at 31 July 2023.

Mr Fletcher noted that staff continue to work with ratepayers to assist in debit arrangements. Mr Fletcher also noted that there have been approvals for energy efficiency funding of \$650,000. Also noted was that banks are now offering lower interest rates, which was not the case when Council first started the scheme.

Cirs Croad/Dalliessi:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0923-88 Information Package

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Cirs Dawson/Rosene:
That the Economic, Finance & Community Information Package dated 5 September 2023 be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 10.40 am.

Record No: 23197501

Annexure

Public Forum

1. **Robert Terry.** Attached as Appendix 1.
2. **Alistair Schorn and Pete Coldwell Marlborough Chamber of Commerce** – presented a powerpoint – attached as Appendix 2.
3. **Joanne Farrell** - parking meters and fines. Will meet with Cllr Dawson to discuss further.

Appendix 1



August 8, 2023

Robert Frank Terry

[REDACTED]
Blenheim

Tēnā koe Robert,

I write in response to your complaint about an interview with Liz Bulger, a duty lawyer and member of the New Zealand Law Society.

Ms Bulger was interviewed by Charlotte Cook at around 7:57am on July 12, 2023, about an increase in the hourly rate paid to duty lawyers in several locations around New Zealand. Ms Bulger said she hoped the pay increase would encourage more lawyers to take on the role.

Your complaint names Corin Dann and Ingrid Hipkiss, who are both presenters of Morning Report but neither of whom were involved in the interview broadcast on July 12. It asks that these presenters provide 'balance' by asking questions about duty solicitors working in the West Coast, Nelson and Marlborough regions.

The New Zealand Public Defence Service is located in 10 cities across New Zealand, and operates in 15 District Courts (Auckland, North Shore, Waitakere, Manukau, Pukekohe, Papakura, Tauranga, Napier, Hastings, Hamilton, Wellington, Porirua, Hutt Valley, Christchurch, Dunedin) their related High Courts, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The service does not extend to the West Coast, Nelson and Marlborough.

While the lack of service in the areas you mention may be of interest and of news value, the interview was not intended and did not purport to be about extending the Public Defence Service to include regions not currently served. Also, Ms Bulger is not responsible for the coverage of the Public Defence Service, and was interviewed as a duty lawyer to discuss the level of remuneration offered in the locations where the Public Defence Service operates.

Accordingly, there is no breach of the Balance standard of the broadcast code.

For the reasons above your complaint could be taken no further and was not upheld. In line with the requirements of the Broadcasting Act, this letter advises you of the reasons why your formal complaint was not upheld and of your right to refer this decision for review to the Broadcasting Standards Authority, by email to info@bsa.govt.nz. A referral must occur within 20 working days.

We acknowledge your concerns about this matter, and we thank you for the opportunity to respond to them.

Nāku, nā

Chris Reid
Complaints Coordinator

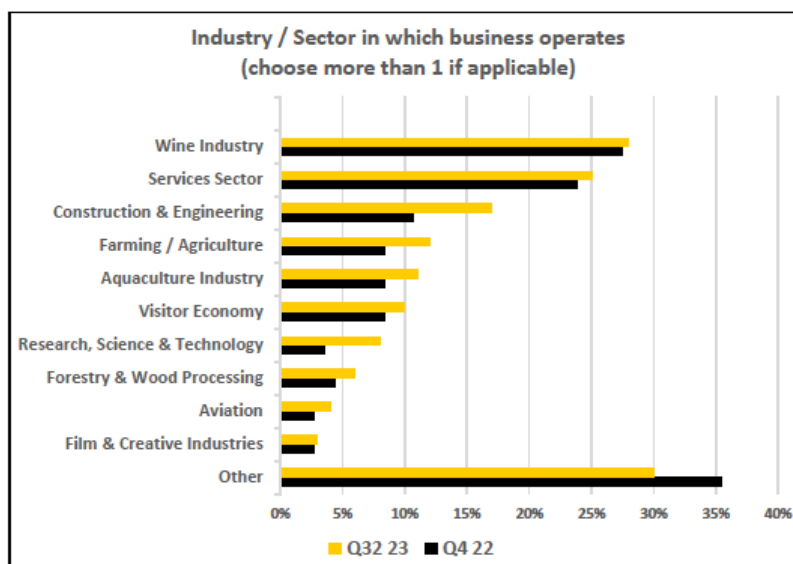
Radio New Zealand House Level 2 155 The Terrace PO BOX 123 Wellington 6140 New Zealand +64 4 474 1999 www.rnz.co.nz

Marlborough Regional Business Insights Survey

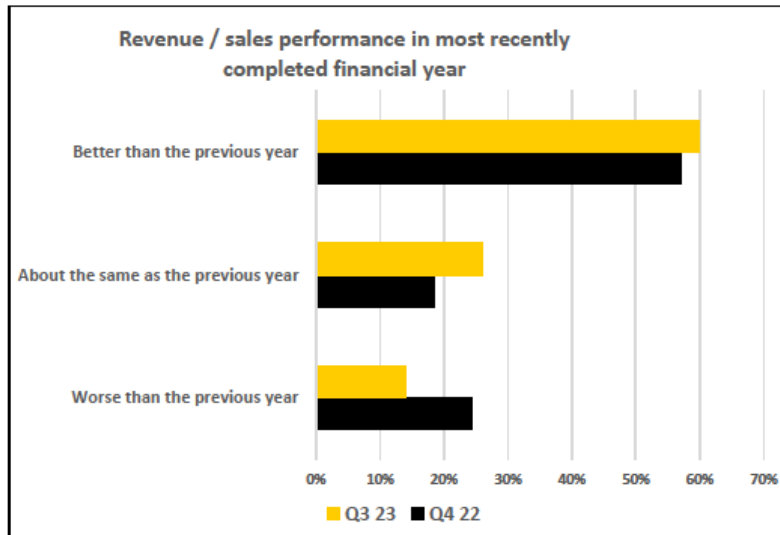
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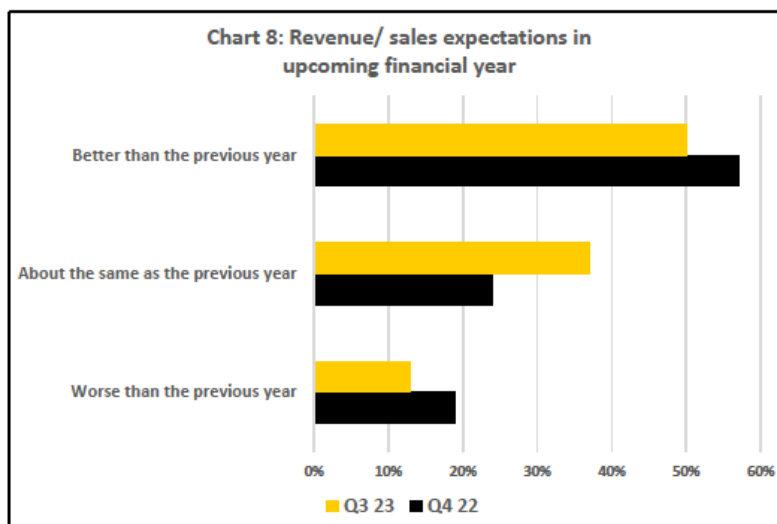
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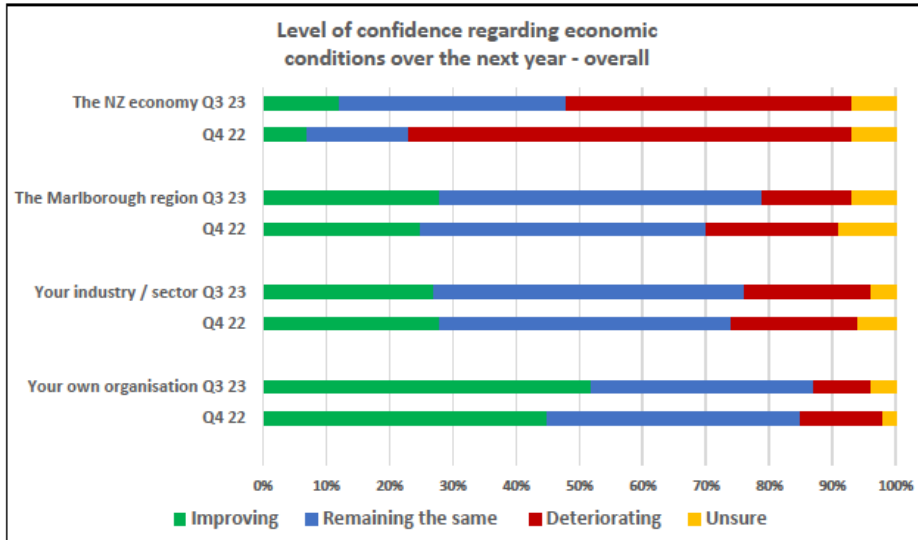
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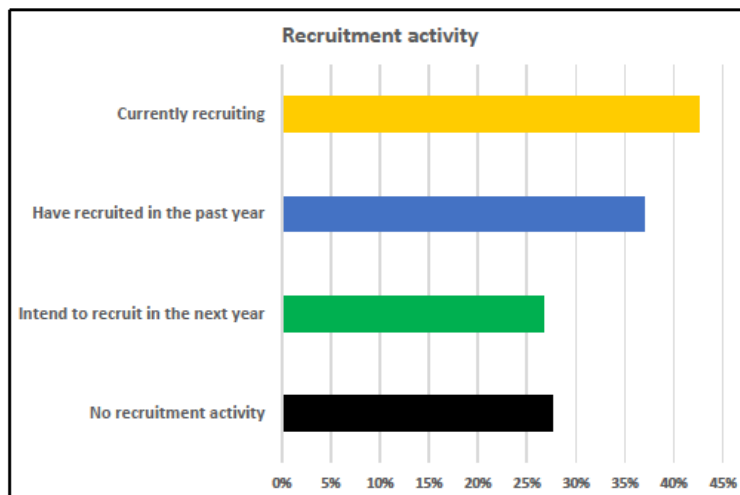
Revenue & Revenue Expectations



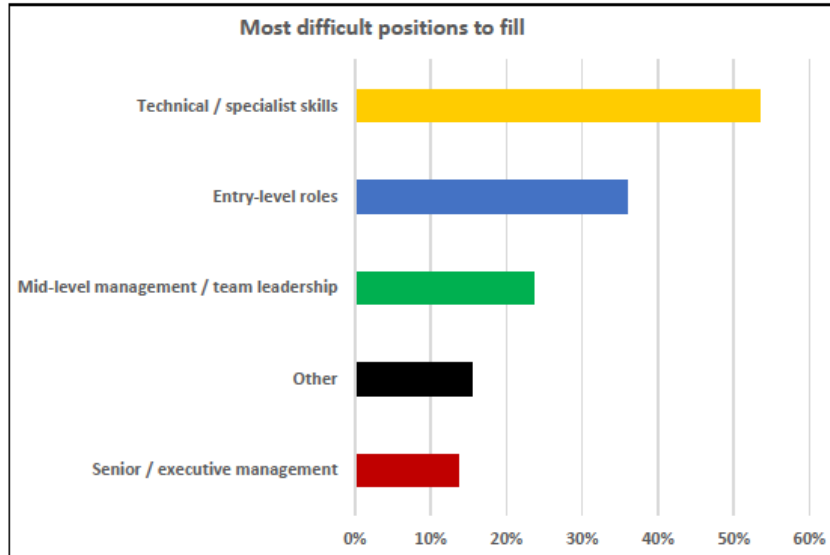
Business Confidence



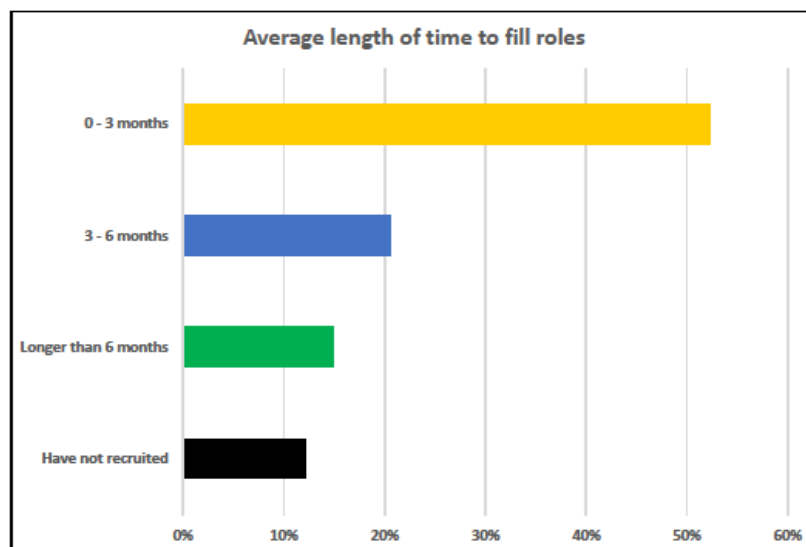
Recruitment



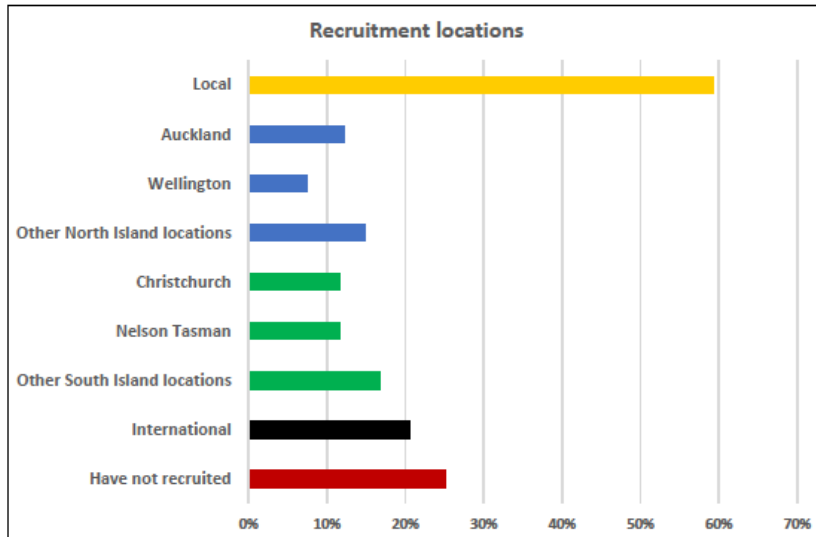
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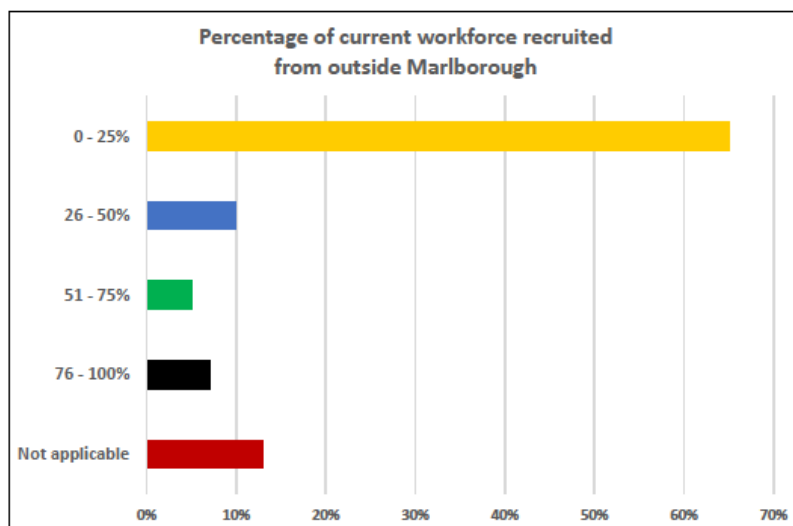
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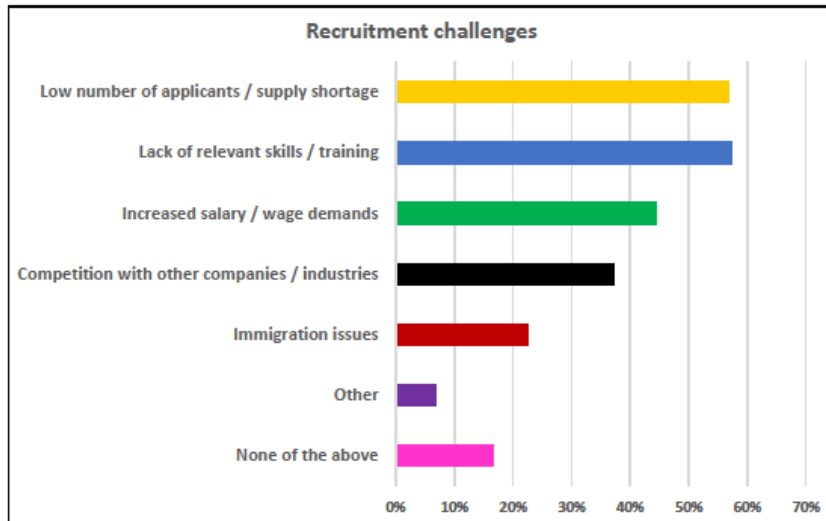
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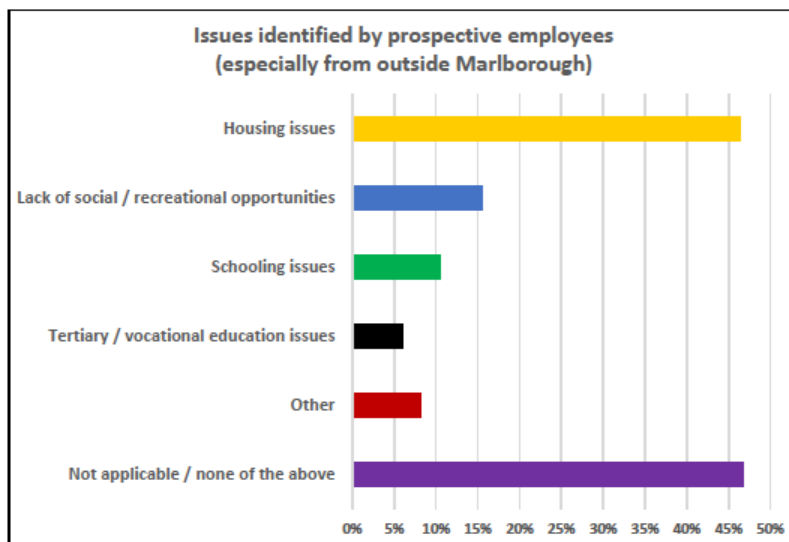
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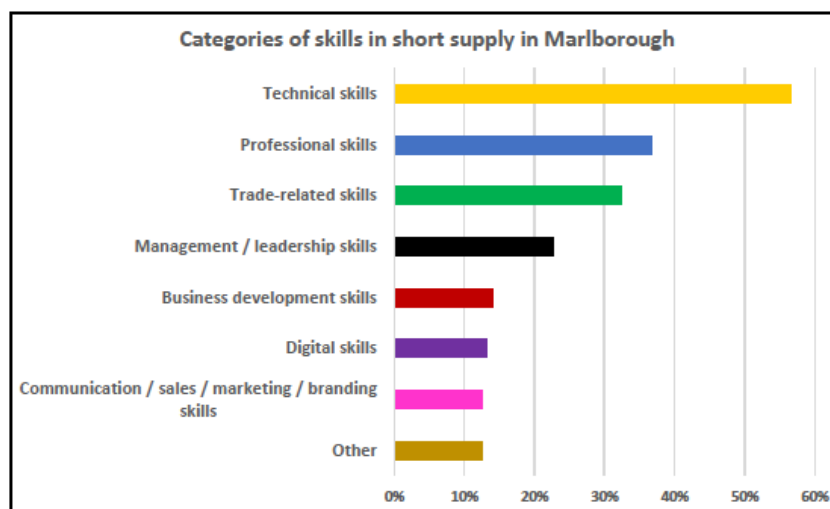
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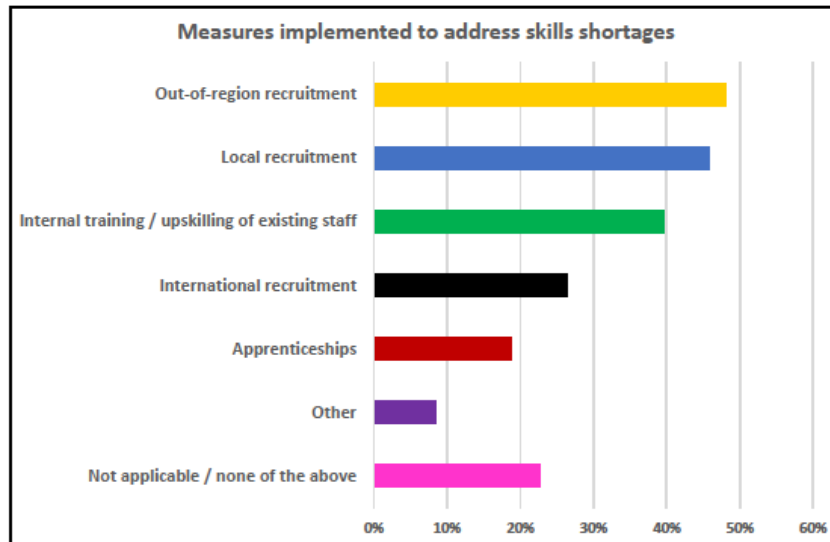
Skills Development



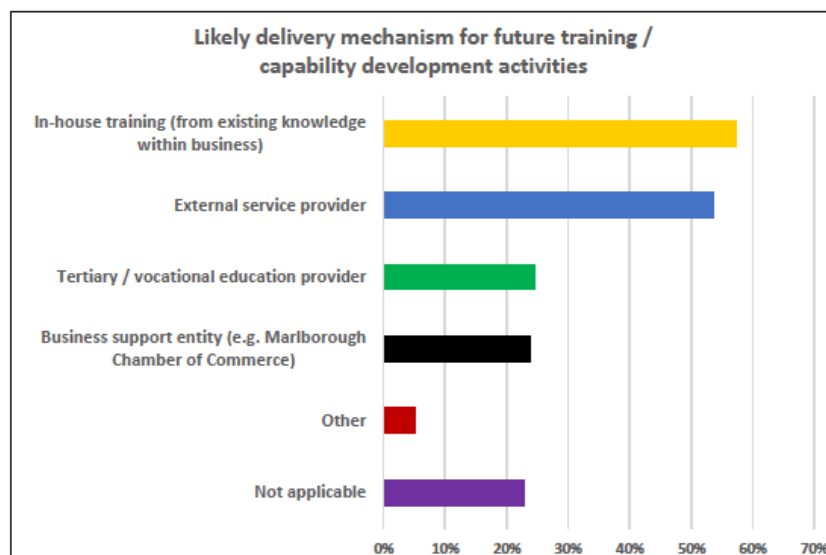
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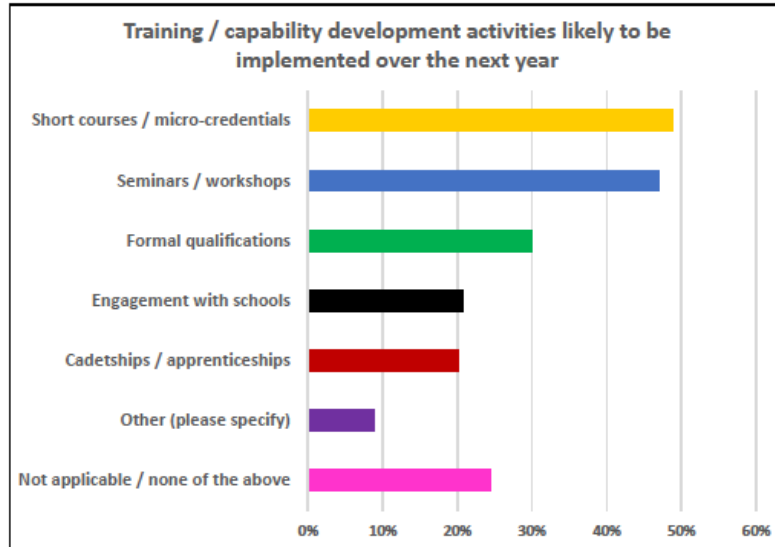
Skills Development



Skills Development



Skills Development



Thank you

