

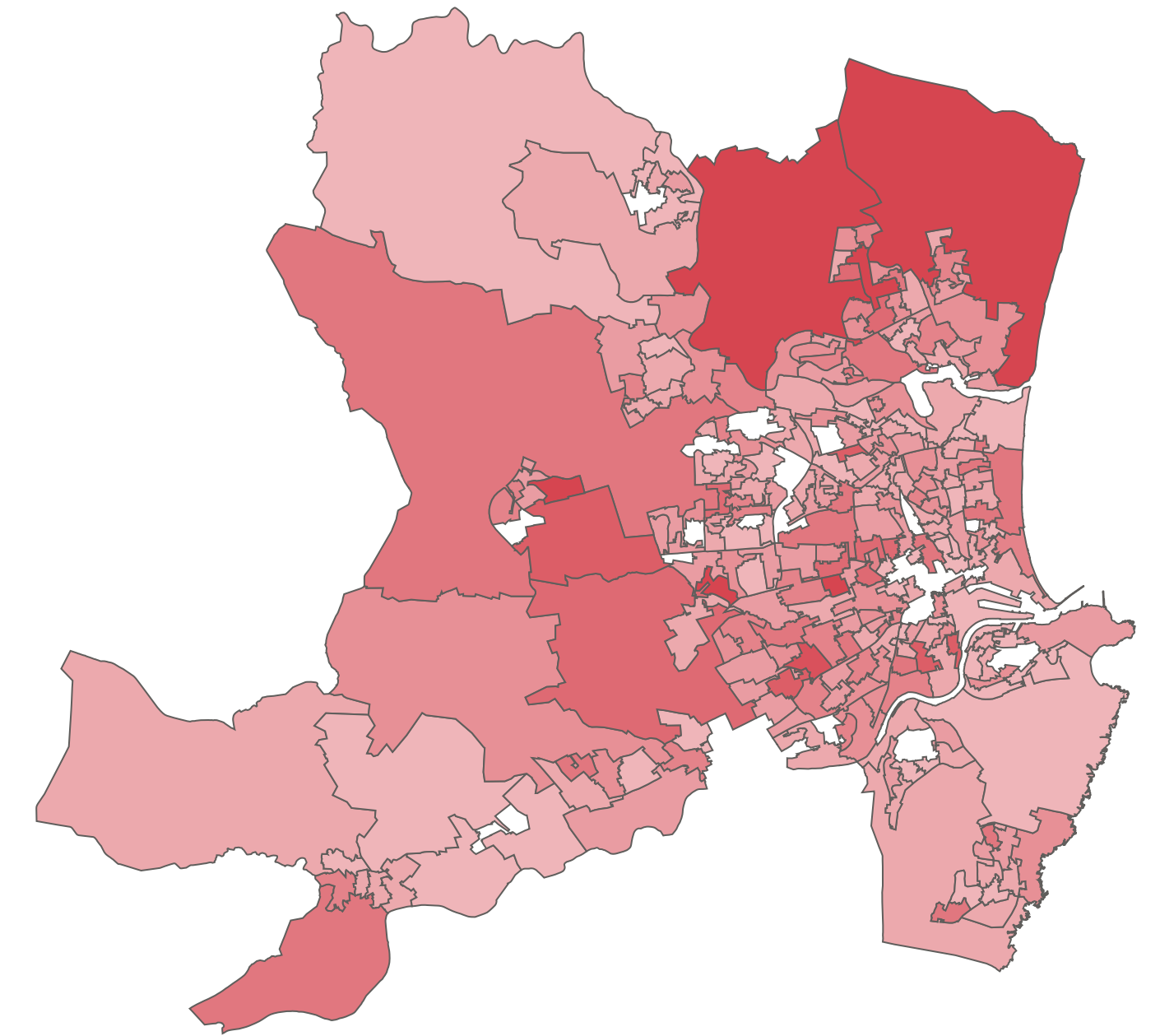
# ACC Budget Consultation 2024 Phase 2 Analysis of Responders

There were 1,535 responders to the online consultation.

## Demographic Information

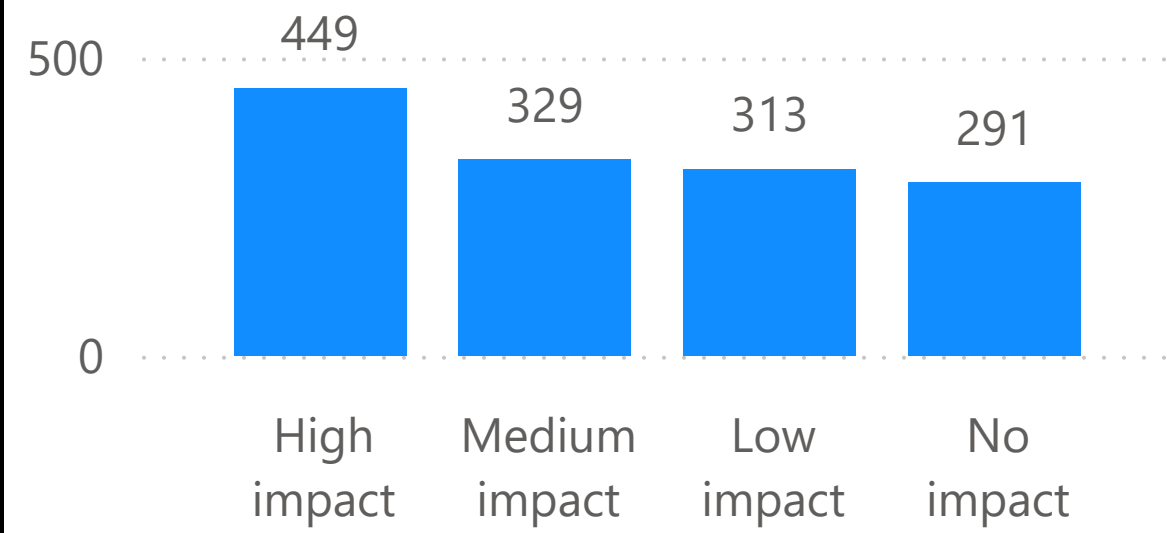
Of those responding to both Phase 1 and Phase 2 online budget consultation:

- **Sex:** 52.8% stated they were female and 42.8% male. Almost all others selected no option or "Prefer not to say".
- **Age:** Of those stating an age group 8.5% were under 25; 13% between 25 & 34; 21% between 35 & 44; 21% between 45 & 54; 19% between 55 & 64; 12% between 65 & 74; and 4% over 75 or over
- **Ethnicity:** 93% stated they were white; 2% Asian; 1% African; 1% mixed / multiple; < 1% other ethnic group. Others selected no option or "Prefer not to say"
- **Religion:** 60% selected "None"; 16% Church of Scotland; 8% other Christian; 4% Roman Catholic; 1% Muslim. All other options <1%
- **Health:** 17% stated they health problem or disability which limited day to day activities
- **Carer:** 26% stated they provided some care for a family member or friend
- **Employment:** 66% stated they were in full or part time employment
- **Location:** Of those who gave a postcode (746), 93.2%% were in the City; 6.6% in Aberdeenshire. A heat map of those located in Aberdeen is shown opposite.

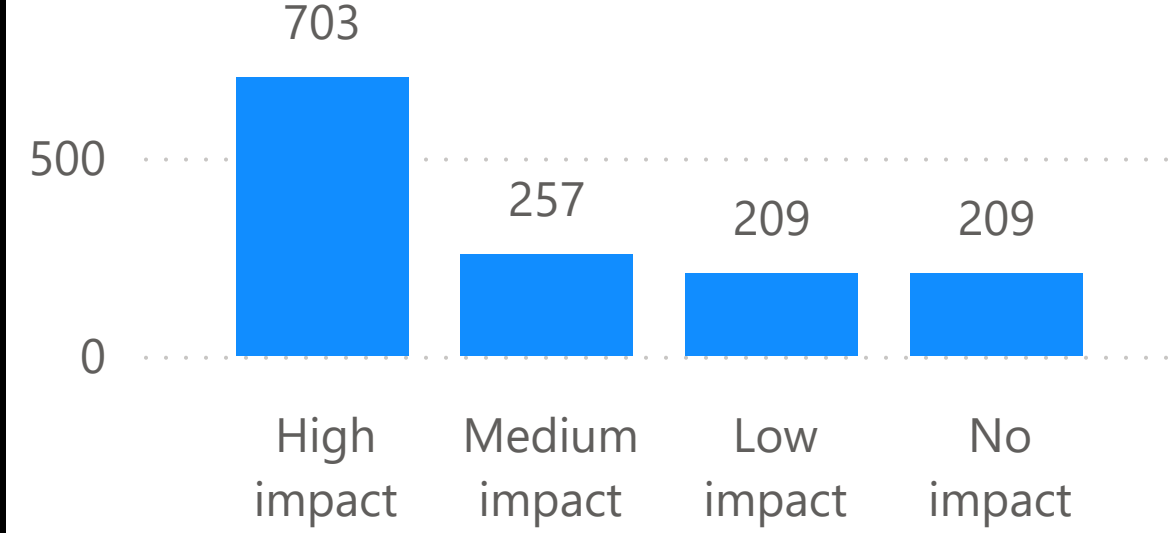


# Culture and Sports

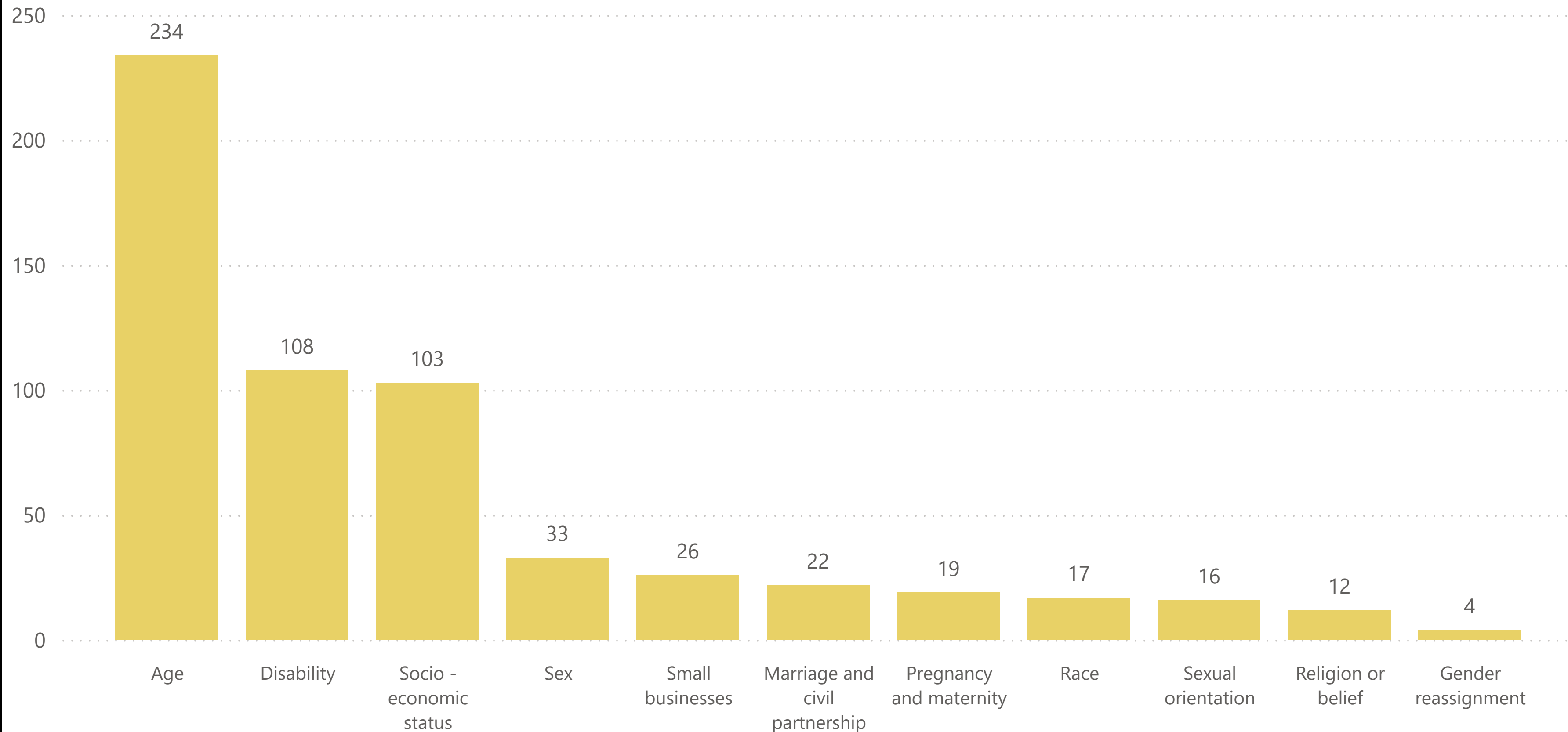
Further reduce funding to Aberdeen Performing Arts



Further reduce funding to sports organisations



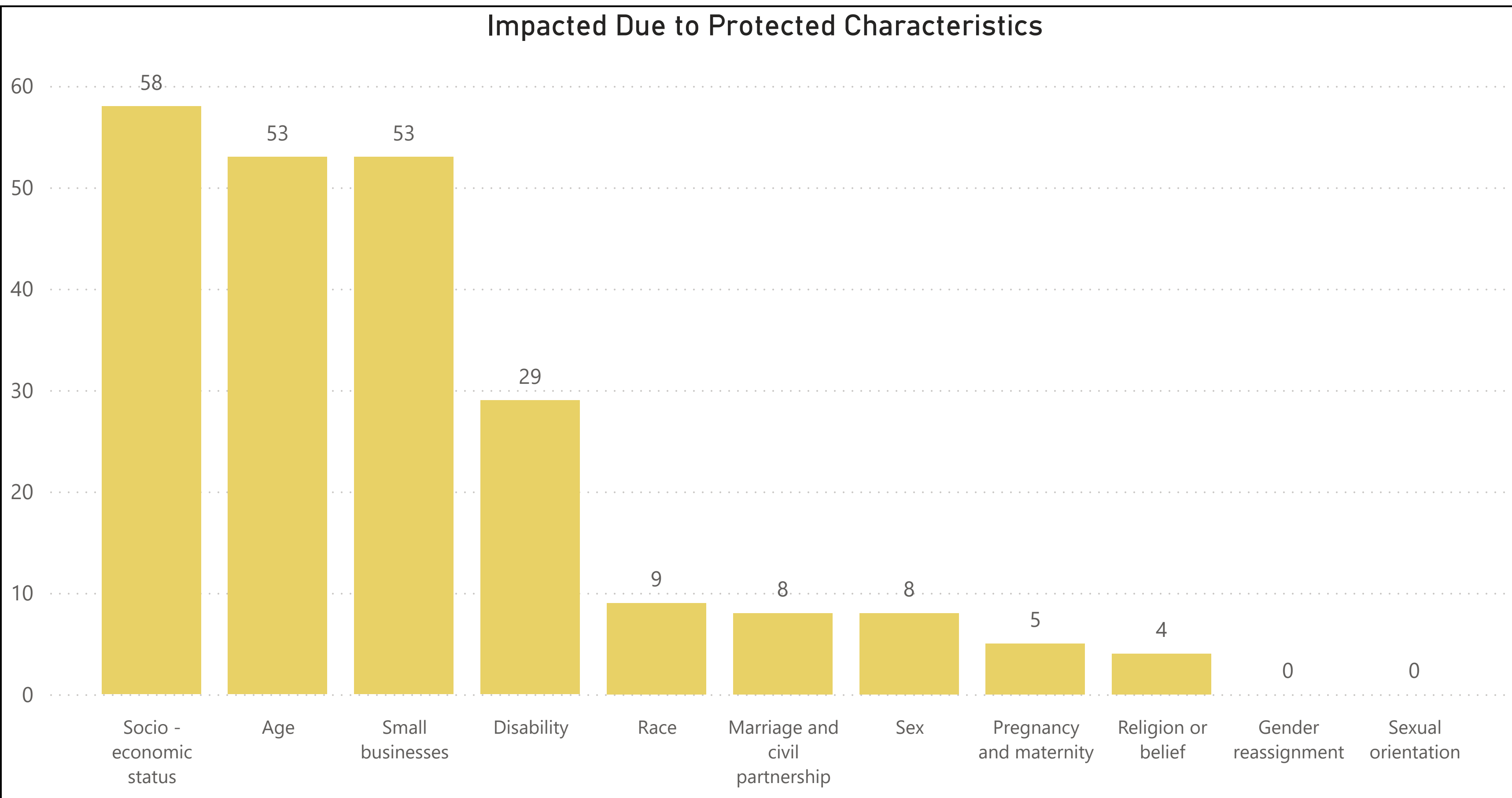
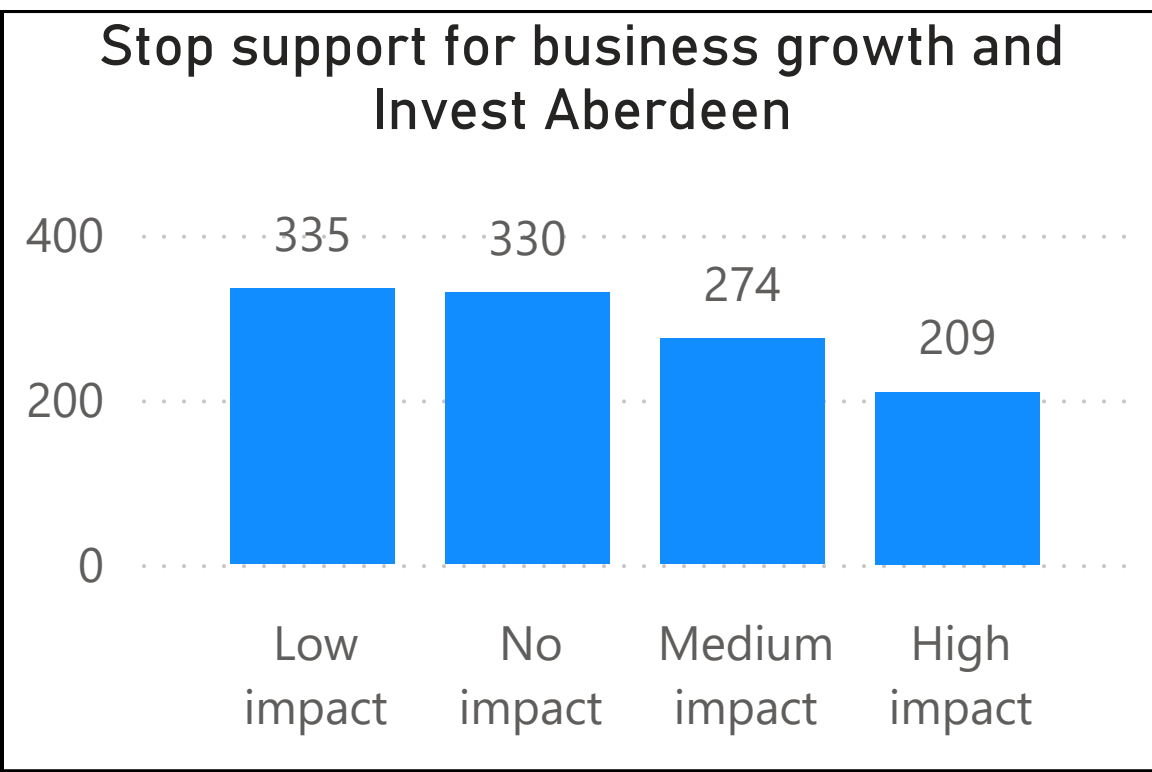
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Summary from 509 comments on personal impact:

- Impact on Mental Health:** Many respondents emphasised that cuts to both sports and arts would negatively affect mental health, especially for those who rely on these activities for stress relief and social interaction.
- Importance for Physical Health:** Sports facilities are seen as vital for maintaining physical health and preventing future healthcare costs, with many users noting the benefits of regular exercise.
- Social and Community Benefits:** Both sports and arts venues provide significant social benefits, helping to reduce isolation and foster a sense of community among participants.
- Impact on Children and Youth:** Parents expressed concern that reducing funding would limit opportunities for children to engage in sports and arts, and that these are important for their development and well-being.
- Economic Contributions:** Some respondents stated that APA and sports organisations contribute to the local economy by attracting visitors and supporting local businesses through events and activities.
- Accessibility Issues:** Some commented that reduced funding may lead to increased costs, making sports and arts less accessible to low-income families and individuals.
- Support for Vulnerable Groups:** Some added that sports and arts programs often provide essential services for vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities and the elderly.

# Business Growth & Investment

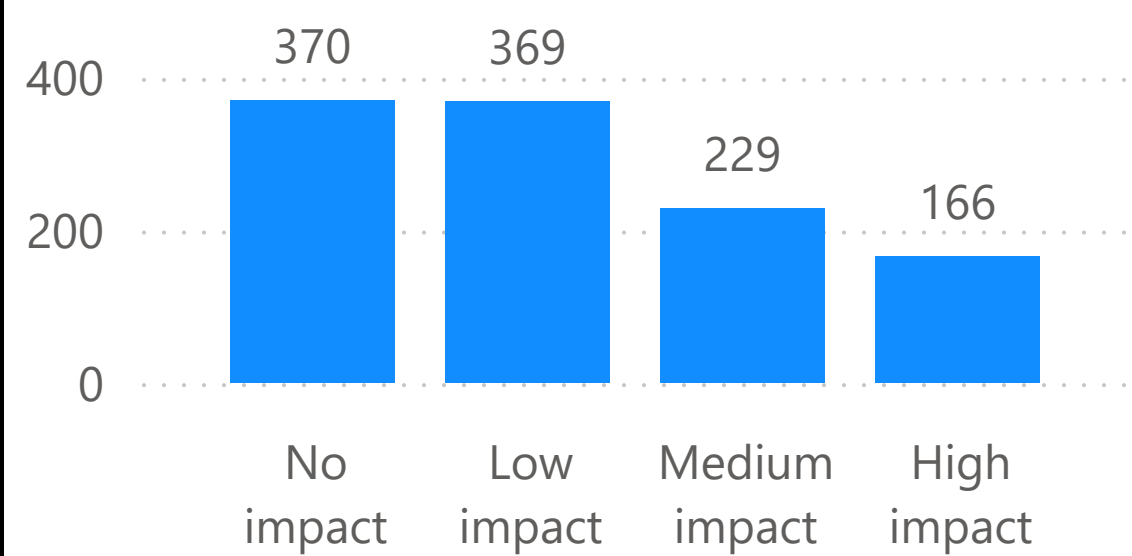


Summary from 240 comments on personal impact:

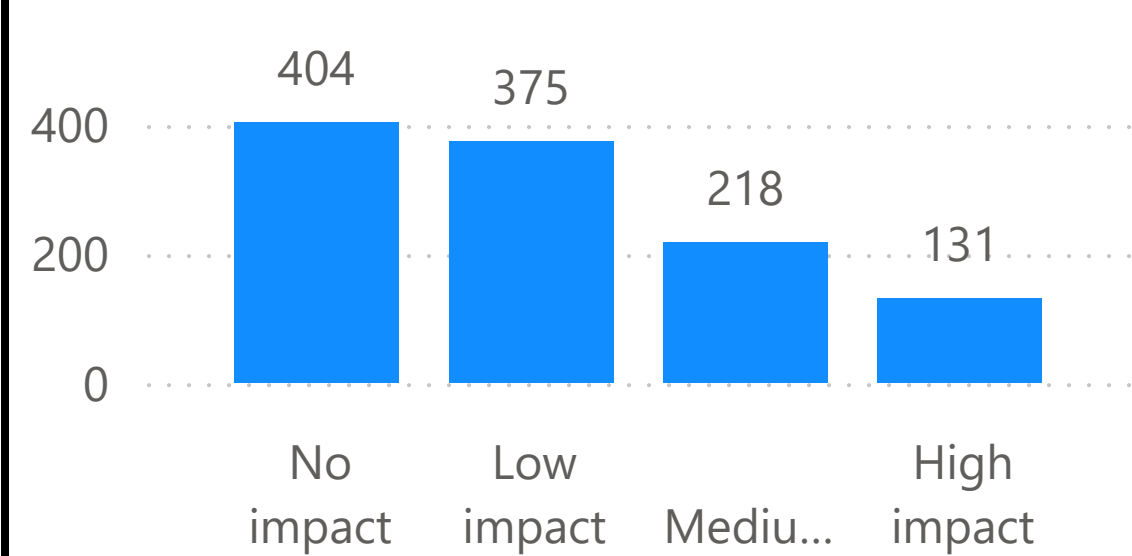
- **Economic Impact:** Reducing support for business growth will harm Aberdeen's overall economic prospects, making it less attractive for investors and job seekers, potentially leading to economic decline over time.
- **Job Creation:** Support for businesses is crucial for job creation and protecting existing jobs, especially as Aberdeen transitions from the oil and gas industry.
- **City Attractiveness:** The decline in business support may result in fewer reasons for people to visit the city centre, affecting tourism and the overall vibrancy of Aberdeen.
- **Support for Small Businesses:** Small businesses, which are already struggling, need incentives and support to survive and grow, contributing to the local economy and community.
- **Impact on Retail and Leisure:** Reducing incentives for businesses could further harm retail and leisure facilities in the city, leading to more closures and a less appealing city centre.
- **Community Services:** Businesses contribute to funding essential services such as cultural activities and sports facilities, which are vital for the community's quality of life.
- **Entrepreneurial Spirit:** Not supporting new entrepreneurs could discourage innovation and reduce hope among people that they can make a difference in their communities.
- **Quality of Life:** The reduction in business support will negatively impact the overall quality of life in Aberdeen, affecting employment opportunities, property prices, and community services.

# Promotion & Tourism

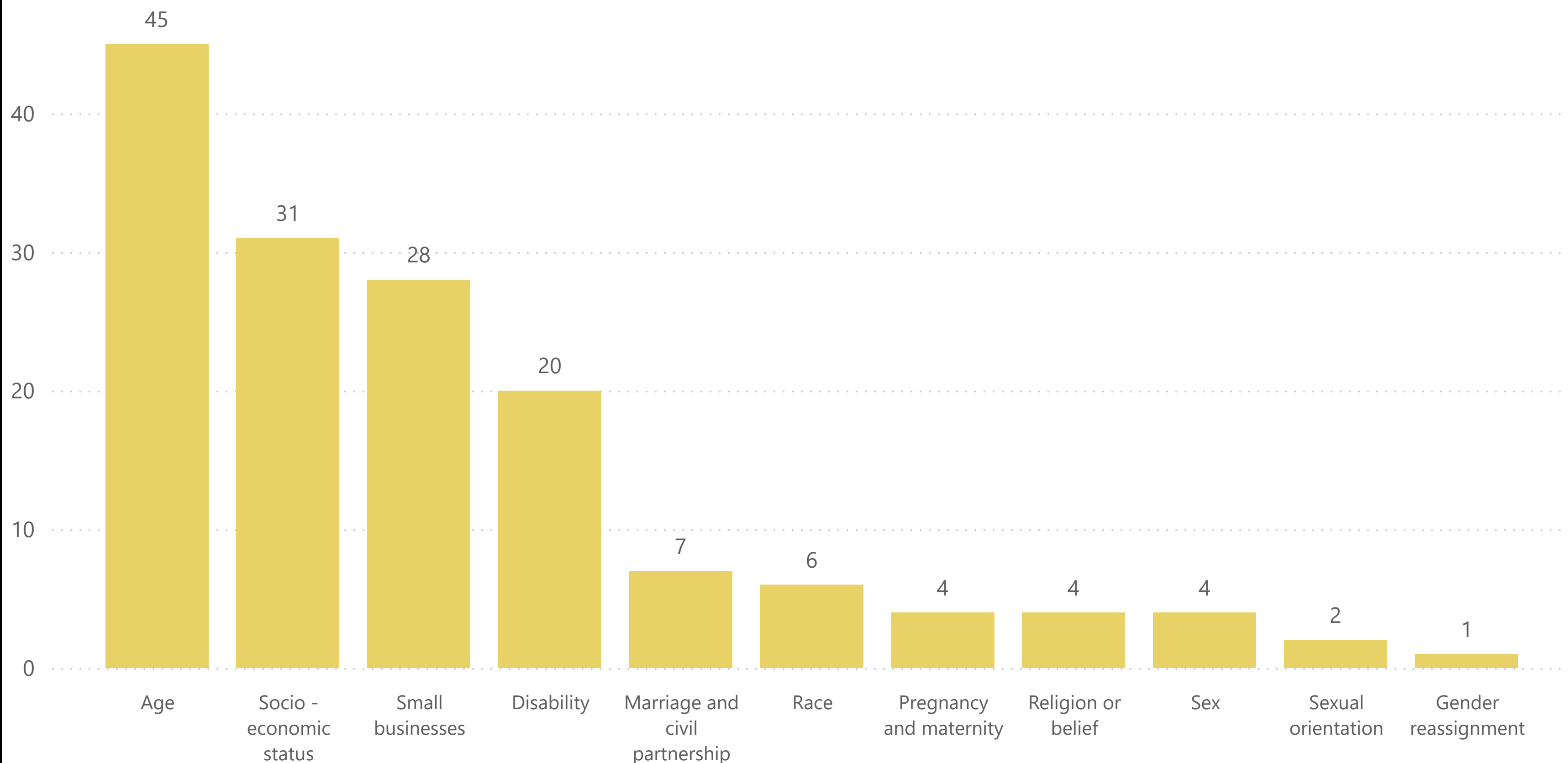
Remove budget allocated for promotion of the city



Stop funding support to Visit Aberdeenshire



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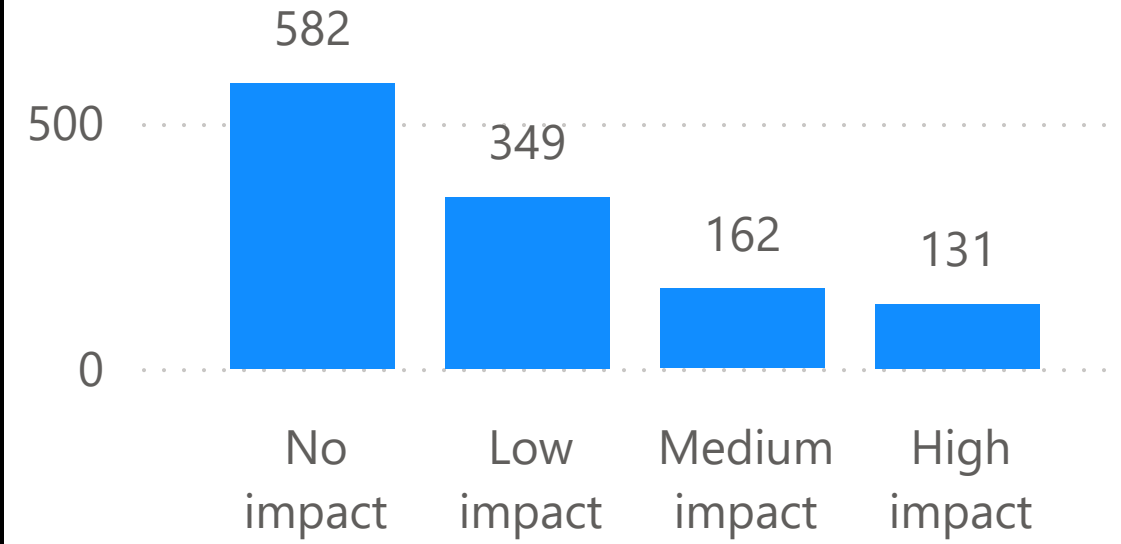
Summary from 213 comments on personal impact:

- Economic Impact:** Many respondents emphasise that reducing funding for promoting Aberdeen will negatively impact the local economy, particularly the tourism sector which generates significant revenue and supports numerous jobs.
- Employment Concerns:** There is a strong concern that job losses would occur in the tourism and hospitality sectors if funding is cut, affecting young people and increasing social costs for the council.
- Impact on Local Businesses:** Local businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, rely heavily on tourism. Reduced promotion could lead to decreased visitor numbers and subsequent financial struggles for these businesses.
- Social and Cultural Benefits:** Promoting Aberdeen helps to create a vibrant community and supports events that enhance the city's cultural life, which is important for residents' quality of life.
- Criticism of Current Promotion Efforts:** Some respondents believe that current promotional efforts are ineffective and that the city needs more substantial improvements before it can be successfully marketed.
- Need for Investment:** Investing in the city's infrastructure and attractions is seen as essential before any meaningful promotion can take place. This would make Aberdeen a more attractive destination.
- Cruise Ship Tourism:** The arrival of cruise ships in Aberdeen presents an opportunity for tourism growth, but this requires effective promotion to capitalise on the potential benefits.
- Long-term Vision:** Promoting Aberdeen is viewed as part of a long-term strategy to diversify the economy away from oil and gas, making the city more resilient and sustainable.
- Public Sentiment:** There is a mix of opinions among residents, with some feeling that promotion is crucial for economic growth, while others believe it should not be prioritised over other immediate needs.
- Potential for Growth:** Despite current challenges, many believe that with the right investment and promotion, Aberdeen has the potential to become a top-class visitor destination.

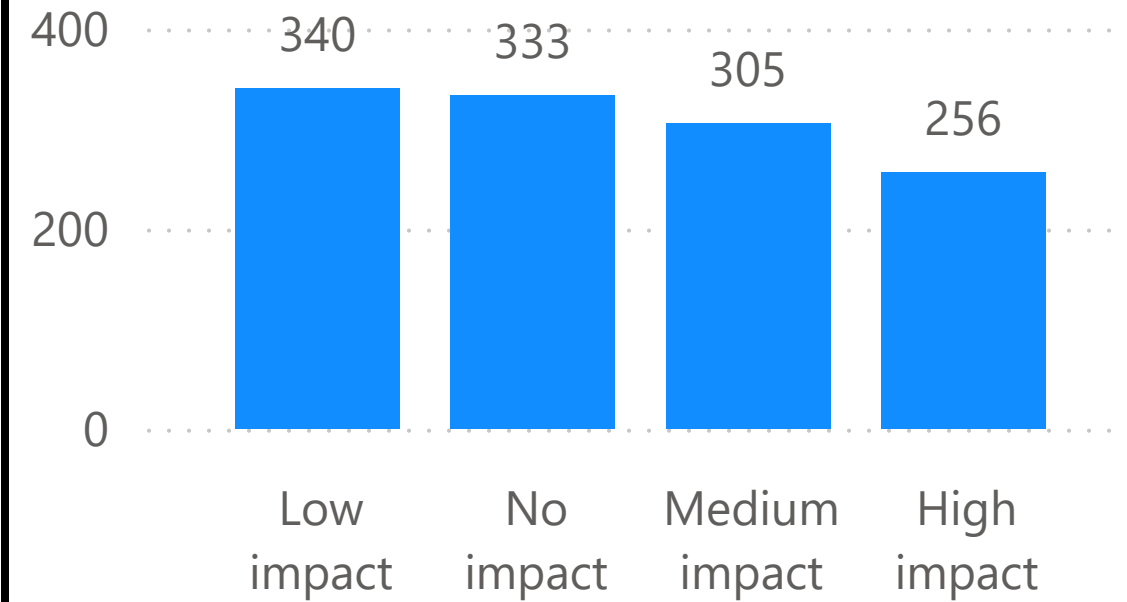


# Communities

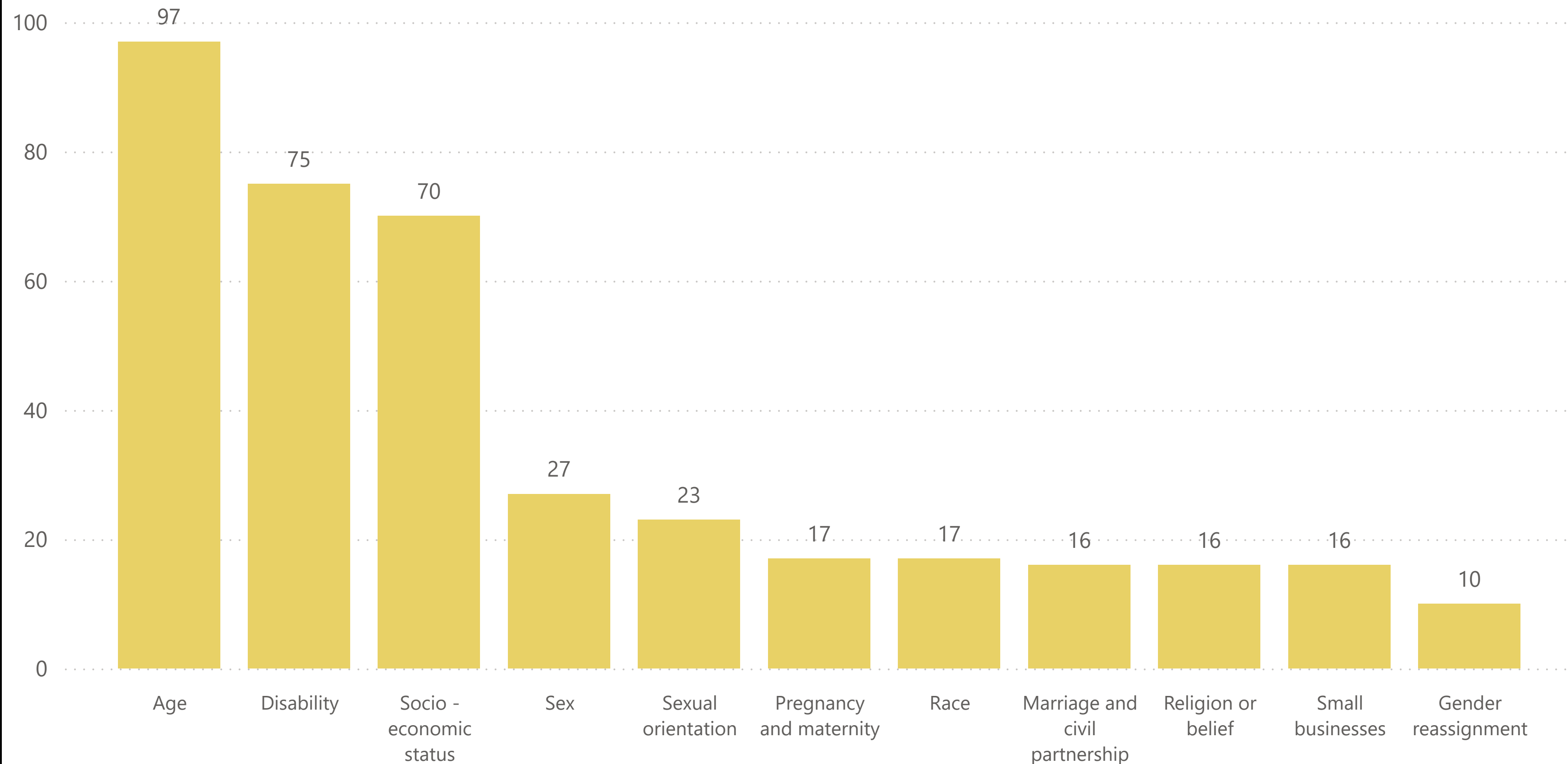
Reduction of community centre development programme budgets



Reduction in equalities grants



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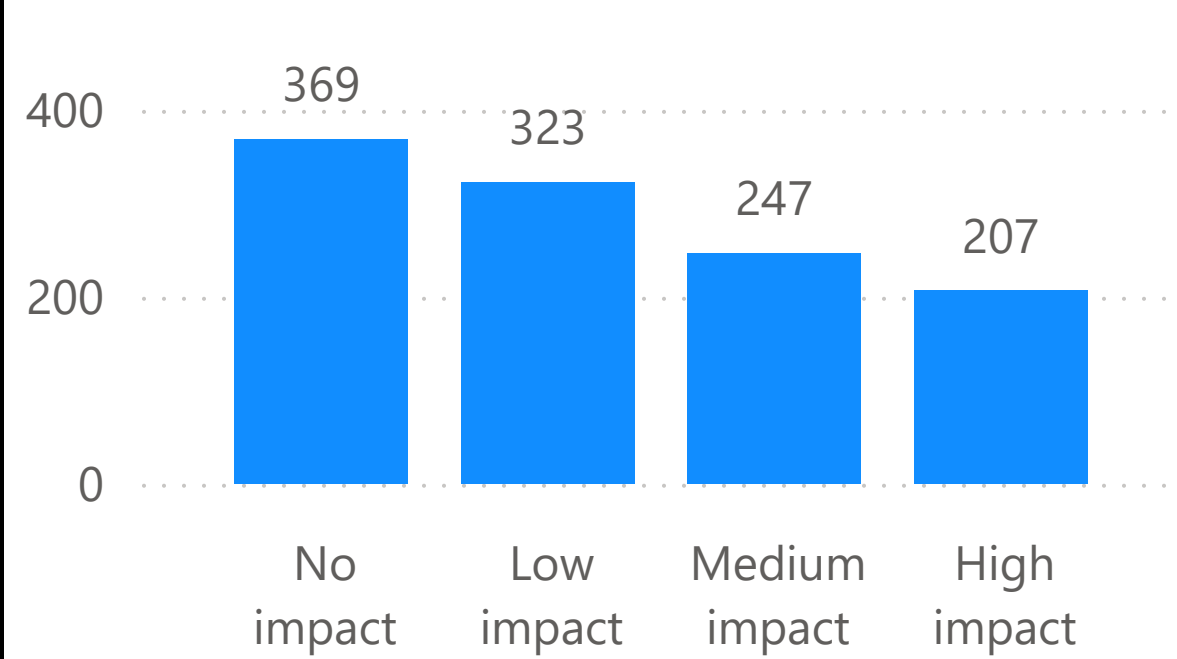


Summary from 229 comments on personal impact:

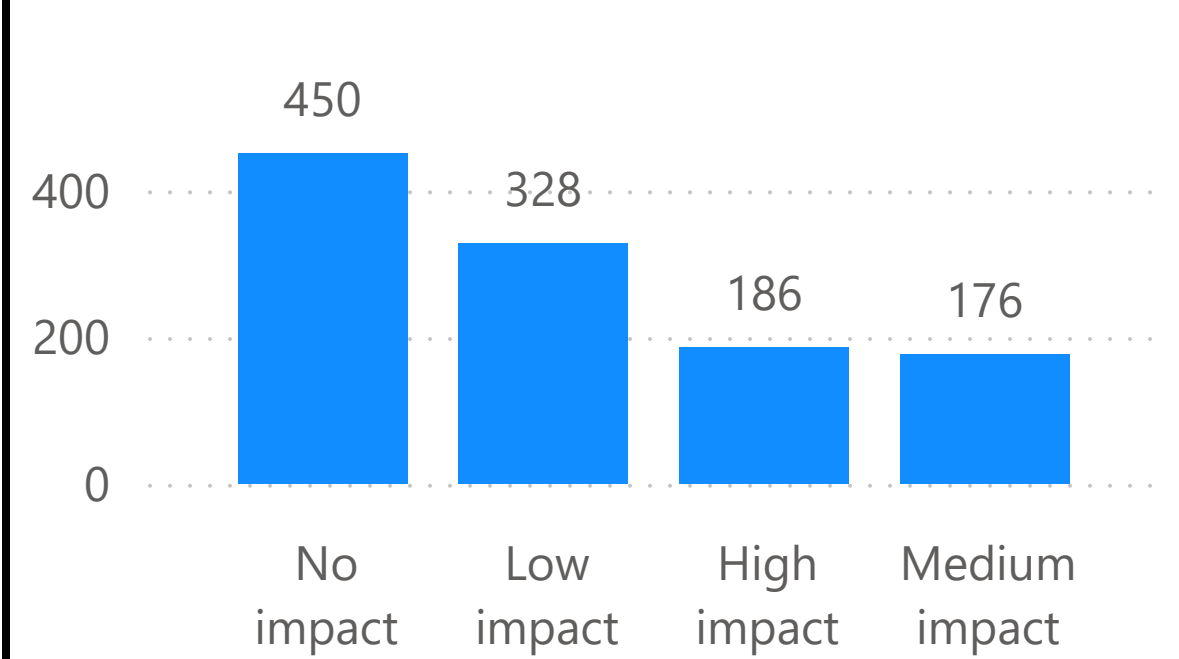
- Impact on Vulnerable Populations:** Some feel reductions in funding for community centres and equalities grants could severely impact vulnerable populations, including the elderly, disabled, and low-income families, by limiting their access to necessary services and support.
- Role in Supporting Youth:** Community centres provide crucial spaces for youth programs, helping to keep young people engaged in positive activities and reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour.
- Economic and Educational Benefits:** Investment in community centres is seen as vital for the economic and educational development of local communities, providing affordable activities and learning opportunities.
- Concerns About Funding Cuts:** Many respondents express concerns that funding cuts to community centres and equalities grants would lead to increased social isolation, mental health issues, and reliance on other social services.
- Importance for Mental Health:** Community centres are highlighted as important for maintaining mental health, especially for the elderly and those living alone, by providing spaces for social interaction and activities.
- Support for Marginalised Groups:** Equalities grants are crucial for supporting marginalised groups, ensuring they have access to necessary resources and services that promote inclusivity and diversity.
- Community Engagement:** Encouraging community engagement and participation is seen as essential for building strong, supportive local communities.
- Call for Continued Support:** There is a strong call for continued support and investment in community centres and equalities grants to ensure the well-being and cohesion of local communities.

# Environmental & Communities Projects

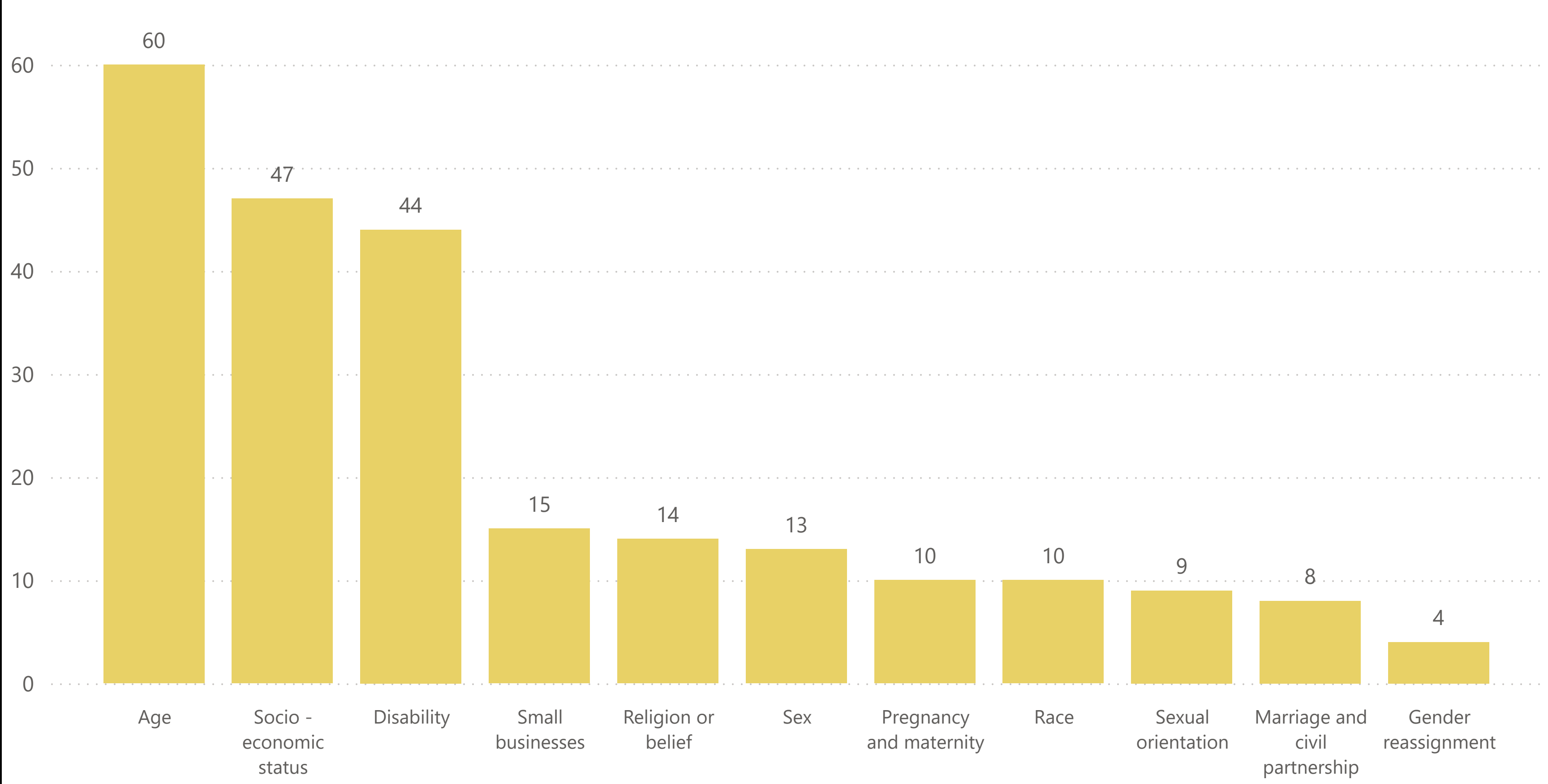
Removal of environmental projects



Remove all Fairer Aberdeen funding



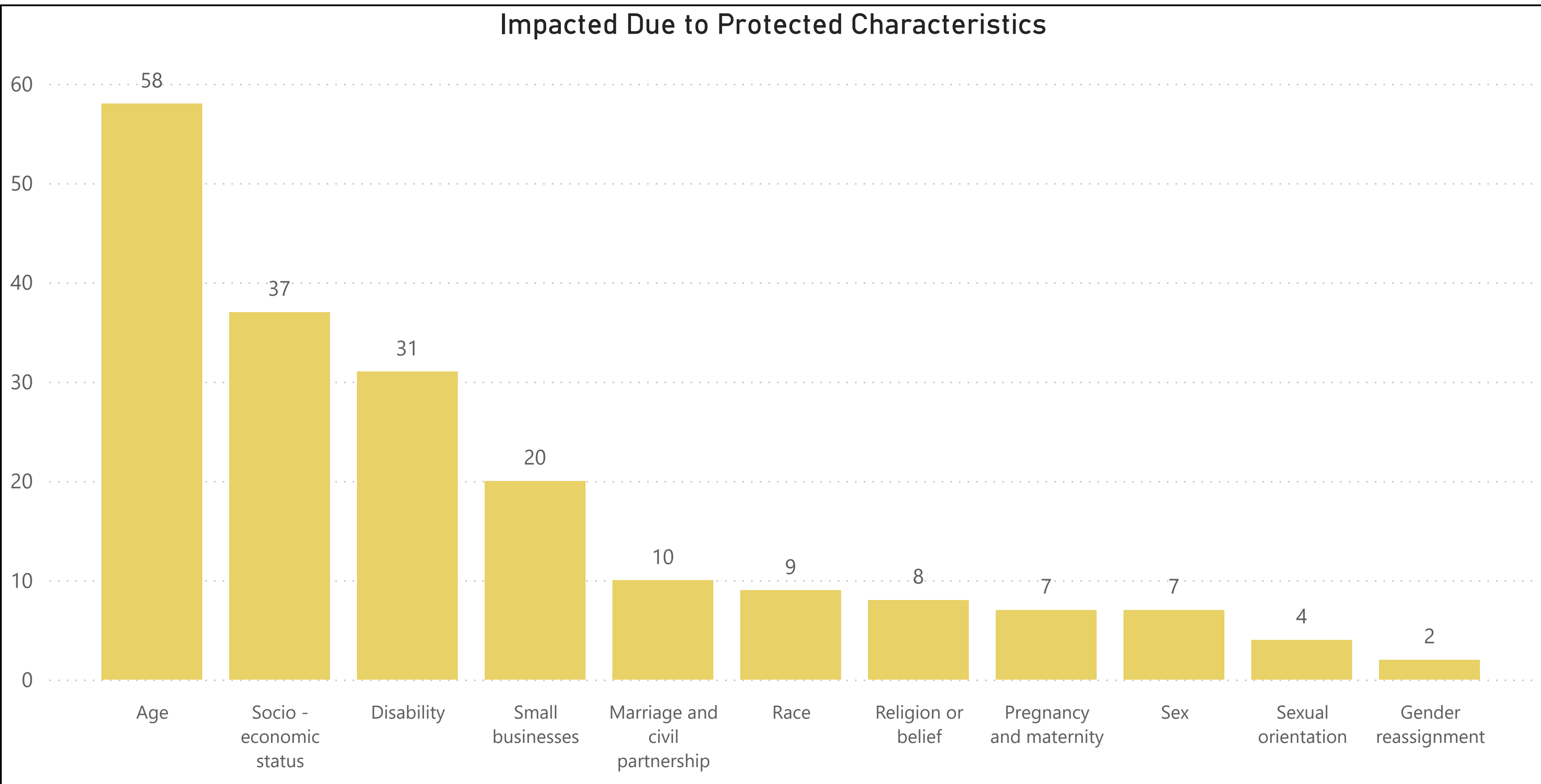
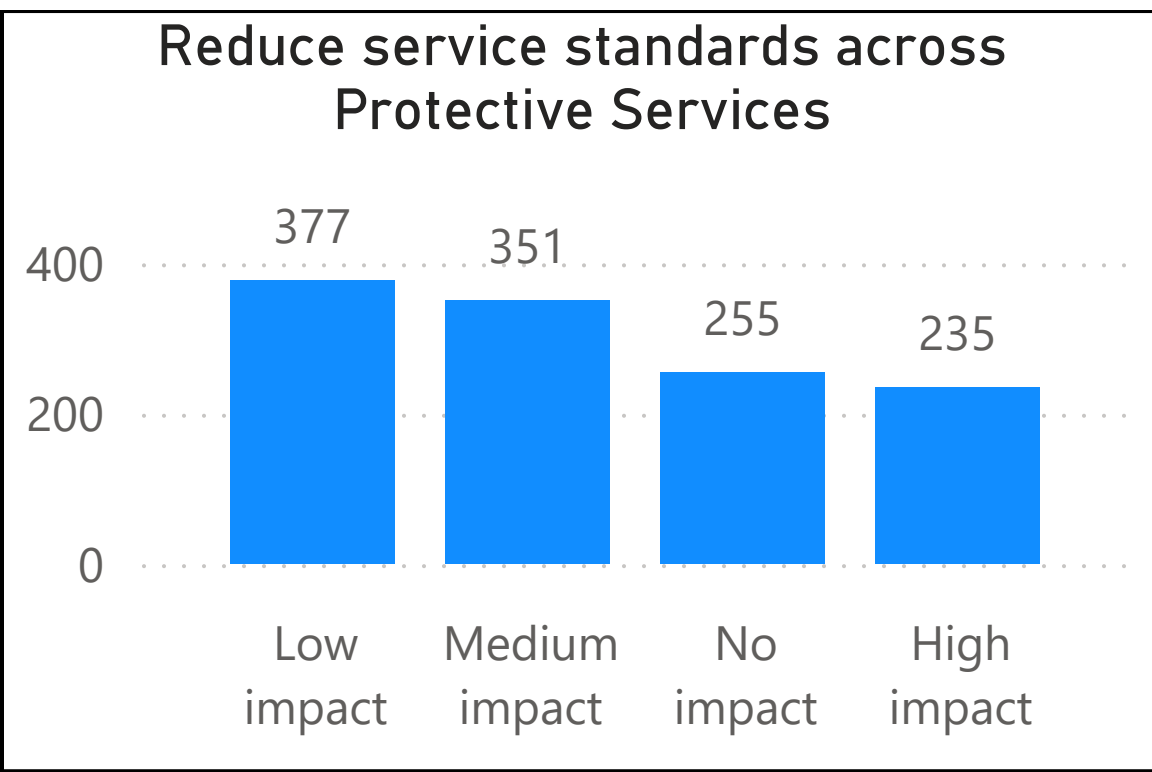
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Summary from 216 comments on personal impact:

- Impact on Climate and Biodiversity:** Many comments stress that removing funding for environmental projects will exacerbate climate and biodiversity crises, impacting both global and local scales and negatively affecting communities that benefit from these initiatives.
- Importance of Mental Health Services:** Comments emphasise that cutting the FAF would severely impact mental health services provided by organizations which offer crucial support free of charge.
- Support for Vulnerable Communities:** Several respondents highlight that the FAF supports vulnerable groups, including those in poverty, by funding essential services such as employability support, food banks, and educational programs.
- Community and Youth Programs:** Comments note that the FAF supports community and youth programs that are vital for skill development and positive futures, particularly in deprived areas.
- Environmental Education and Well-being:** Respondents argue that environmental projects contribute significantly to community resilience, health, and well-being, and their removal would have widespread negative effects.
- Economic and Employment Impacts:** Cutting FAF funding could lead to increased unemployment and economic challenges, as these funds support employability services and other economic initiatives.
- Impact on Public Services:** Many comments suggest that cutting these funds would place additional strain on already overstretched public services, such as the NHS and social work.
- Long-term Consequences:** There is a strong sentiment that removing funding for both environmental projects and the FAF would be shortsighted, leading to greater costs and challenges in the long term.

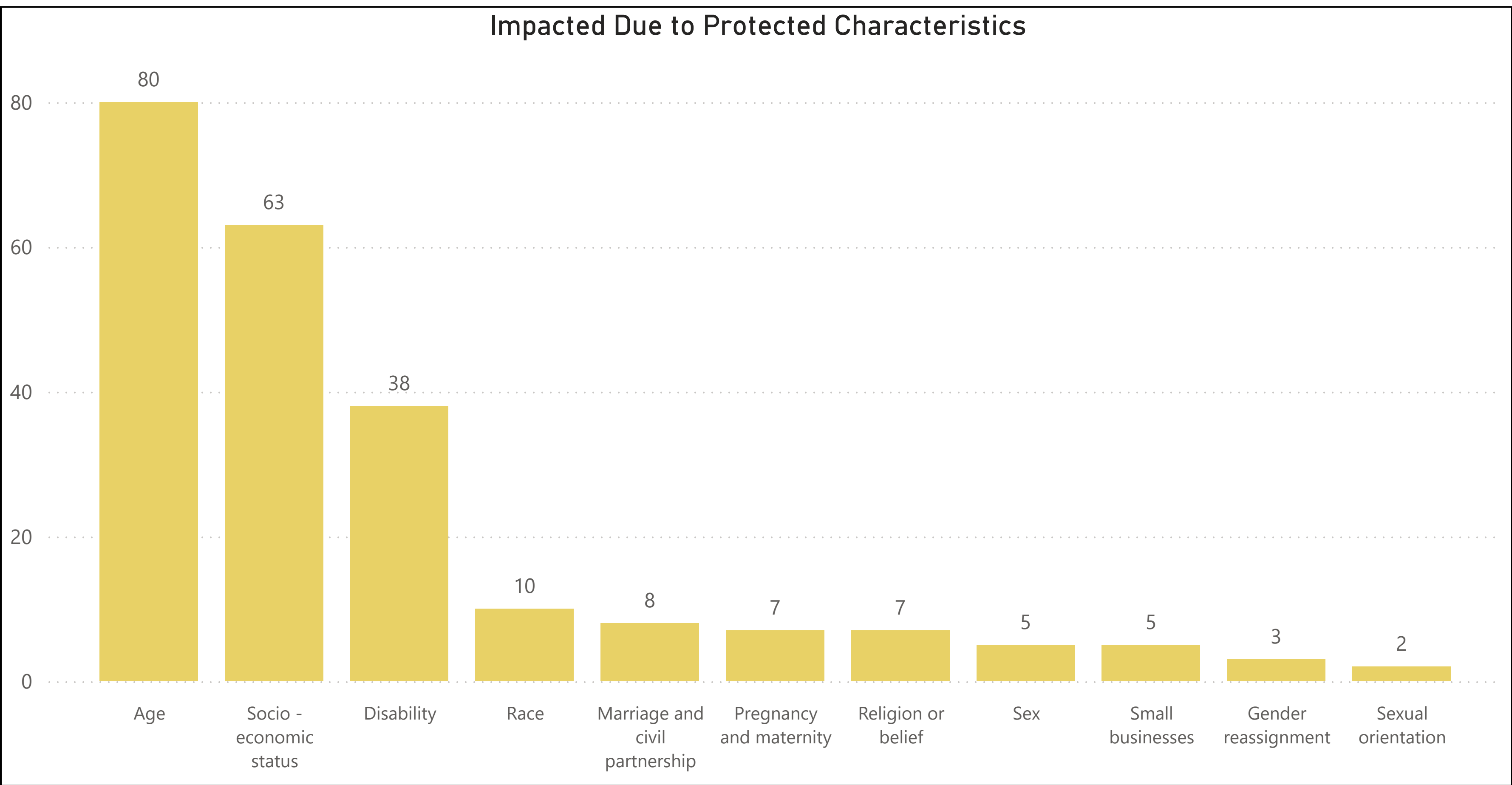
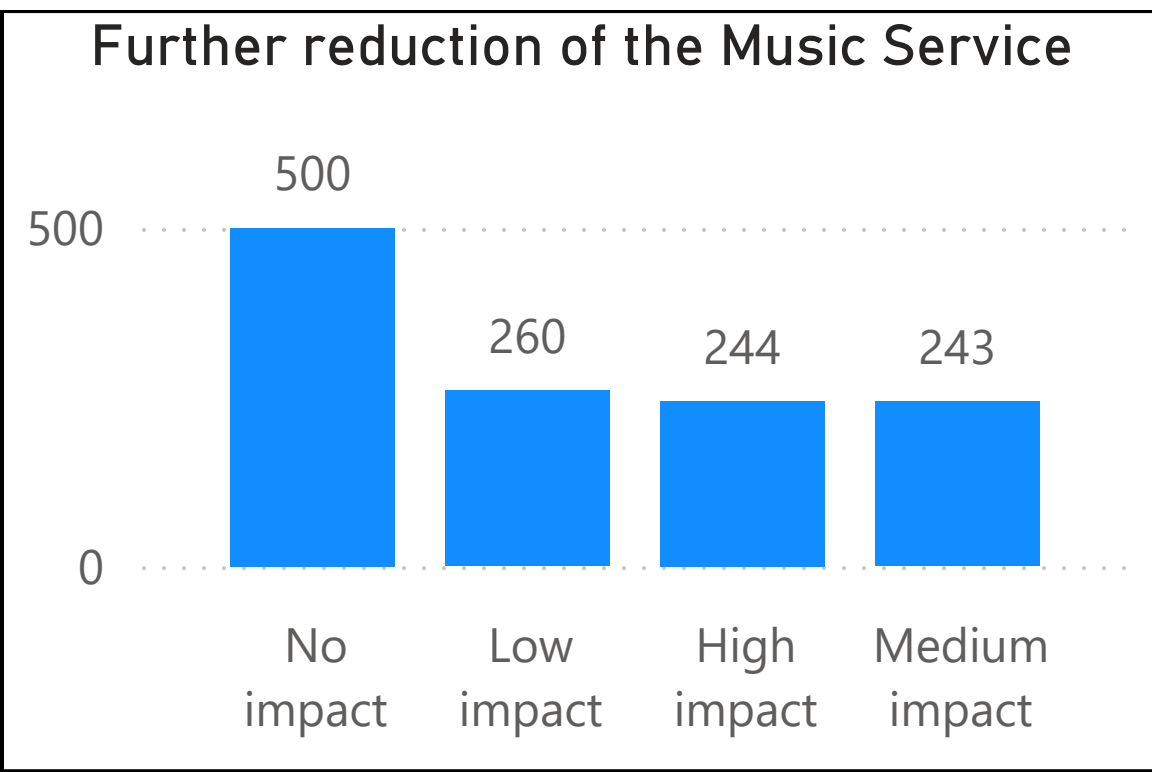
# Protective Services



Summary from 83 comments on personal impact:

- **Economic and Social Impact:** Reducing these services could negatively impact the local economy and increase social costs, particularly affecting vulnerable groups
- **Health and Safety:** There are concerns that cuts could lead to missed vital checks, endangering public health and safety.
- **Public Sentiment:** Many believe that maintaining high standards in these areas is essential for the well-being of the community.
- **Regulatory Role:** Protective services play a key role in early intervention and prevention, supporting healthier lives and well-being.

# Music Service

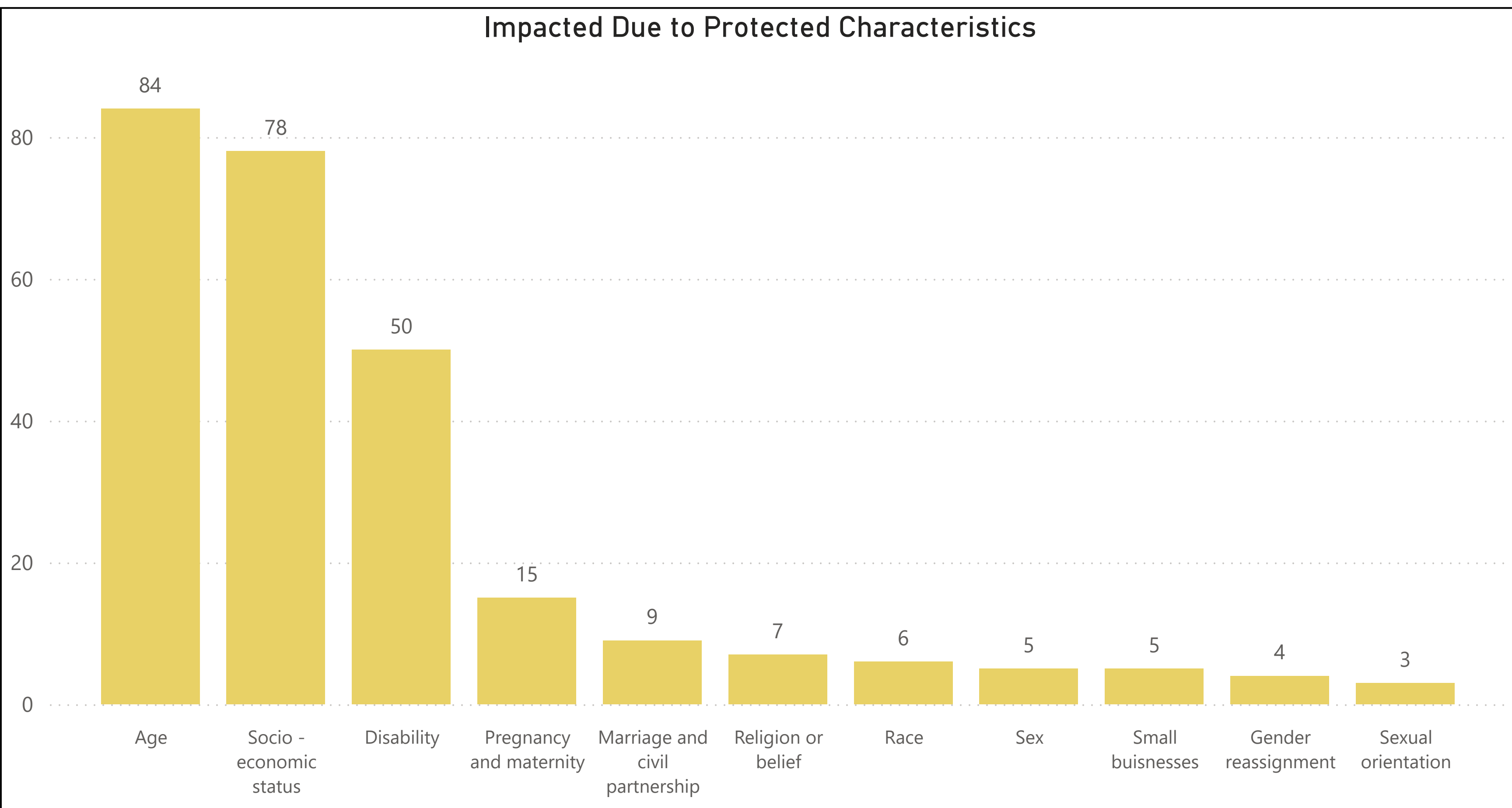
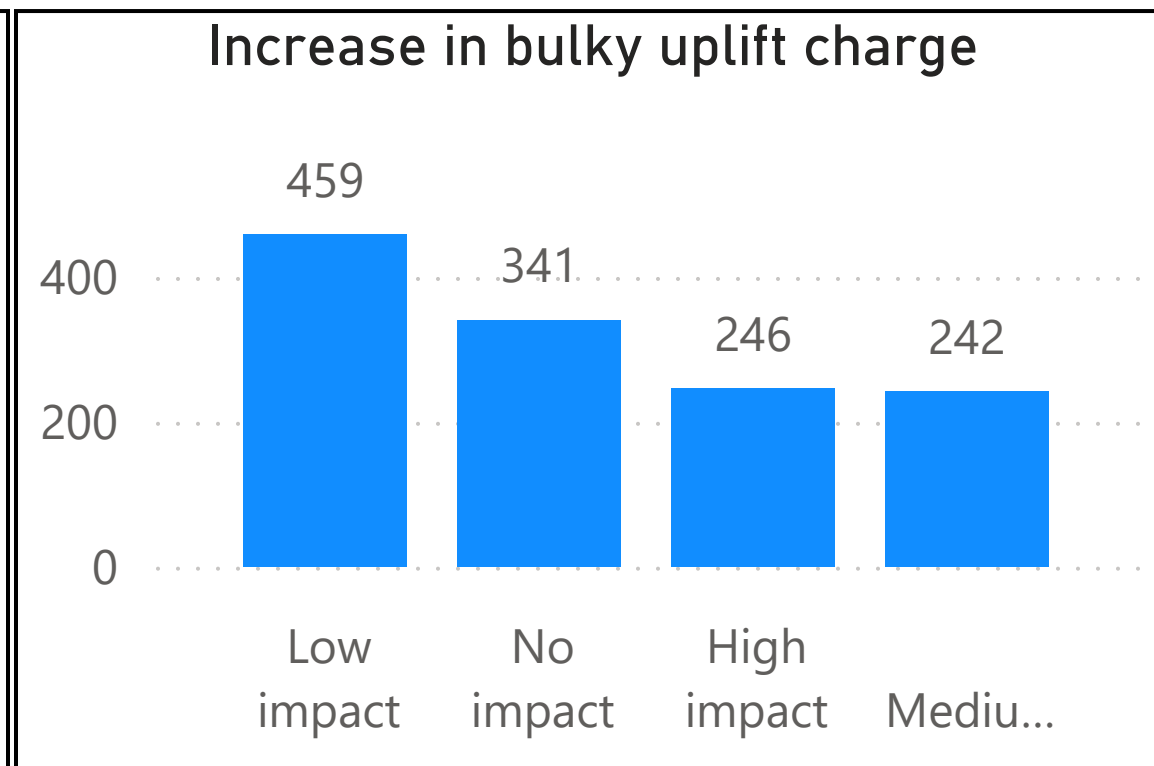
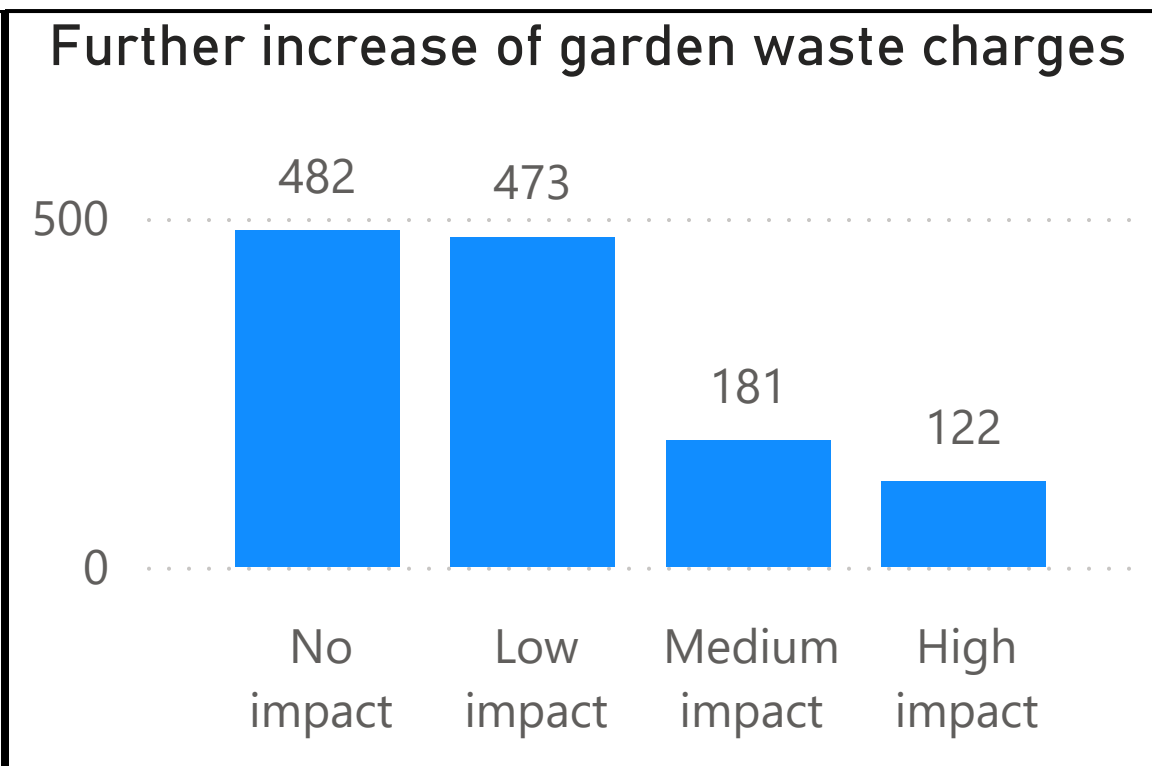
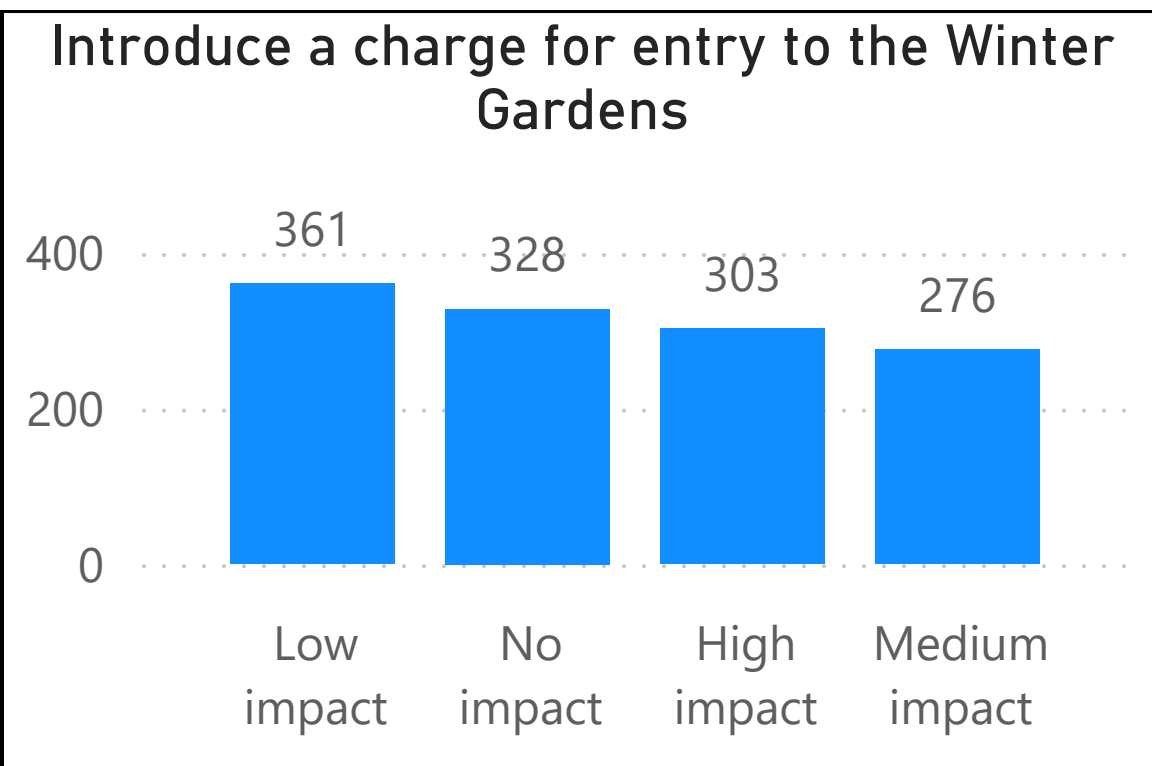


Summary from 279 comments on personal impact:

- **Impact on Children's Development:** Music education is seen as crucial for children's overall development, improving motor skills, information retention, and life skills such as teamwork and discipline.
- **Accessibility for Low-Income Families:** Many respondents emphasise that music services are essential for children from low-income families, who cannot afford private lessons.
- **Mental Health Benefits:** Music education is highlighted for its mental health benefits, providing a therapeutic outlet and improving overall well-being.
- **Long-Term Cultural Impact:** Reducing music services is seen as detrimental to the future cultural landscape, potentially limiting the development of home-grown talent and cultural heritage.
- **Negative Impact on Social Equity:** Cutting music services is believed to widen the socio-economic gap, making music education accessible only to those who can afford it.
- **Importance of Early Exposure:** Early exposure to music is deemed essential for children to develop an interest and aptitude in music, which would be hindered if services are cut.
- **Personal Testimonials:** Numerous respondents share personal stories about how music services positively impacted their children or themselves, emphasising its importance.
- **Potential Decline in Music Proficiency:** There is concern that reducing music services will lead to a decline in the population's ability to make and enjoy music, affecting community bands and orchestras.
- **Educational Value:** Music education is considered an integral part of a well-rounded education, contributing to academic achievement and personal growth.
- **Call for Continued Support:** Many respondents call for continued or increased support for music services to ensure that all children have the opportunity to benefit from music education.



# Parks & Waste

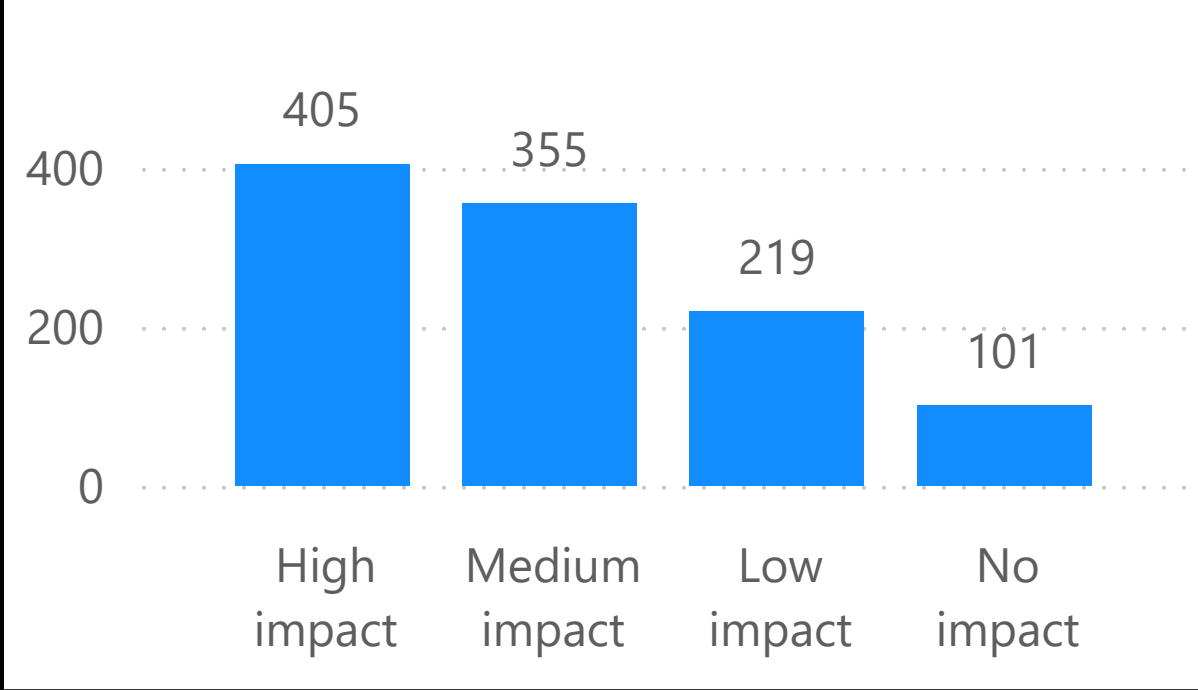


Summary from 364 comments on personal impact:

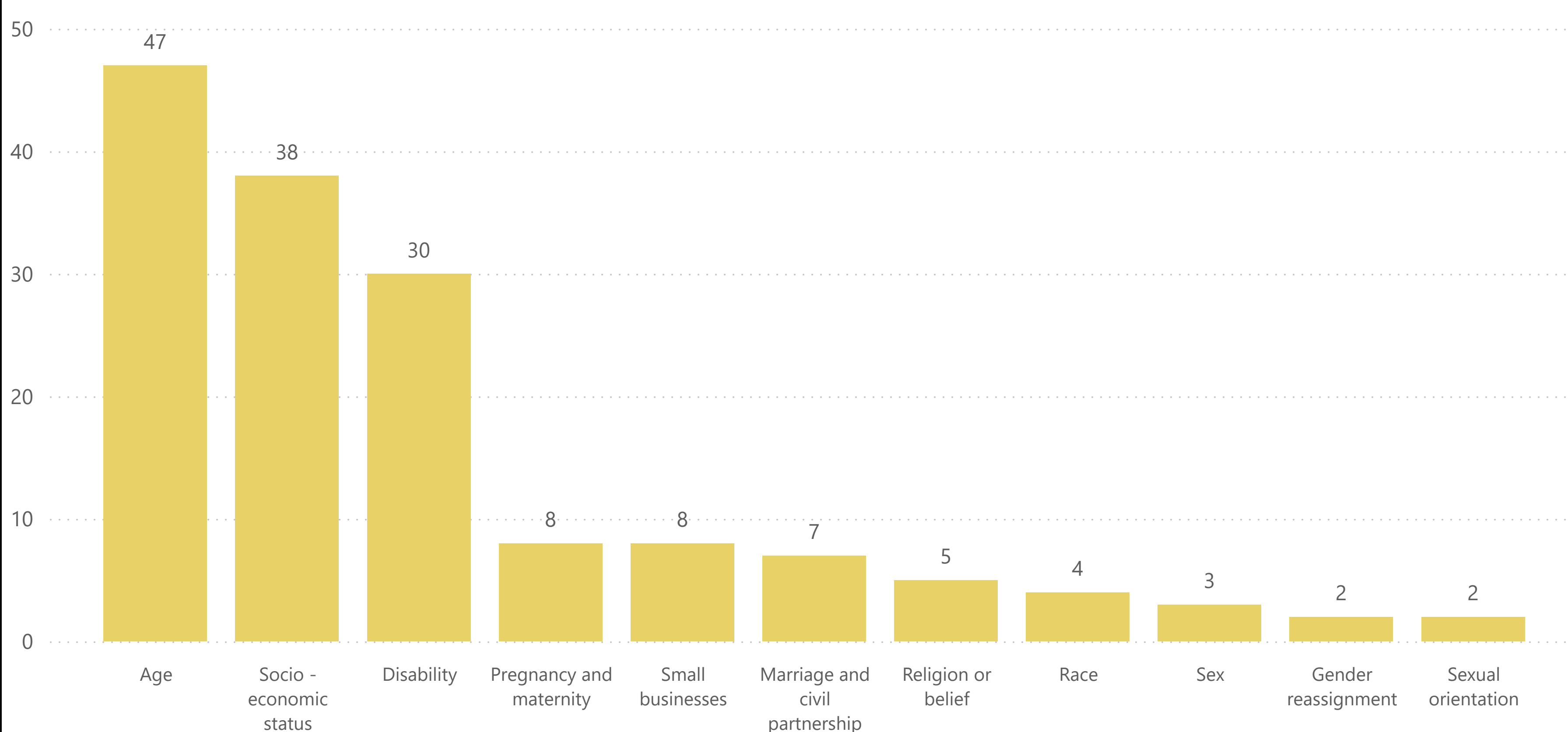
- Opposition to Garden Waste Charges:** Many respondents oppose the reintroduction of garden waste charges, arguing it encourages illegal dumping and misuse of black bins, and penalises those who maintain their gardens.
- Concerns About Increased Fly-Tipping:** There is significant concern that increasing charges for bulky waste uplift will lead to more fly-tipping, which could result in higher cleanup costs for the council.
- Mixed Views on Winter Gardens Entry Fee:** Opinions are divided on charging for entry to the Winter Gardens; some are willing to pay a small fee, while others believe it would exclude low-income families and reduce visitor numbers.
- Impact on Low-Income Families:** Several respondents emphasise that additional charges would disproportionately affect low-income families, potentially restricting their access to essential services and facilities.
- Support for Small Charges:** A number of respondents support small charges for the Winter Gardens and garden waste collection, provided they are reasonable and do not outweigh the costs of administration.
- Historical and Community Value:** The Winter Gardens are valued for their historical significance and as a community resource, with some arguing that charging entry would go against the original intent of the park's donation.
- Suggestions for Alternative Funding:** Some respondents propose alternative funding methods, such as voluntary donations, corporate events, or seasonal memberships, to maintain free access to the Winter Gardens.

# Environmental Services

Further reduction to Environmental Services



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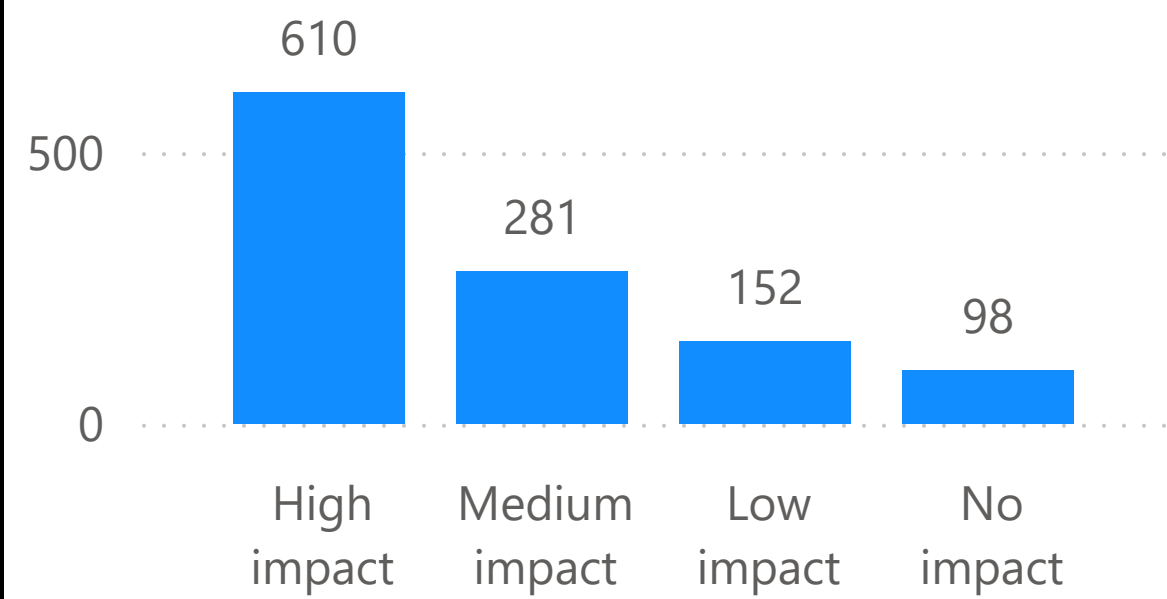


Summary from 310 comments on personal impact:

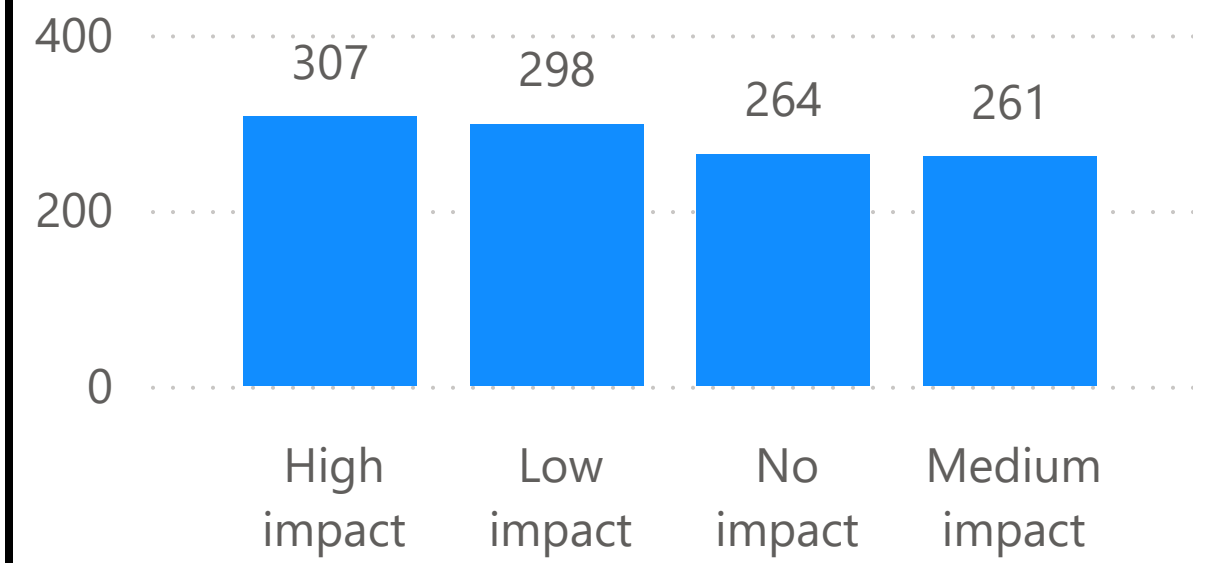
- **Support for Reduced Grass Cutting:** Several respondents support reducing grass cutting, citing benefits for biodiversity and the environment.
- **Concerns About Safety and Cleanliness:** Many people are worried that less street cleaning and grass cutting will increase hazards such as ticks, trip hazards, and dog waste.
- **Impact on City Appearance:** There is a strong sentiment that reducing these services will make the city look unkempt and less appealing to both residents and visitors.
- **Potential Negative Effects on Tourism:** Some respondents believe that a decline in city cleanliness and maintenance could deter tourists and affect the local economy.
- **Public Health Concerns:** Concerns are raised about the potential increase in health risks, such as Lyme disease from ticks, if grass cutting is reduced.
- **Civic Pride and Morale:** Maintaining city cleanliness and green spaces is seen as vital for civic pride and the overall morale of residents.
- **Mixed Views on Graffiti Removal:** While some see graffiti as a problem that needs addressing, others believe it is less of a priority compared to other maintenance issues.

# Toilets and Countryside Rangers

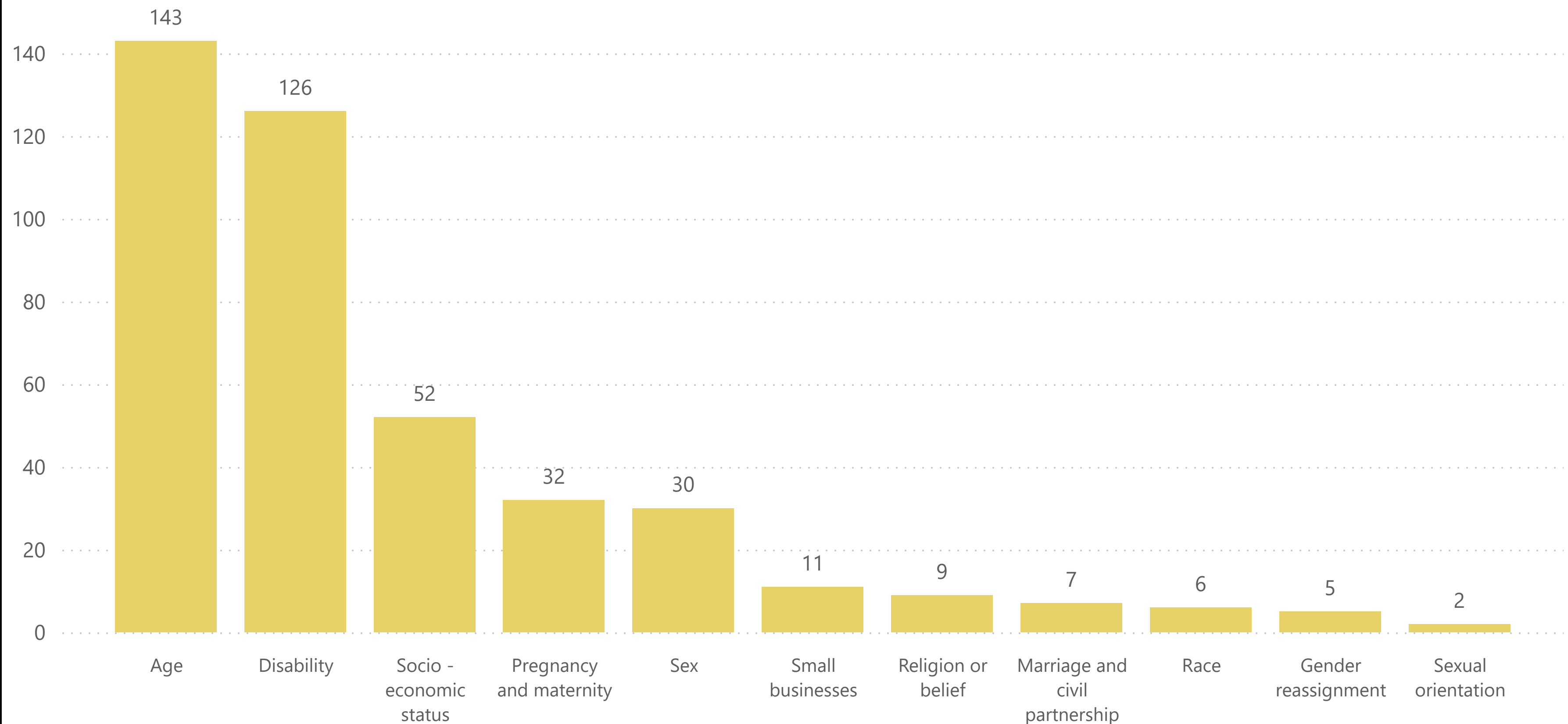
Removal of Countryside Ranger Service



Close all public toilets including Automatic Public Conveniences in Parks



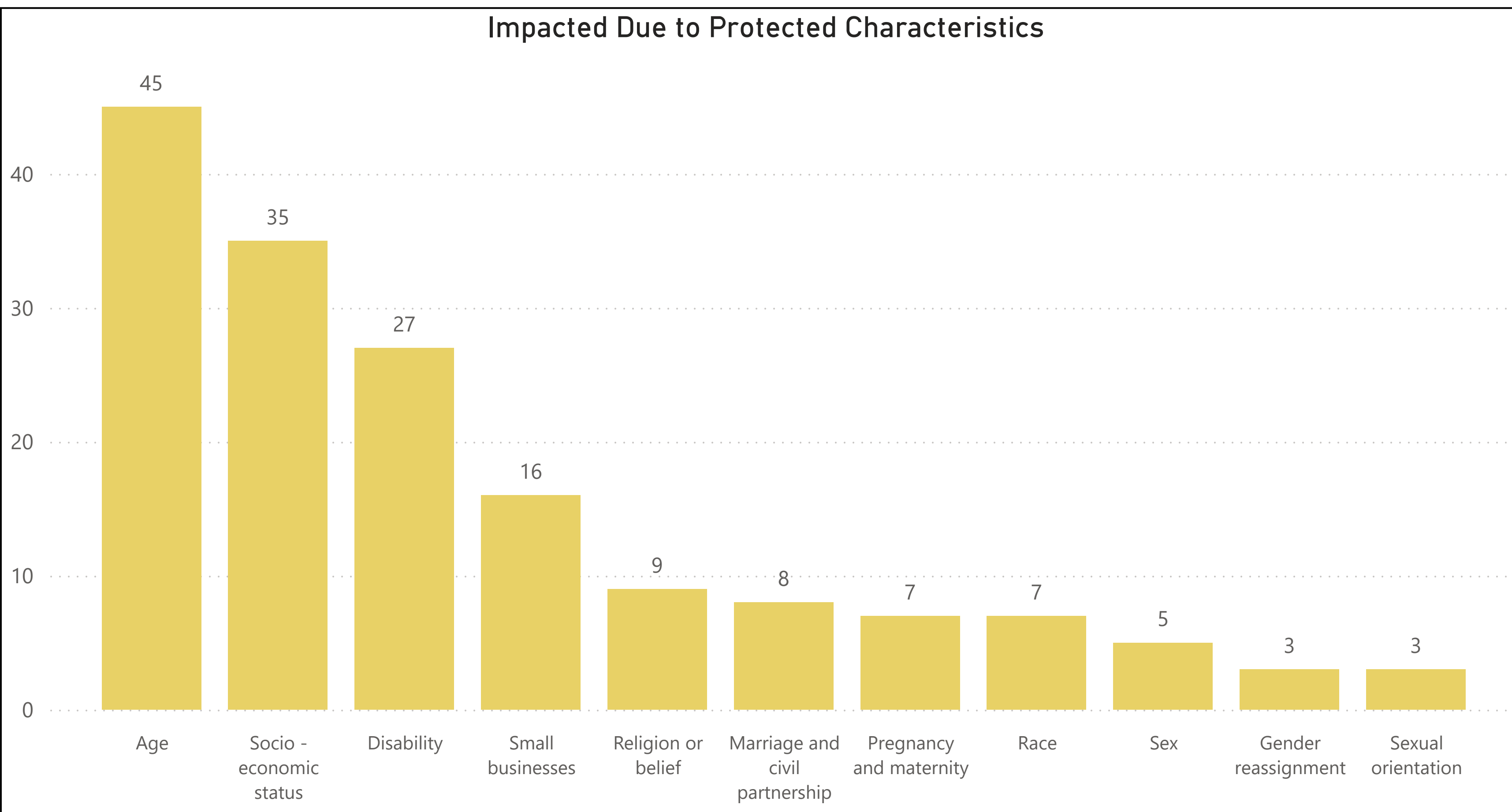
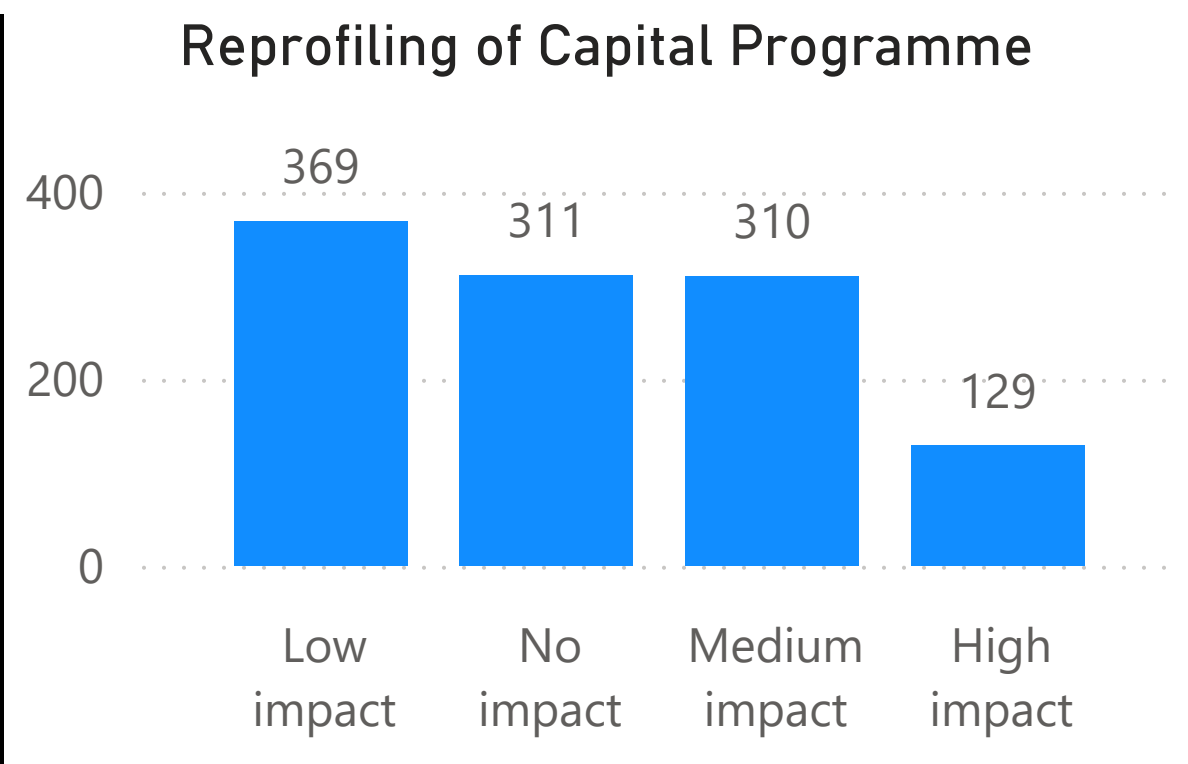
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Summary from 407 comments on personal impact:

- Importance of Public Toilets:** Public toilets are deemed essential for the elderly, disabled, pregnant women, families with young children, and those with medical conditions that require frequent access to restroom facilities.
- Health and Hygiene Concerns:** Closing public toilets could lead to increased public urination and defecation, causing health hazards and reducing the cleanliness of public spaces.
- Impact on Mental and Physical Health:** Access to public toilets and green spaces is crucial for mental and physical health, as it encourages outdoor activities and social interactions.
- Role of the Countryside Ranger Service:** The Countryside Ranger Service is vital for maintaining paths, controlling invasive species, and providing environmental education and volunteer opportunities.
- Fire Safety and Prevention:** Rangers play a critical role in fire safety outreach and prevention, which helps reduce the risk of wildfires and related accidents.
- Community Engagement and Education:** The Ranger Service engages with schools and community groups, offering educational programs that foster a connection with nature and promote conservation efforts.
- Economic and Long-term Costs:** Eliminating these services could lead to higher long-term costs due to increased healthcare needs, environmental degradation, and the necessity to hire contractors for maintenance tasks.

# Capital Programme



Summary from 164 comments on personal impact:

- **Lack of Clarity:** Many respondents expressed confusion over the term "reprofile the capital programme" and requested more detailed information to provide informed feedback.
- **Impact on Community:** Some individuals are concerned that changes to capital projects could negatively affect transportation, education, and other essential services.
- **Opinions on Specific Projects:** Several comments highlighted specific projects with mixed opinions on their necessity and impact.
- **Economic and Long-term Considerations:** There is a concern that reducing capital spending could be short-sighted and lead to higher long-term costs due to asset deterioration.
- **Calls for Prioritization:** Respondents suggested prioritising essential services like health, education, and transportation over new capital projects.
- **General Discontent with Survey:** Many participants were dissatisfied with the survey, feeling it lacked clarity and was designed to justify predetermined decisions.