

EHCGP Future Funding & Impact Survey Results October 2014

Headline Findings

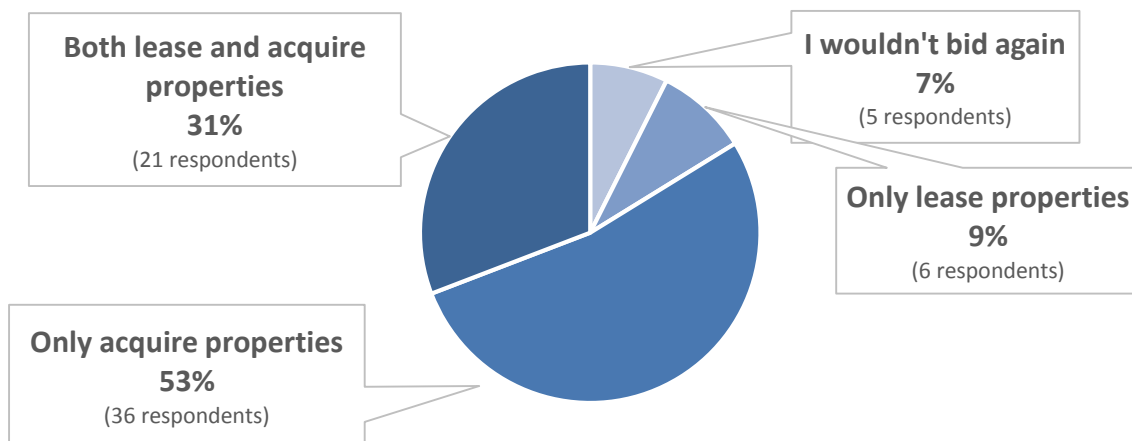
- **Demand for Future Funding:** If there were another EHCGP, organisations would bid for a further **£52.276m**.
- **Apprentices/Trainees:** **89%** organisations involved trainees/apprentices in renovating properties
- **Reduction in Crime/ASB:** **91%** of organisations believe they've helped to reduce crime & ASB
- **Importance of Straightforward Systems/Administration:** Tribal's systems were given an average rating of **7/10** for ease of use.

We had a total of 73 responses to our survey on future funding for the Empty Homes Community Grants Programme (EHCGP). This represents roughly **75% of the organisations** already in receipt of EHCGP funding.¹

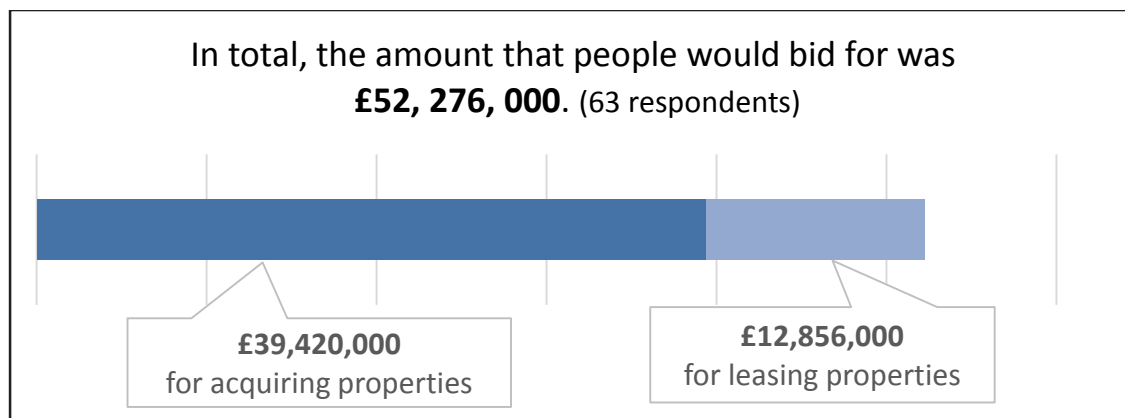
¹ NB: All percentages are calculated in relation to the respondents to each question, rather than the overall number of respondents to the survey.

Bidding For Future Empty Homes Funding

- If there were another 3 year programme from 1st April 2015, would you bid to:

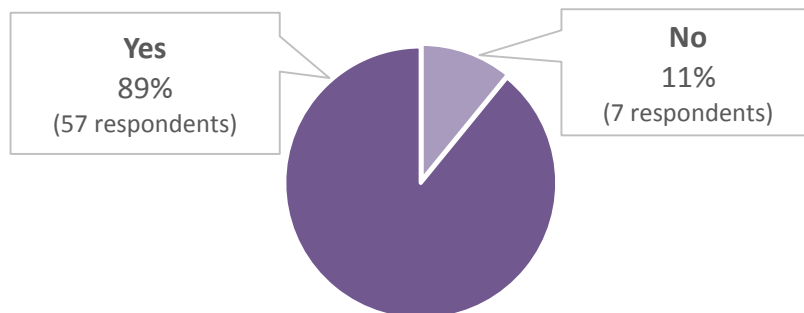


The majority of organisations surveyed would bid again were a similar programme to run from April 2015; with less than 10% (7.4%) saying that they would not. The reasons for not wanting to bid again were varied, but there was some concern expressed about the tight timescales of the current programme.

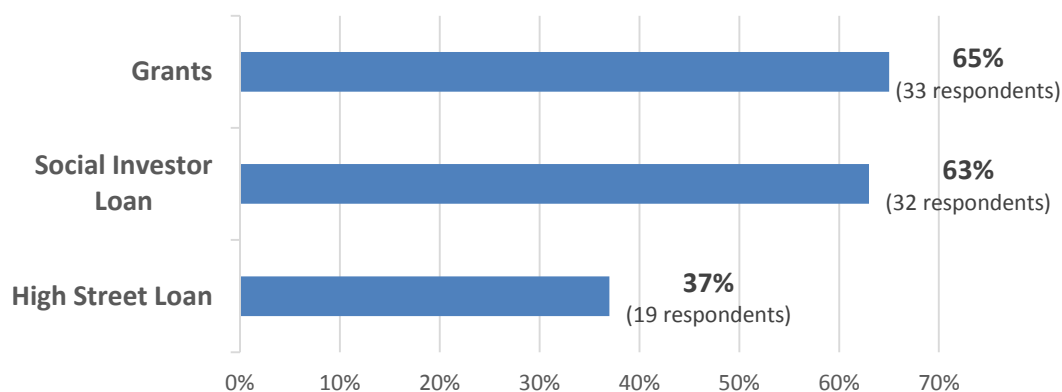


Raising Additional Match Finance In The Future

- Based on your experience of the Programme, would you expect to raise other money to supplement the Grant Funding?



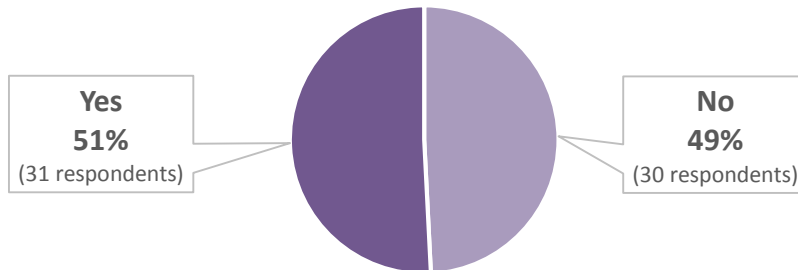
- If yes, where would it be likely to come from?



Of those that would bid again, almost 90% (89.1%) expected to raise additional funds through Grants, social investors and high street loans – with some also mentioning match funding, reserves and through local authorities.

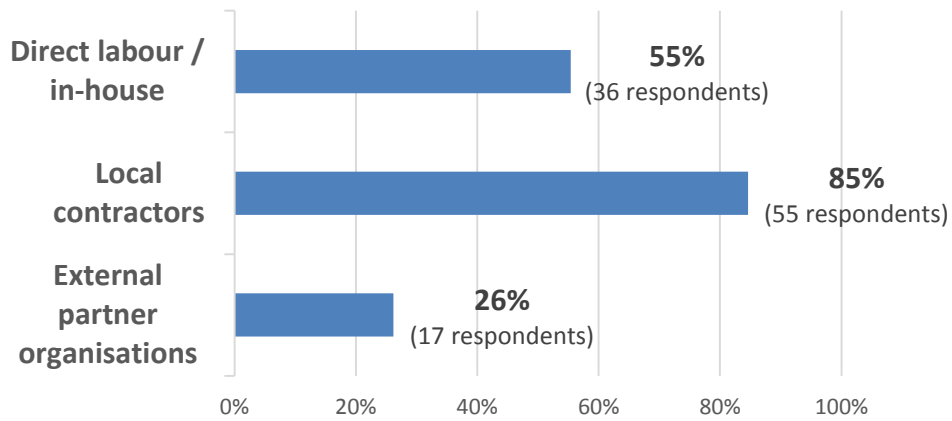
Partnership

- **Would you work in partnership with a housing association?**



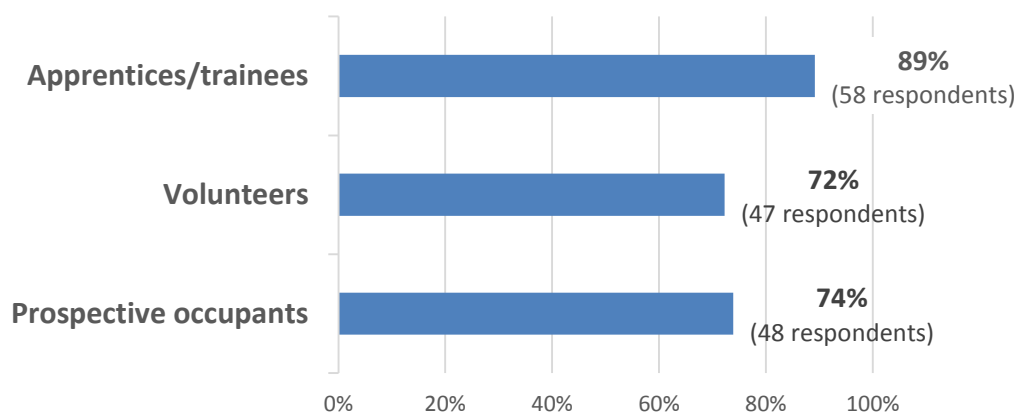
Renovating Properties

- **Who will carry out the renovation work on your properties?**

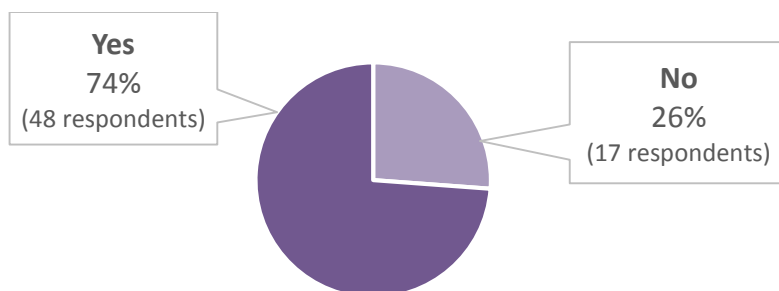


Employment Opportunities

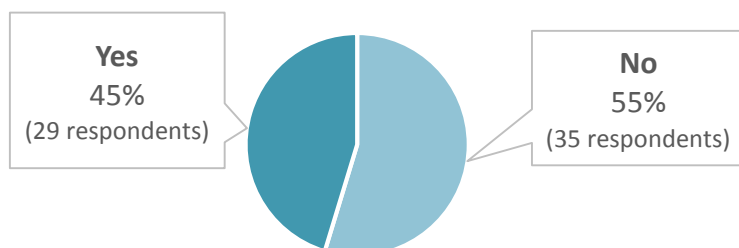
- **Who will you involve?**



- **Have you provided opportunities for local unemployed people?**



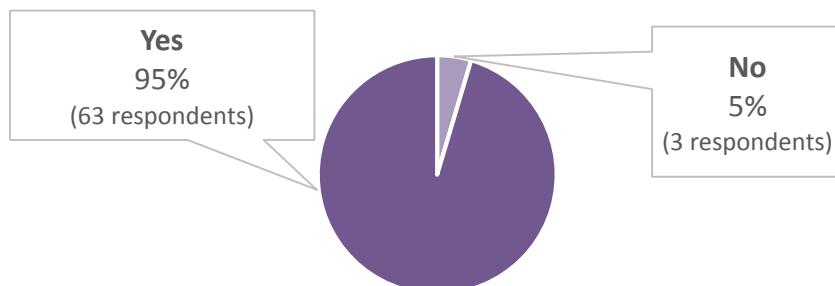
- **Have you provided work for ex-offenders?**



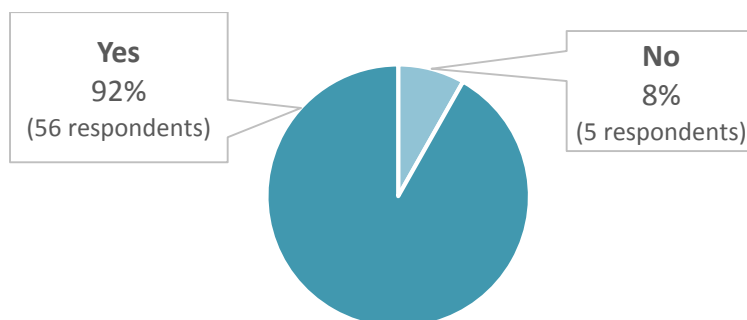
When it came to who would be renovating the properties, many organisations were keen to involve apprentices/trainees (89.2%), volunteers (72.3%) and prospective occupants (73.9%). Through the existing programme, almost three quarters of organisations surveyed (73.8%) have provided opportunities for local unemployed people both directly (by offering work) and indirectly (providing experience which has enabled individuals to move into paid employment). There was some concern that quick turnaround times made offering meaningful employment opportunities more difficult. Just under half of those surveyed (45.3%) had used the programme to provide work for ex-offenders. Engaging these individuals happened both by design and by 'accident' (e.g. unemployed people who also happen to be ex-offenders).

Impact of Renovating Property on the Community

- **Have you contributed to regenerating the local environment?**



- **Have you helped to reduce crime/anti-social behaviour?**



The programme has had an overwhelmingly positive effect on the local areas it touched – with the majority of organisations noting an overall improvement as a result of their work. More than 9 out of 10 respondents (91.8%) found that crime and anti-social behaviour was reduced by bringing empty properties back to life. Many organisations reported that the empty properties they restored were previously a target for vandalism, drug-taking and other anti-social behaviour. Additionally, providing opportunities to at-risk groups has reduced their likelihood of offending.

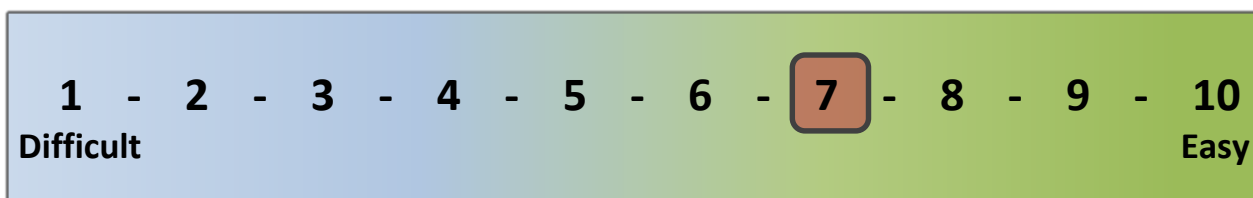
Experience of the Management of the Programme

- **When asked what they liked most about the programme, respondents mentioned:**

- Its flexibility;
- The support from Jon/HACT/Tribal (particularly in terms of communication and response time);
- Funding being provided upfront (and its being made available to such organisations at all); &
- The opportunities the Programme provided.

Ease of Use of Tribal Systems

- **On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy was it to use the Tribal's systems?**



Tribal's systems were viewed positively with an average rating of 7 out of 10.

- **In terms of potential improvements:**

- Some respondents expressed dissatisfaction in the initial delay and requested longer timeframes were the programme to run again.
- Others cited confusion over paperwork and would have liked to see more training on this.
- Some organisations felt that local authorities should play more of a role in making schemes happen.
- More regular meetings (in order to share ideas, engage in learning etc.) were mooted
- As was a suggestion that representatives from Tribal should visit the properties to give them an on-the-ground feeling for what needs to be done.

October 2014