

Louth Livestock Market – Market User Survey Findings

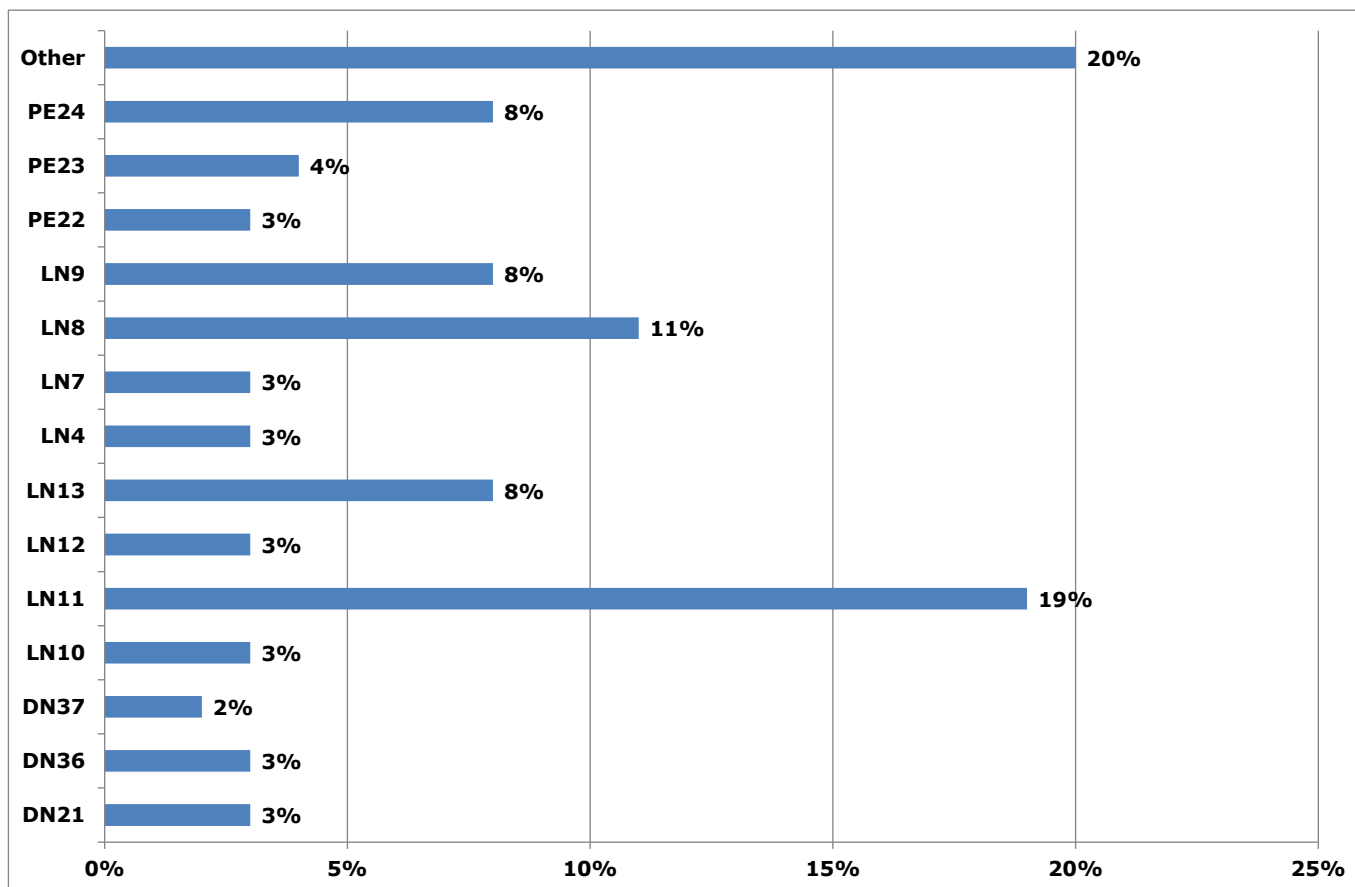
These survey findings form part of the report 'Future of Livestock Market Provision in Louth'.

A total of 331 responses were received; 180 paper copies and 151 electronic copies.

It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%)

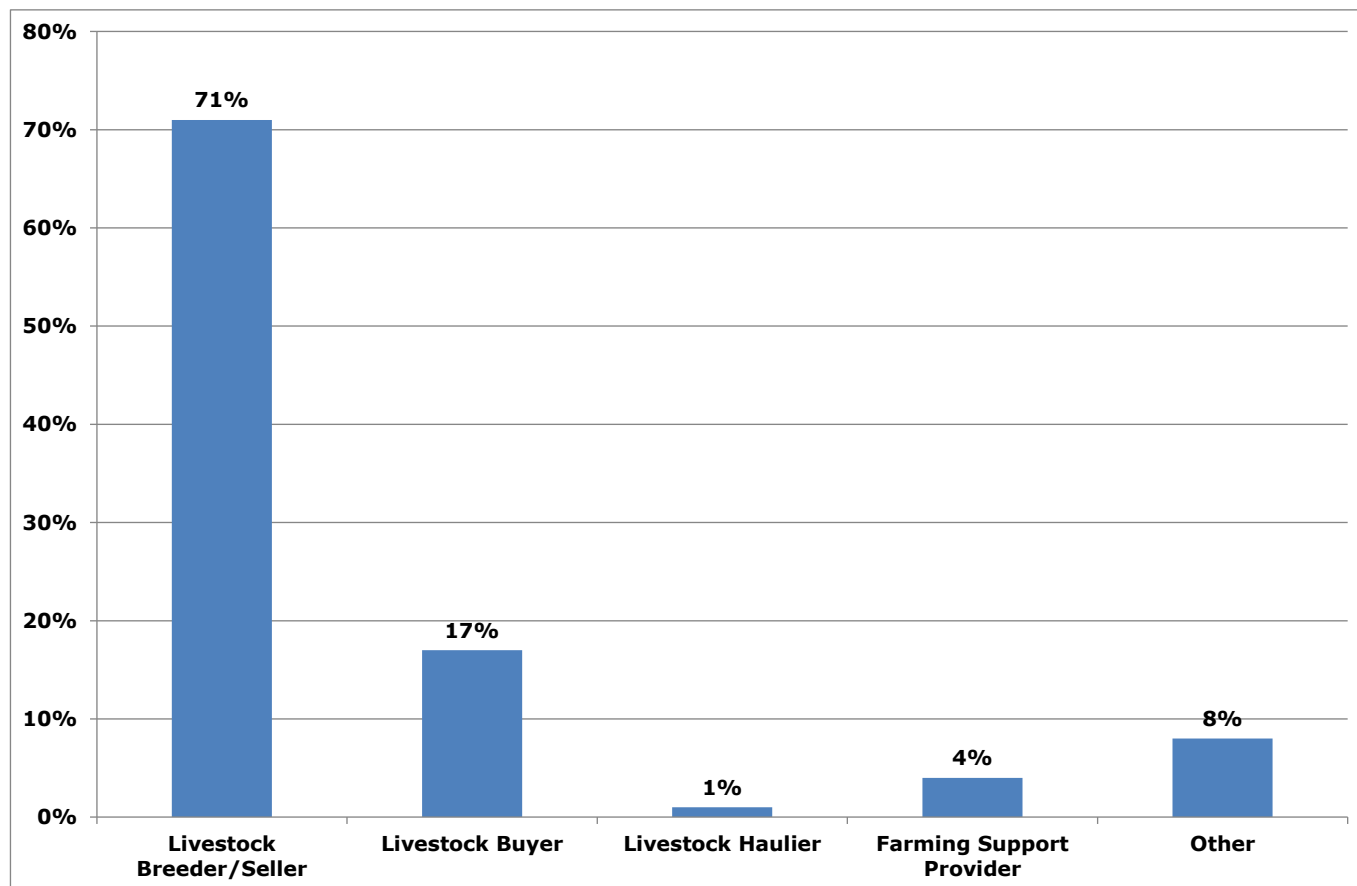
1.0. Detailed Information

- 1.1. All respondents were asked to provide the name of the Business/Organisation they were responding on behalf of. Out of 331 responses, 312 Businesses/Organisations provided their names.
- 1.2. The chart below shows where all respondents reside in the district. *(It should be noted that 'Other' is made up of a series of postcodes where only a small number of respondents reside)*



Please note that not all respondents gave their postcode sector

1.3. The chart below shows that 71% of all respondents stated their main purpose for using the Louth Livestock Market was because they were a Livestock Breeder/Seller.



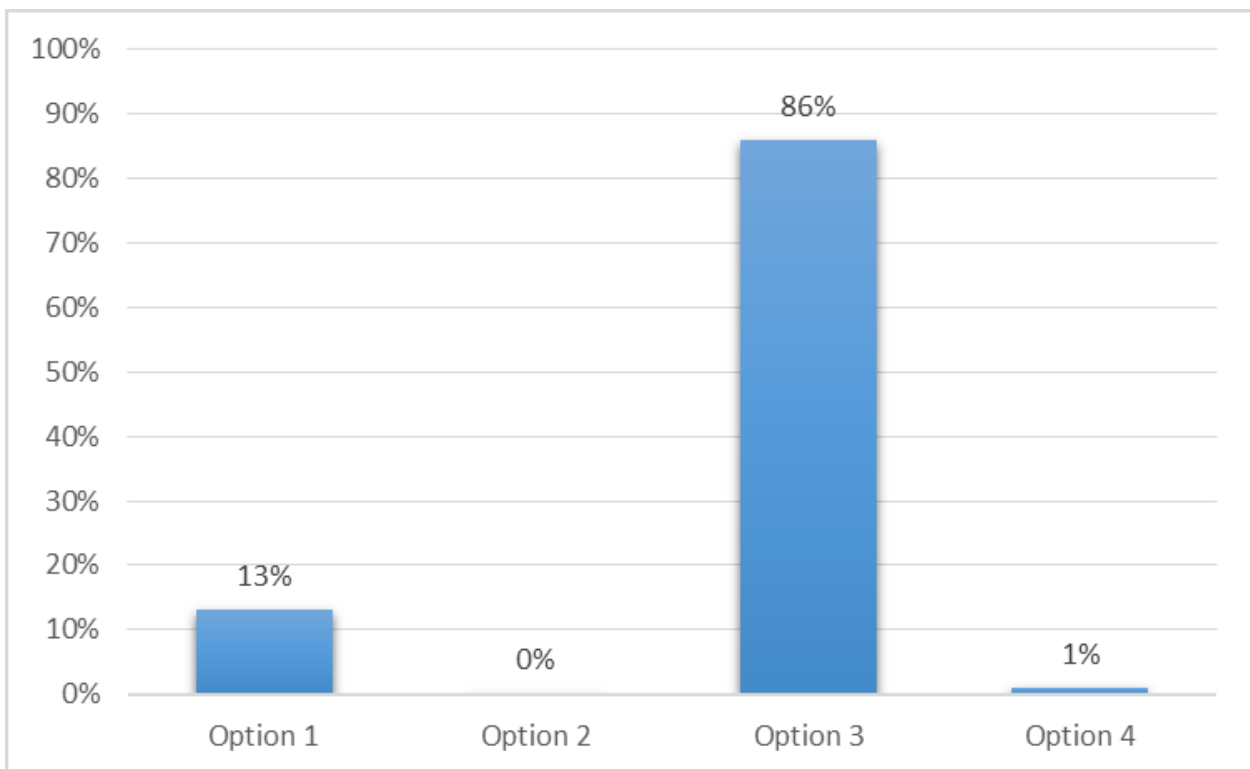
1.4. Those respondents that stated 'Other' at 1.3 above were asked to give their main purpose for using the Louth Livestock Market. A list is detailed below.

- I have attended Louth Market since 1955 and every week since January 1964 when my father died.
- Breeder of sheep farmers buyers
- Livestock Breeder/Seller and Livestock Buyer
- Agricultural Merchant
- I assist my wife with sheep.
- Regular Saturday Auction participant.
- The only four year TB testing market left
- No cattle now retired
- We do not actively use the facilities but are involved with working on behalf of APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) if requested to attend re animal welfare
- Farmer / Livestock haulier

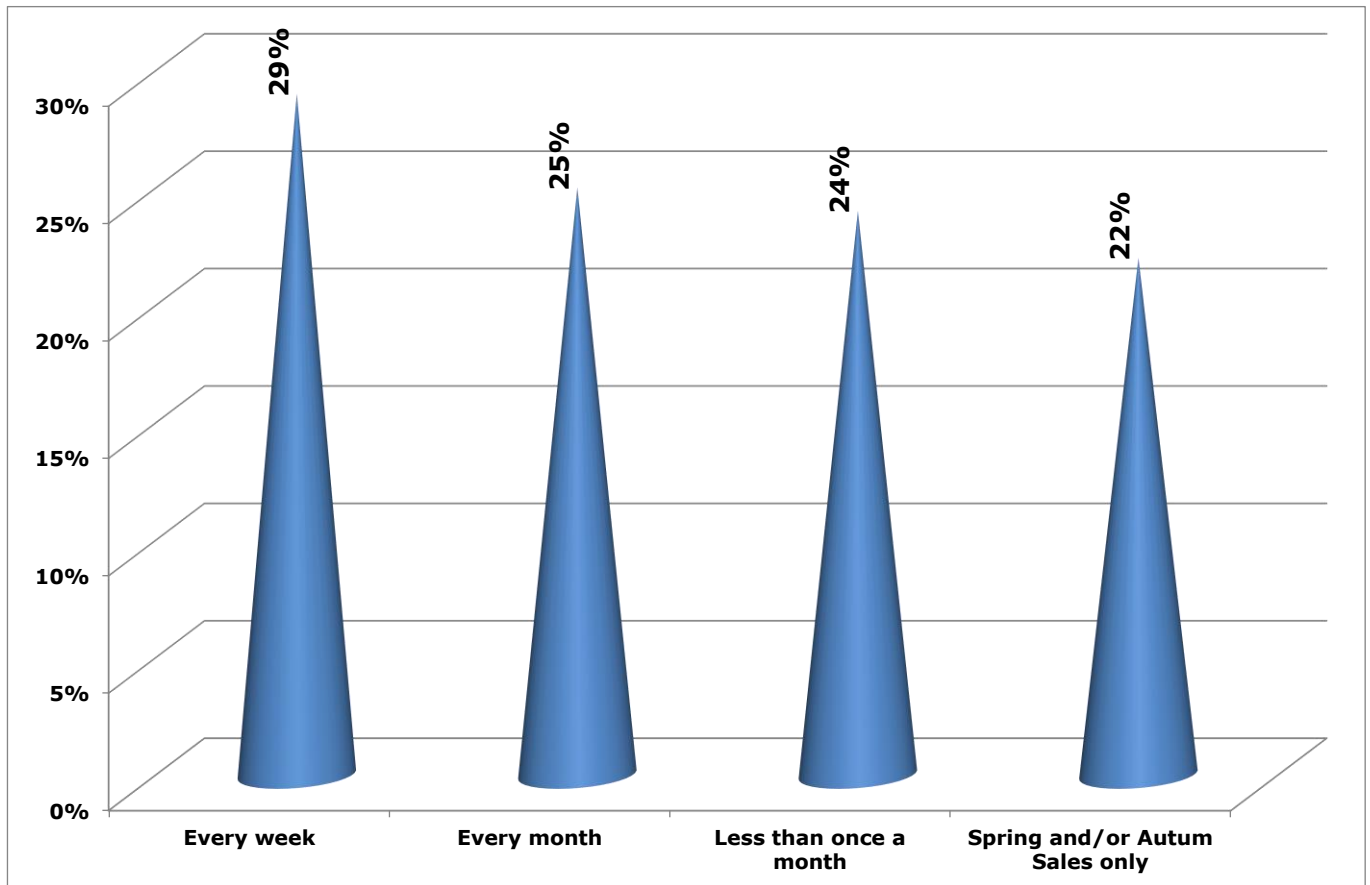
- We attend the market to also contact private buyers for our breeding stock and to buy livestock equipment and medicines minerals and feed
- Auctioneer
- Former seller may wish to diversify back into Livestock
- Work at Louth Cattle Market
- To do trade with agricultural merchants and salesmen, meet fellow farmers and talk with the rural support workers

1.5. All respondents were advised of the four options (including 'Don't Know') put forward by the Council. All respondents were given the opportunity to select 'Option 1', 'Option 2', Option 3' or 'Option 4'.

The chart below shows that 86% of all respondents said they preferred 'Option 3' which is to withdraw from the sale process with the ADV Partnership and refurbish the current site.



1.6. The chart below shows on average, how often respondents use the Louth Livestock Market.



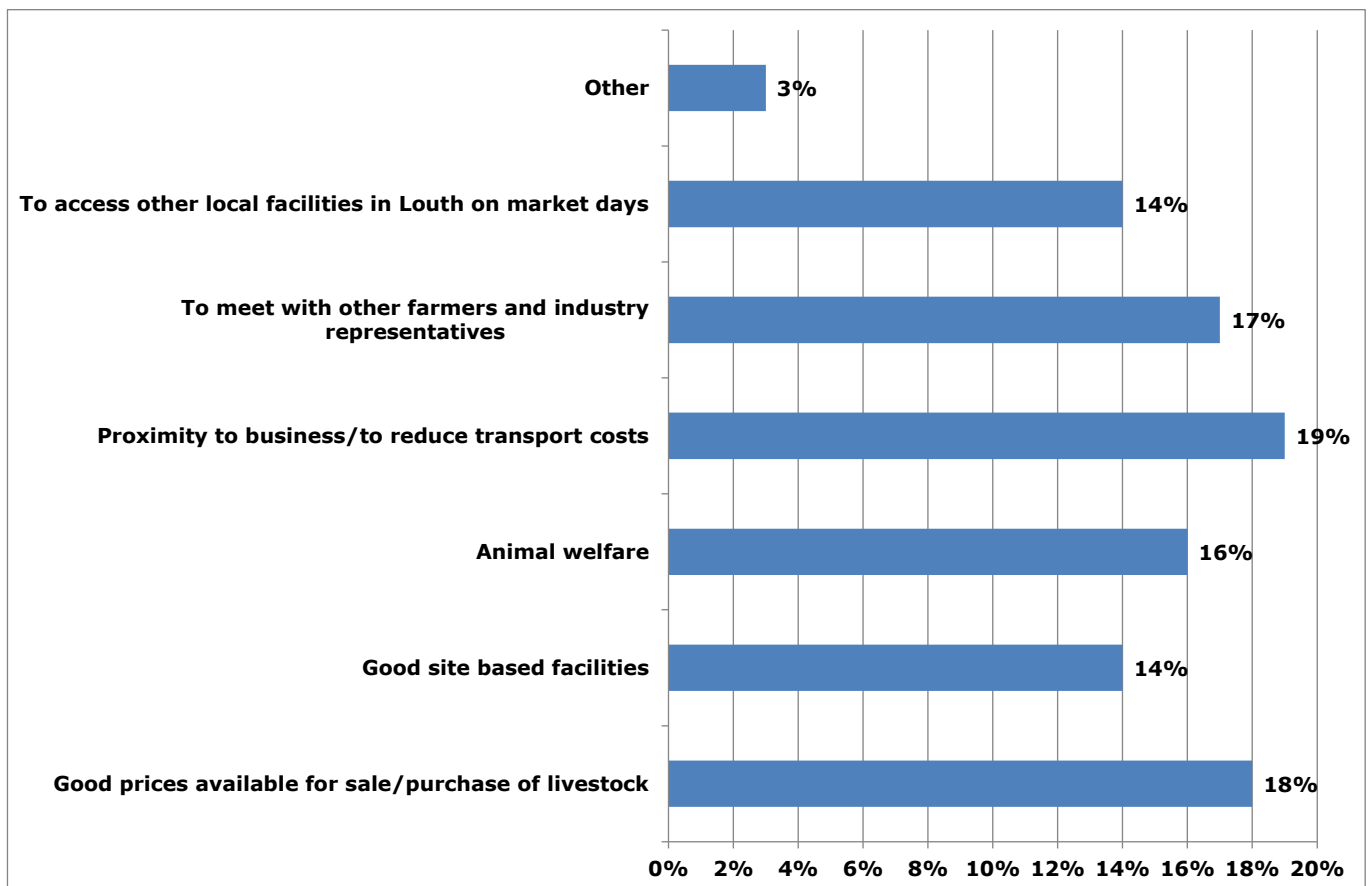
1.7. The table below shows on average what livestock respondents currently buy through the Livestock Auction each year.

	Cattle	Sheep
None	28%	42%
1 to 50	59%	40%
51 to 100	10%	7%
101 to 200	1%	5%
201 to 300	1%	4%
301 to 400	1%	1%
401 to 500	0%	0%
500 or more	0%	1%

1.8. The table below shows on average what volume of livestock respondents currently sell through the Livestock Auction each year.

	Cattle	Sheep
None	2%	32%
1 to 50	73%	26%
51 to 100	19%	10%
101 to 200	4%	12%
201 to 300	1%	8%
301 to 400	1%	5%
401 to 500	0%	3%
500 or more	0%	4%

1.9. All respondents were asked why they use the Livestock Market. As can be seen from the chart below the most popular reason for using the Livestock Market is the 'Proximity to business/to reduce transport costs', closely followed by 'Good prices available for sale/purchase of livestock'.

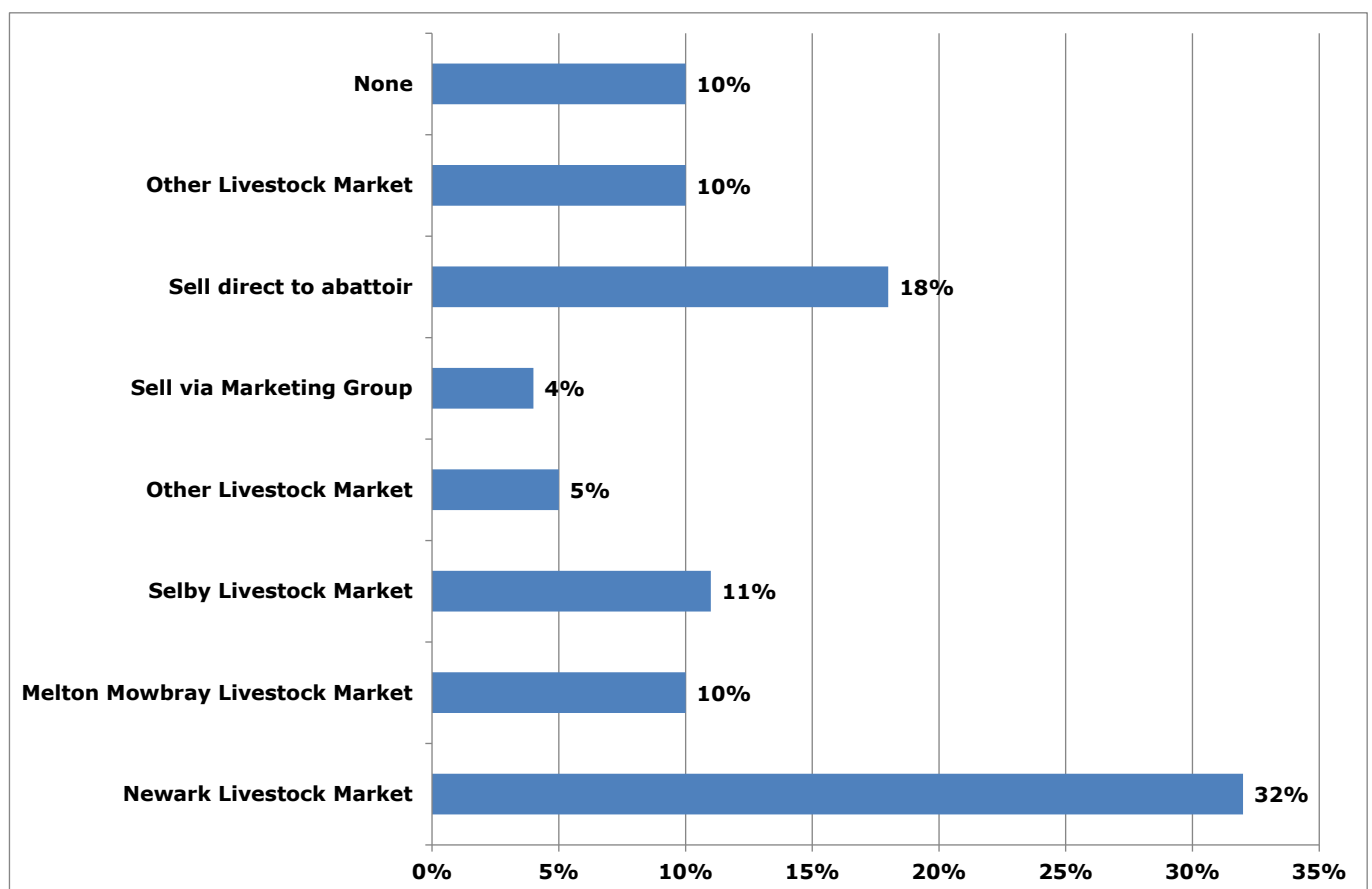


1.10. Those respondents that stated 'Other' were asked to specify why they use the Louth Livestock Market. A full list is provided below.

- To support local market
- Due to increase of rural crime better to go to Louth. That way I'm not leaving my property too long. Because it's the only market in Lincolnshire and is a TB4 area
- Buyers know the sellers and a good reputation is everything which is something we wouldn't have at any other livestock market.
- 50% of our Lamb requirements during the summer months are purchased through Louth market, the quality is second to none.
- With a livestock market if you are not happy with the price you can take them home again, unlike the deadweight market.
- Louth is our nearest market especially for 'trading' in store and breeding cattle.
- Alternative to Supermarket Control and to sell to local businesses.
- I support the principal of high quality local food. In the livestock industry, this is considerably enabled by the provision of a local market, where cattle breeders can sell young stock to local cattle finishers, and our excellent local butchers can purchase the finished animals of their choice.
- Assist my wife with her sheep. I could not help her if closed, as I have my own job to go to. Anywhere else is too far from my own job.
- Our livestock are organic; we cannot presently sell them through the market. More specialist sales would be good - Lincoln Red ideally.
- Currently without Livestock but needs facilities if opportunities arise
- Quality cows and calves
- We want to keep the only remaining Livestock Market in Lincolnshire. It's important. The Louth Livestock Market determines the price of livestock in general in Lincolnshire, and is the price to go by.
- Time. Louth Market approx. 2-3 hrs per visit. Newark Cattle Market Virtually a day. Distance: Louth 10 miles, Newark/ Melton Mowbray too far and expensive to buy or sell in low numbers. Can transport with tractor and trailer to Louth.
- Reduce carbon emissions by reducing distance travelled.
- I look forward all week to a bacon bap sold at the market by the kiosk there (tasty treats)
- I provide healthcare and support for the farming community during my fortnightly clinics held at the market. It is a very well used and valuable service and provides much needed support, advice, encouragement and monitoring of long term health conditions that many of them struggle along with. Due to their long working hours and many commitments, many of the farming community do not attend the GP surgery regularly so by using our service they do at least get some healthcare and advice on a regular basis. Just by meeting their friends at the market this gives many farmers the chance to have some social interaction and support and a focal point in the week in what is becoming a very solitary job for very mature aged people.
- Only market to be able to sell t b 4 cattle in the east of England
- As a small breeder/buyer we wouldn't been able to continue trading if Louth closed down due to the distance from us to other livestock markets
- The location is sustainable, helping the town centre. A move to Fairfield Industrial Estate would not be sustainable, we would not visit the shops in town on our market trip as it is not possible to park in the town centre with a cattle trailer on the back of a 4wd and it is far too far to walk from the industrial estate
- Keep costs down, transport and time travelling to markets.
- Louth is one of the few markets in England that is TB free. Farming in a TB free are, this is important to us.
- Closest livestock market meaning less haulage costs, excellent prices for cattle
- Like to support my local market.
- Good quality stock provided at the spring sales. Regular purchaser each year. Efficient and helpful auctioneering and service staff.
- TB status for Lincolnshire

- Proud of our area being 4 yr. T.B. test and do not want to use others that are more frequent. It keeps food miles low for consumers and keeps stress to a minimum for livestock.
- Do not know
- Friendly market staff
- My firm, with another, run the Livestock Market on a weekly basis.
- Also, keep T.B. out of the county.
- It is a 4 year T.B. area so you can buy breeding stock and where is the nearest other 4 year tested market
- To hopefully keep Lincolnshire free from T.B.
- We, at present, do not have any sheep. If and when do have them again we would be selling through Louth Market. We still visit and do trade at the site.
- To enjoy frequent visits to this ancient market town, with

1.11. The chart below shows the routes to market respondents would consider if the Louth market was not available.



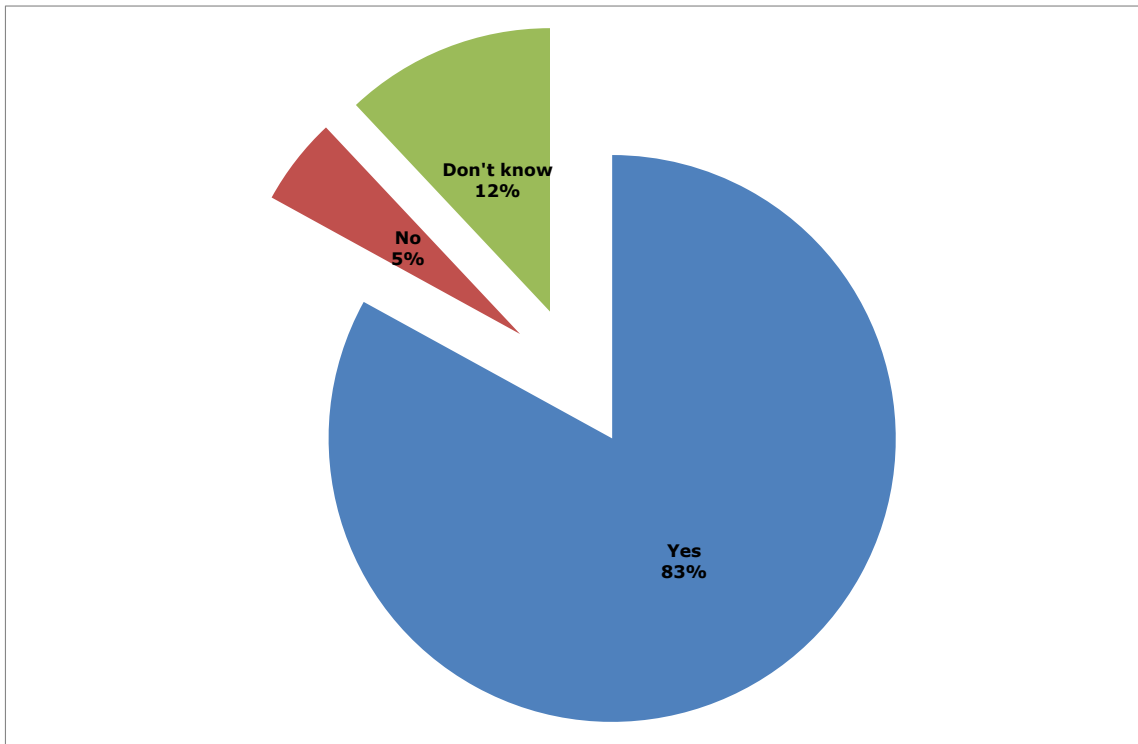
1.12. Those that answered 'Other Livestock Market' or 'Other' were asked to specify what they would do if the Louth Market was not available. A list is detailed below, responses included:

- We would have to re-evaluate the need for livestock and a shepherd on the estate.
- Sell privately
- Would sell up as costs would be too high
- Would have to go up country to find a TB4 area
- We like locally sourced stock for our customers and that is what we would continue to do

- Sell direct off farm i.e. farm press ads
- Hull
- Too far to travel. I would sell up. All cattle.
- Unsure
- York Market
- Local butchers if possible.
- There is no realistic alternative to auction markets for the type of cattle that we produce. Without the market we would consider closing our cattle enterprise. Newark market is under threat, and other markets are too far to travel
- As ELDC are custodians of Louth Market it should be renovated for the farmers of Lincolnshire, not sold off to benefit all the suggestions in option 2. Sell the land on the industrial estate to do these things.
- Box scheme
- Hull and York
- Use Boston abattoir and sub contract a butcher to prepare our meat and sell direct to public via Farm Shop
- Sell direct to buyer
- I would give up keeping cattle, most likely plough up the grass if possible.
- Not economically viable to take our stores to Newark, Melton or Selby. Would have to sell stores privately and risk not receiving market value.
- Bakewell
- Otley
- York Market
- Probably have to take pigs to Newark which involves a great deal more mileage and time.
- We would be forced to go out of livestock business and look at being arable or selling up. Newark is too far and in a 1 year TB testing zone.
- Privately direct to another farmer
- I won't go into TB infested areas
- I would stop production if the market closes.
- No transfer to other Livestock Markets. Try to sell livestock privately or consider no livestock at all
- If the farming community did not meet at the market in LOUTH then there would not be anywhere for us to run our healthcare service from.
- We would have to try via online methods
- Would have to go out of county - Lincolnshire being one of the largest counties, what a disgrace if the Council take this option from the rural community.

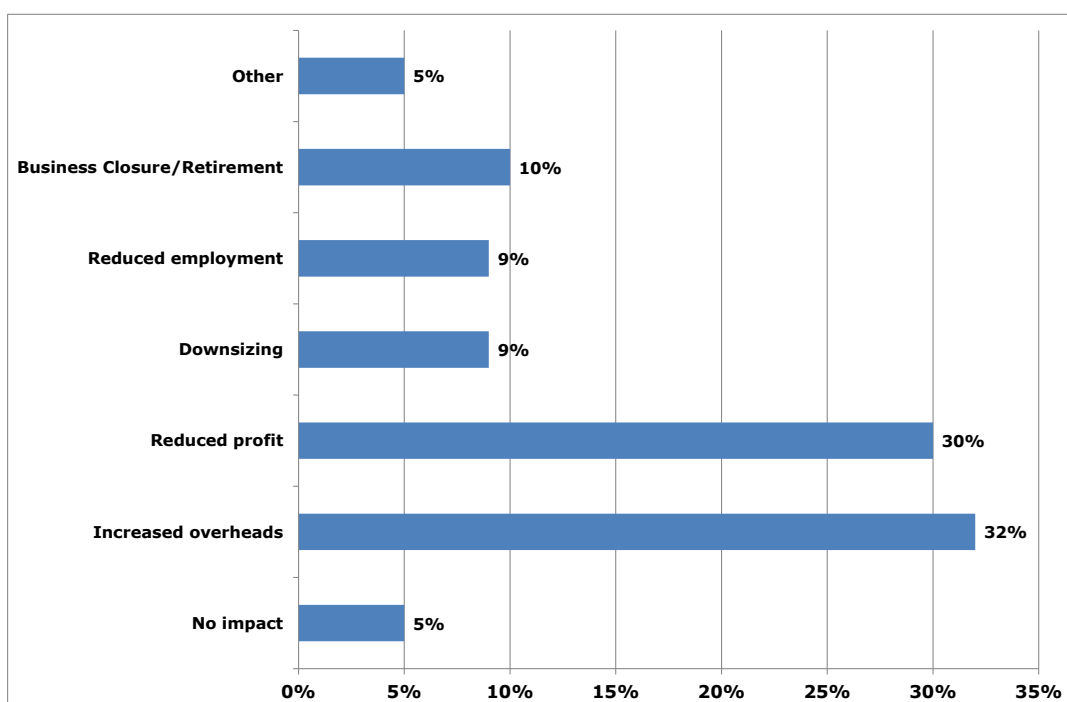
- I really don't know what route to take should the market close. We breed some cattle ourselves and supply R S Wisby butchers in Wragby and Horncastle with basically all their beef. We don't breed enough to keep him supplied, so buy many store cattle from Louth, we keep around 100 head. We currently sell our drupe cows through Louth, so would send them direct to Woolley Bros in Sheffield. We need to source cattle from the low risk Tb zone however and all the markets you have identified above are in the edge zone and are therefore not really suitable to buy from. Hexham in Northumberland and Ashford in Kent, are the only weekly store markets in the Low risk area I can find. As France has virtually no markets many cattle from Northern France come through Ashford which brings further complication. Not that we want to be sourcing cattle from the South coast anyway. Please consider this very carefully, Louth is a very important market in the current climate, unfortunately it is being constantly compared to the above. It has never been the huge centres they are, isn't now and never will be. Please don't take the view it doesn't have as many cattle or sheep as Newark so close it. You wouldn't say Spar is not a serious retailer because it is not as big as Tesco or Asda. The comparison would be the same and their inclusion above is a worryingly direct comparison.
- Online
- Louth Cattle Market. Welfare of cattle and cost and time.
- As a small producer, market closure would make it un-economic to travel to other markets with small numbers of stock so sheep production would end. Cattle would be sold privately.
- Not have livestock anymore
- Not sure with increased costs, doubt on animal welfare at other sites. Probably decide to stop being a livestock farmer with direct financial impact to local businesses and land owners.
- We would need to go to Northumberland or Scotland to get TB free market.
- Skipton
- Buy, sell privately
- Norwich
- Dunswell, East Yorks.
- Internet based sites selling off farm.
- Retire - markets too far for animal welfare
- We would consider packing up farming stock, as other livestock markets are a long distance away.
- If we wanted to carry on farming we would not have a choice. It would be costly to our business in expenses & time. I wouldn't want to go that far out. What choice would I have?

1.13. 83% of all respondents considered they would continue to use a Livestock Market in Louth if a new build facility was based on the Fairfield Industrial Estate in Louth, 5% considered they 'Would not,' with the remaining 12% considering they 'Did not know'.



1.14. Those respondents that answered 'Yes' at 1.13 were asked how often they expected they would use the new facility. 82% of all respondents stated there would be 'No change', 17% stated they would use it 'More often', with the remaining 2% stated they would use the new facility 'Less often'.

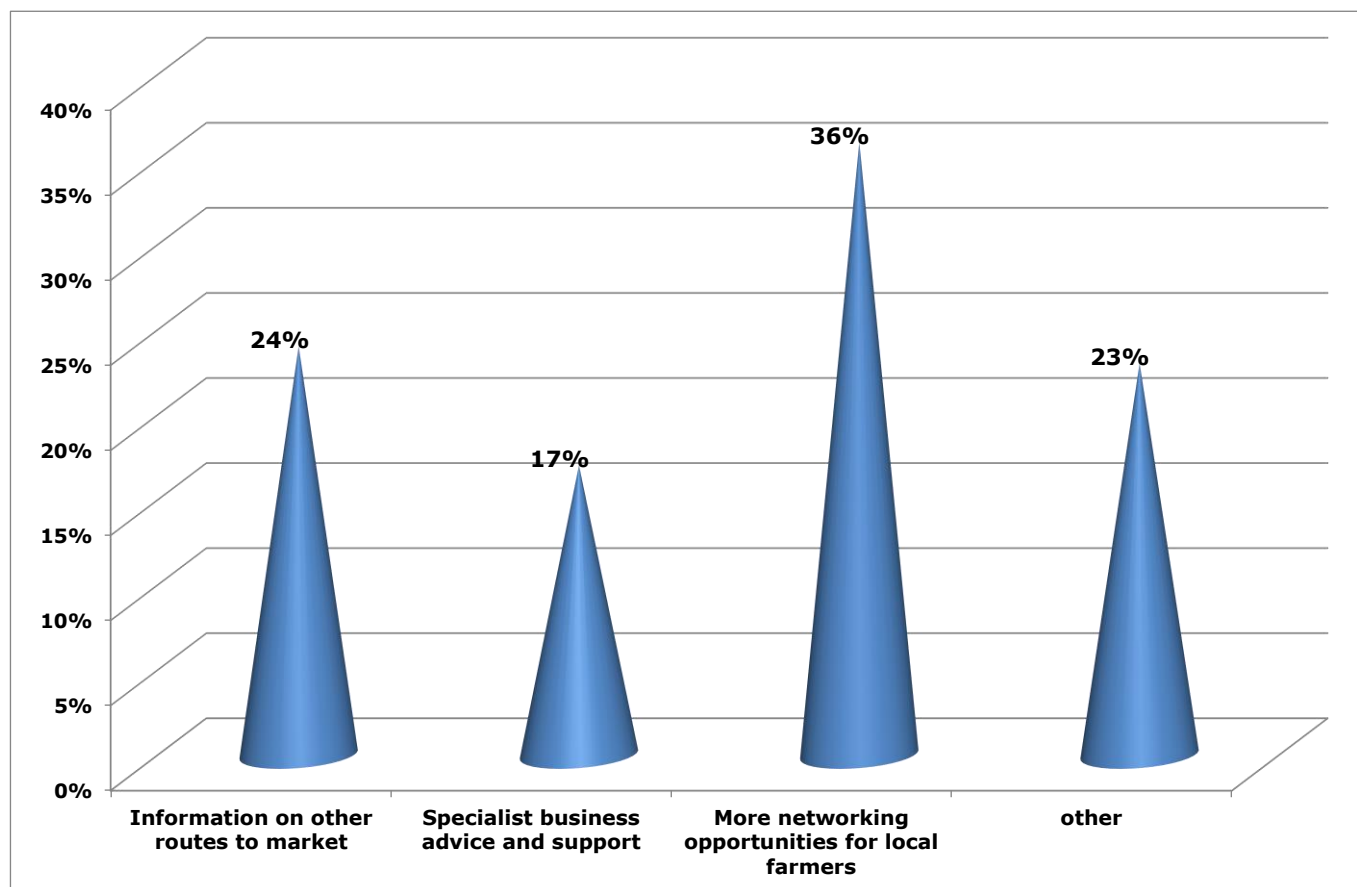
1.15. The chart below shows what all respondents considered the direct impact would be on their businesses if the current market was suspended from the 31st December 2017.



1.16. Those respondents that stated 'Other' at 1.15 above were asked to provide details. A full list is included below.

- We would most likely stop having any livestock
- Detrimental to Agriculture in the area
- The nearest markets to Boston on Thursdays are Thrapston approx. 60 miles. Thirsk Nth. Yorks.120 miles.
- If the market closed I would seriously have to consider going out of livestock altogether
- The impact would be less local food and a lot more food miles and stress on the animals
- The obvious question for farmers is to do with the big increase in travelling distance to market our stock, especially for the coastal and marsh farmers.
- Loss of buyers
- Impossible to predict
- Would probably have to consider either increasing or decreasing scale of current livestock enterprise to justify travel to either more distant markets or more distant abattoirs. District not well served for abattoirs so if lose market would substantially increase costs of taking livestock to dead or live market.
- As a lifelong farmer selling & purchasing cattle, Louth has got all I need, very sad to lose it
- Possible end of business.
- Negative impact on animal welfare due to increased transit distance Disconnection of important business contacts. Loss of important local price transparency. Loss of social contacts and networking
- Animal welfare would be compromised, and we would be more isolated.
- Possible disposal of flock as it would not be viable to move small numbers 60+ miles.
- Lose confidence in ELDC commitment to developing a business offer in East Lindsey
- Travel to other market
- Animal welfare
- Severe mental blow, another shot at farmers managing landscape
- Purchase of store cattle in Lincolnshire - Local market - Low risk area for TB
- Increase in transport costs
- May be forced to stop livestock production.
- Farmers attending the market come into the practice to collect medicines, etc.
- I would lose my job as a nurse at LRSN. The farmers would lose the opportunity to have easy to access healthcare provision and social support.
- Livestock business will not be viable will close and put 4 people out of work a greater burden to e l d c
- One less meeting place and option to buy good stock
- Would consider business closure if no Louth market
- If market closed I would have to consider either retire or look for alternative means of income
- Less choice for marketing our Livestock.
- The closure of the market for any length of time would be hugely detrimental and would almost certainly lead to permanent closure.
- Less competition in the marketing of live animals; would impact on sale values. Greater transport costs to Newark market; greater stress for animals in transit; greater carbon footprint
- To travel with stock to other markets I would have to take a special test because of the distance to transport stock.
- Yet another historical venue gone

1.17. The chart below shows what support or transitional arrangements respondents felt would help to sustain their businesses if the Louth Livestock Market was suspended from the 31st December 2017.



1.18. Those respondents that stated 'Other' at 1.17 above were asked to provide details of what support or transitional arrangements would help their business if the Louth Livestock Market was suspended from the 31st December 2017. A full list is detailed below.

- None of the above would sustain our business
- Not interested as Lincolnshire needs a Market outlet not more money into the Coastal strip!!
- Well I would sell up the livestock if it was to shut
- Direct support payments from ELDC to cover increased transportation overheads
- Compensation for the loss of an excellent facility for the farming community.
- You could not help.
- Would stop producing livestock
- I feel that closure of the market is NOT an option
- There is no need to close the market the site needs re-jigging. If the site isn't there what are specialist supports going to do. I think the council have lost enough in Louth already let it go back to the hub of the town
- You are not suspending the market; you are proposing the permanent closure, which would be a tragedy for Louth, and surrounding areas
- None, we need a local market.
- A livestock bus from Louth to Newark or Selby each week?(half joking)
- Would need more than support, it would be devastating to local farmers.
- None. Louth market is VITAL.
- Another livestock market in Louth.
- A partner scheme to collect stock locally and deliver in one truck to Newark or similar.
- None of these would help

- We are happy with the cattle market where it is. Never mind asking support of transitional arrangements would help. Just keep the existing cattle market open. Stop scare mongering.
- There is no support you can offer other than keeping the market open.
- No transitional arrangements would help; the only thing that would help would be to keep the Louth Livestock Market going.
- My business would shut
- The charter states there will be a market so we will use it every week, auction co or not it is our rights!
- I would be interested in supporting the building of a new market facility. Including assisting with provision of funding and Professional work.
- If the market closes we will probably stop keeping cattle, all the point mentioned above regarding support and transitional relief are rubbish and a complete waste of money.
- I would have to fund private arrangements.
- How can support replace the work of generations?
- Money to put towards the haulage of the cattle to other markets further away
- Would use more local markets
- Complete lack of confidence in the market ever reopening if current market is suspended.
- No idea as all our planning only involves Louth market
- Deny access to an open auction market.
- Why class as only livestock market in Lincolnshire
- Considering the outcry over animal welfare and travelling miles there is no alternate to this local market
- You would destroy our business!!
- I would expect anything because no one supports young farmers, it's all about money, not keeping heritage going!
- Aggregated haulage from a collection centre at the market site to allow vendors to sell at Selby or Newark; pool transport costs and reduce the number of vehicles on the road with low numbers of stock on board.
- There are none and this question prejudices against Option 3
- Closing Louth Market is not a viable option
- Closing Louth Market is not a viable option
- Because of the size of my fields, I would have to apply to either have the fields for building on or solar/ wind farm.
- If the market closed for any length of time it would be irreversibly damaging to our business.
- Free transport!! To cover additional costs
- Do not close the market!
- There is no substitute for the services it offers financially and psychologically.
- Nothing can substitute for the market.

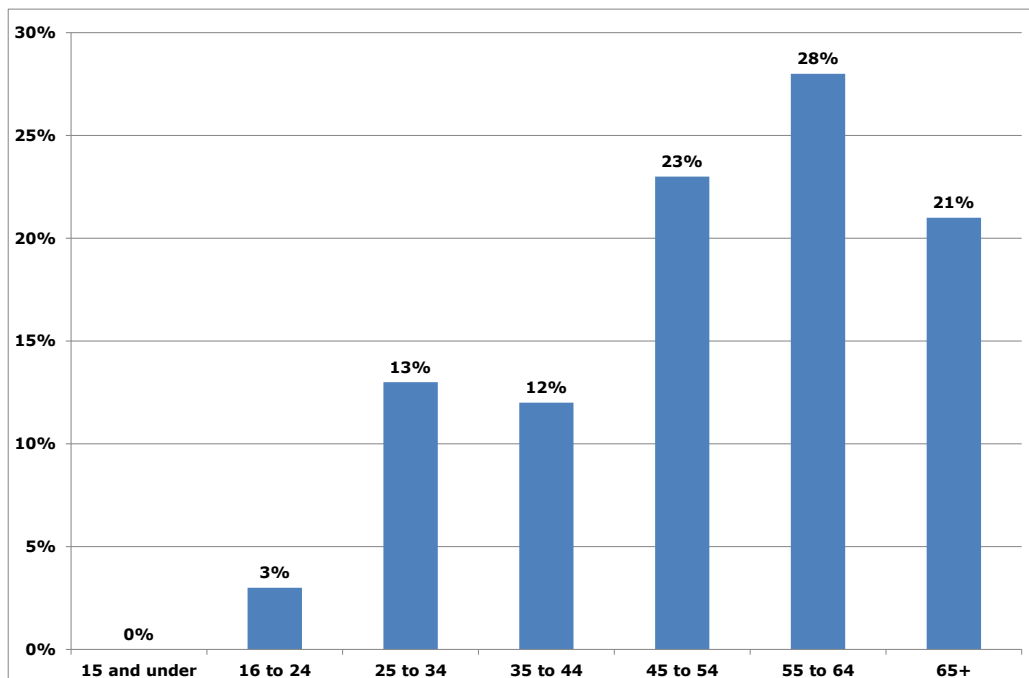
1.19. All respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments that they considered would help the Council in reaching a decision on the future of Livestock Market provision in Louth. The following themes emerged (the % is the % of comments made in response to the survey that raised the particular theme).

- Negative impact on the farming community if a Livestock Market facility is no longer provided (including health) (14%)
- Concerns over travel times to other markets and financial impact (12%)
- The Livestock Market is not just a place to sell but also to socialise and talk about similar issues (12%)
- Consolidate the site - the sheep pens could be relocated leaving an area of the site for redevelopment. (12%)
- Concerns over animal welfare (9%)

All comments made can be viewed at
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/livestockmarketresponse

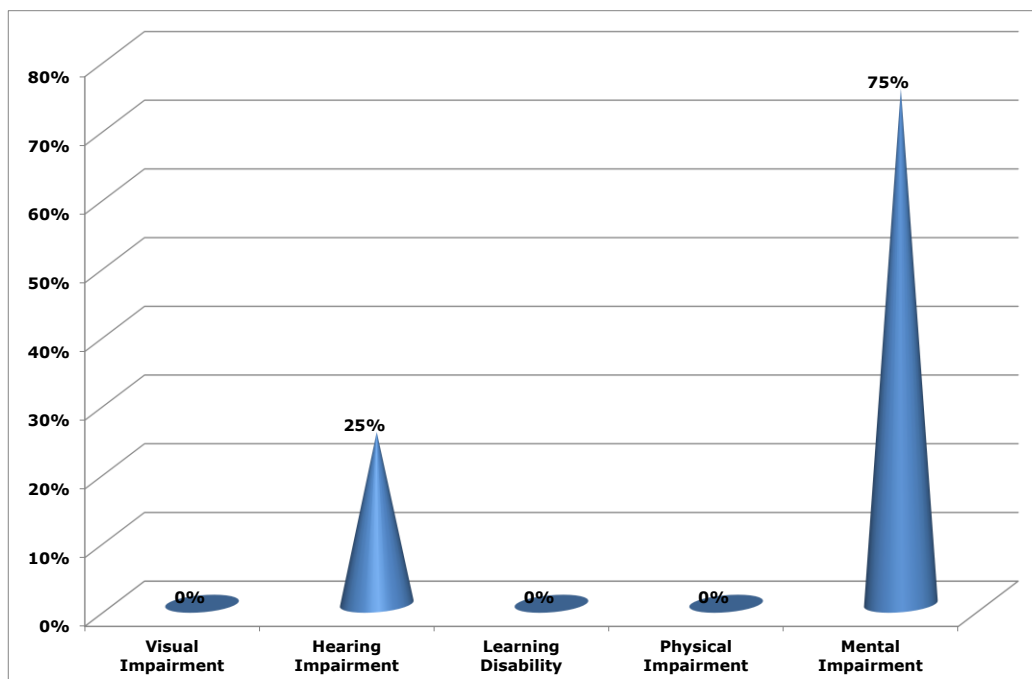
2.0. Respondent Profile

2.1. The chart below shows the most popular age group to use the Louth Livestock Market are the '55 to 64' age group



2.2. 5% of all respondents considered they had a disability.

2.3. Those respondents that had a disability were asked what type of disability they had. The chart below shows that 75% of those respondents have a 'Mental Impairment'.



2.4. 81% of all respondents were male, with the remaining 19% being female.