



Report for LTP2 Transport Forums:

October 2005

Prepared by Transport Policy, Environment and Transport Directorate – December 2005



Summary of Results

- There was general endorsement for the package of transport objectives, however, greater focus of scheme delivery was requested to address 'local' issues.
- Considering the issues by 'theme' identified Quality of Life and Accessibility to be of primary concern across the county.
- Aggregating 'votes' for specific issues prioritised: -
 - a) Road Safety concerns for cyclists, pedestrians, older people and children.
 - b) Quality of Life issues concerned with inappropriate traffic negatively impacting communities, increasing numbers of HGVs travelling through Suffolk and severance of communities by heavily trafficked routes.
 - c) Accessibility via public transport, surrounding the poor co-ordination of services at interchanges and the lack of 'through-ticketing' options.

Voting on LTP2 budget allocations prioritised Public Transport as the most popular area of investment.

(Maintenance, Congestion and Air Quality were considered to be of lower importance, although it may be that these are not an issue at the moment due to the substantial investment in the maintenance programme and the perceptions of individuals regarding congestion and air quality issues.)

- Workshop discussions regarding Quality of Life were focused predominantly around the Environment, Public Transport, Lorry Management, Pavements and Speed.

Background

Suffolk County Council (SCC) has been consulting on the second Local Transport Plan for the period 2006-2011 (commonly referred to as LTP2) throughout its development. This report details the results of the latest round of consultation, namely the 'Suffolk Transport Forums 2005', which took place throughout October with events held at Needham Market, Hadleigh, Felixstowe, Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft.

The consultation events, based on Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) boundaries, were publicised at SCCs Budget Roadshow throughout September and October and via press release. As a result, attendance totalled 146 for all six events. Attendees comprised mostly town and parish councils, with additional representation from district and borough councils and a number of action groups and members of the public.

The Transport Forums

The events were scheduled for two hours and comprised: -

1. A short presentation detailing SCCs developed transport objectives and targets, anticipated LTP2 funding and performance measurement.
2. Workshop in four parts: -
 - i. LTP2 Objectives
 - ii. Prioritisation of transport issues
 - iii. Prioritisation of LTP2 budget allocations
 - iv. Quality of Life indicator
3. Question and answer session.

Workshop Results

LTP2 Objectives

There was general endorsement for the package of transport objectives from every event. However, greater focus of scheme delivery was requested to address 'local' issues, with the majority of comments comprising solutions for specific 'local' problems. Similar themes were being communicated though and the second part of the workshop provided greater insight into this.

Prioritisation of transport issues

Attendees confirmed the issues identified within the LTP2 development process and identified several others.

Table 1 identifies the ‘*themes*’ covered by the top three issues for each transport forum (although Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal had tied third places). Considering the results in this way indicates Quality of Life and Accessibility to be of primary concern across the county.

The aggregation of ‘*votes*’ for specific issues prioritises Road Safety concerns for cyclists, pedestrians, older people and children. Three Quality of Life issues follow, concerned with inappropriate traffic negatively impacting communities, increasing numbers of HGVs travelling through Suffolk and severance of communities by heavily trafficked routes. The fifth ranked priority issue is concerned with Accessibility via public transport, surrounding the poor co-ordination of services at interchanges and the lack of ‘through-ticketing’ options.

Table 1	Accessibility	Congestion	Quality of Life	Road Safety
East Babergh (Hadleigh)	1	-	2	-
Ipswich	1	1		1
Mid Suffolk (Needham Market)	3	-	1	-
Suffolk Coastal (Felixstowe)	1	-	3	-
Waveney (Lowestoft)	1	-	1	1
West Suffolk (Bury St Edmunds)	1	1	1	-

Charts 1 to 6 detail the results of ‘issue prioritisation’ for each transport forum and Chart 7 the countywide results, detailing the issues receiving an aggregated 50 votes or more. Charts 8 to 11 detail the priority issues by LTP2 themes.

LTP2 budget allocations

The aggregated votes identified Public Transport to be the most popular area of investment for LTP2 funds. Chart 12 details the countywide results.

Quality of Life indicator

SCC advised at the transport forums that quality of life in transport terms is often defined differently by various transport users and this was evident by the discussions that took place at each of the forums. There were many areas of quality of life explored although not all were transport related. Chart 13 details the number of comments by categories defined throughout the analysis process and Table 2 provides examples of comments by the defined categories. The categories receiving the most comments included Environment, Public Transport, Lorry Management, Pavements and Speed. Comments regarding the environment were concerned with light and noise pollution, elements considered prior to scheme implementation, and public transport is covered by a number of indicators already. Therefore, the LTP2 Quality of Life indicator proposal is for three ‘Local’ indicators concerned with Lorry Management, Pavements and Speed.

Table 2

Category	Example Comments
Environment	Ability to enjoy the benefits of a rural environment without disturbance in particular noise from road and air traffic
Lorry Management	HGV controls on rural roads
Parking	Reduce on-street parking
Pavements	Improvement of pavement maintenance. Establishment of new relevant pavements.
Personal Security	Being able to enjoy community life without concern for safety and health
Policing	Road Policing - speeding, insufficient policy of noisy modified cars, untaxed vehicles, uninsured vehicles
Public Transport	Access to Public Transport – reliability, appropriate routes and times
Services	Local services to suit local needs. Reduces transport to other places to obtain service
Speed	Reduce traffic speeds through communities to 20mph
Other	From 'being able to go where you want in your car' to 'car-free areas'

Chart 1: East Babergh Issue Prioritisation

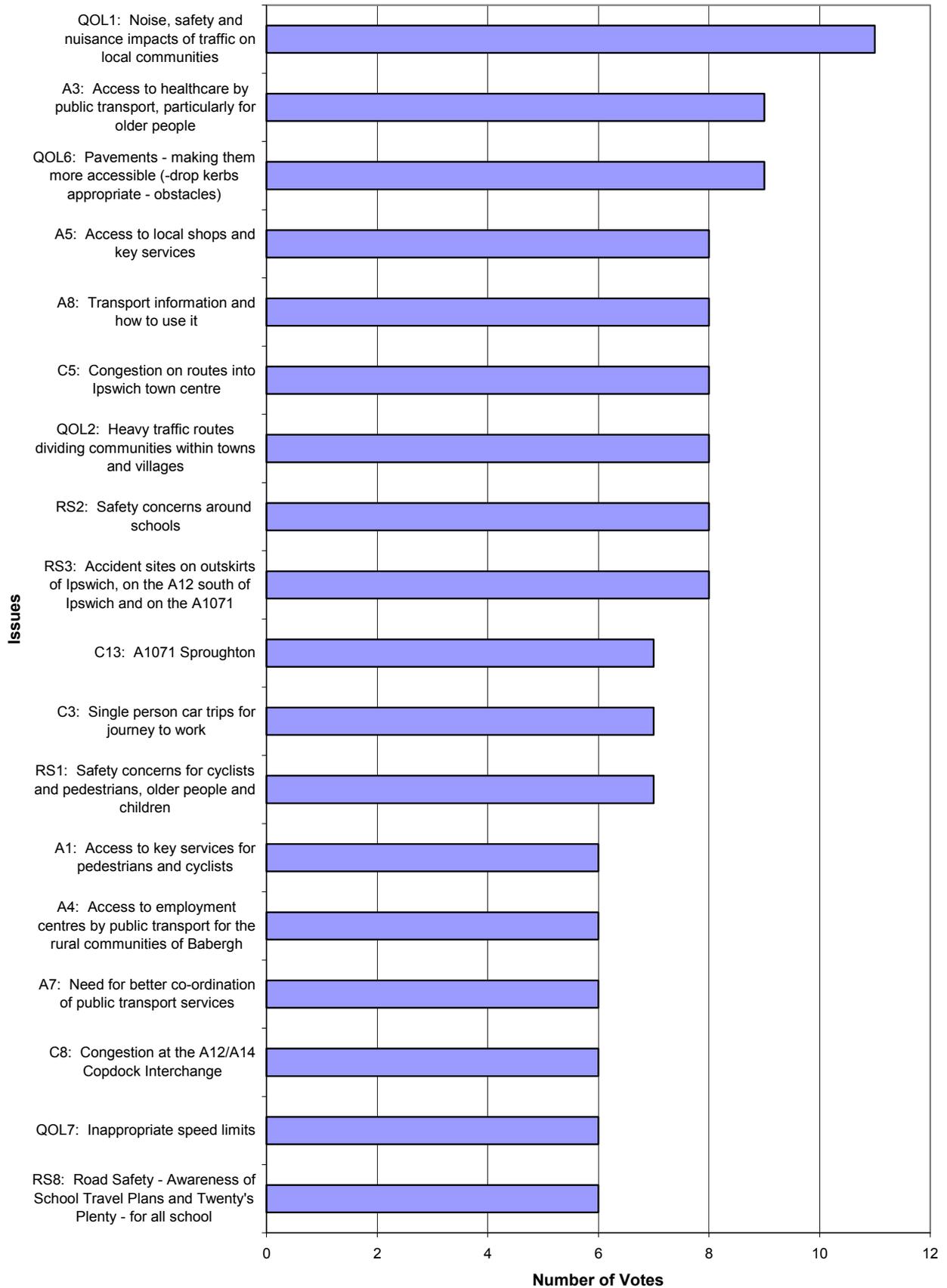


Chart 2: Ipswich Issue Prioritisation

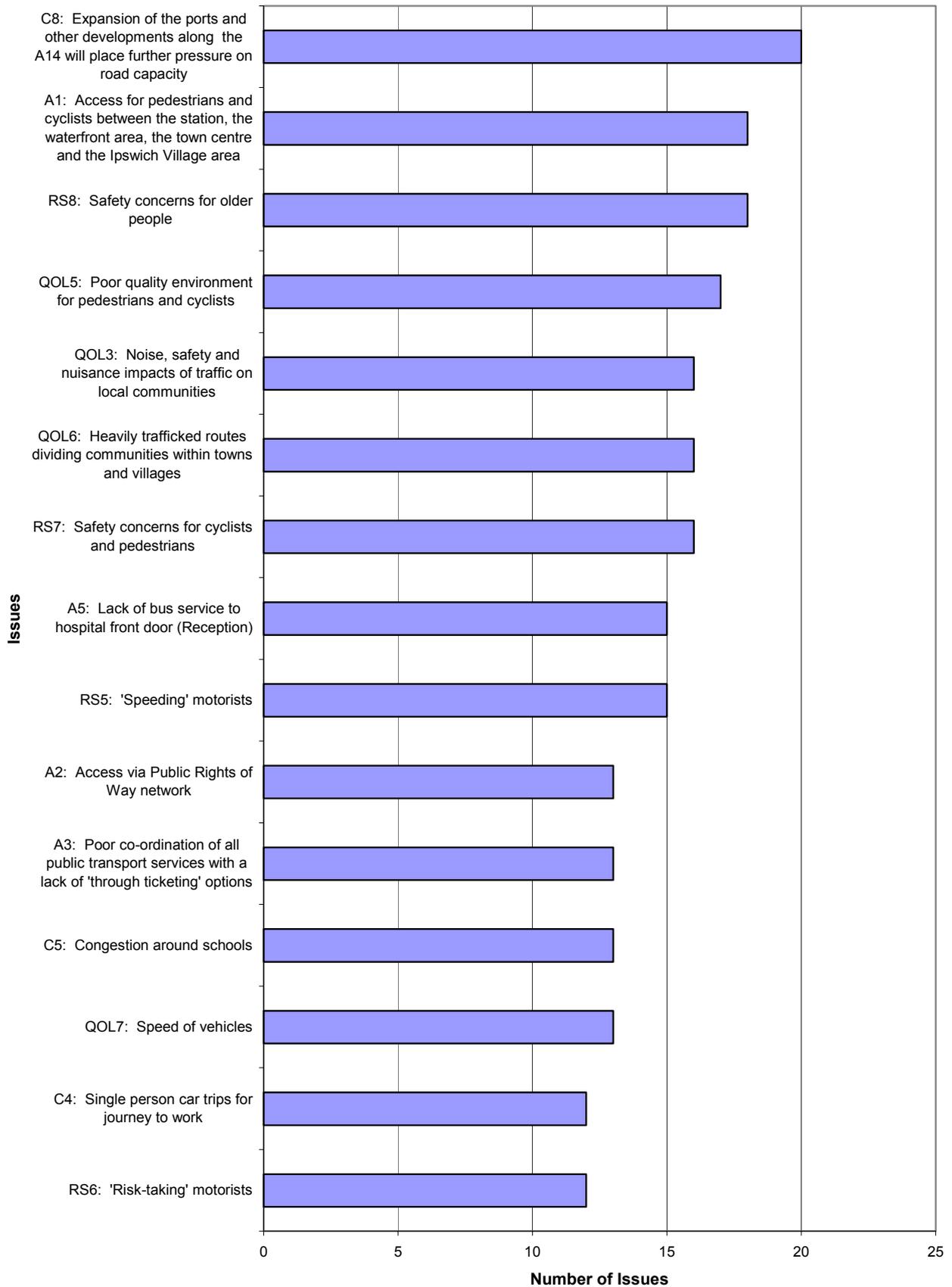


Chart 3: Mid Suffolk Issue Prioritisation



Chart 4: Suffolk Coastal Issue Prioritisation

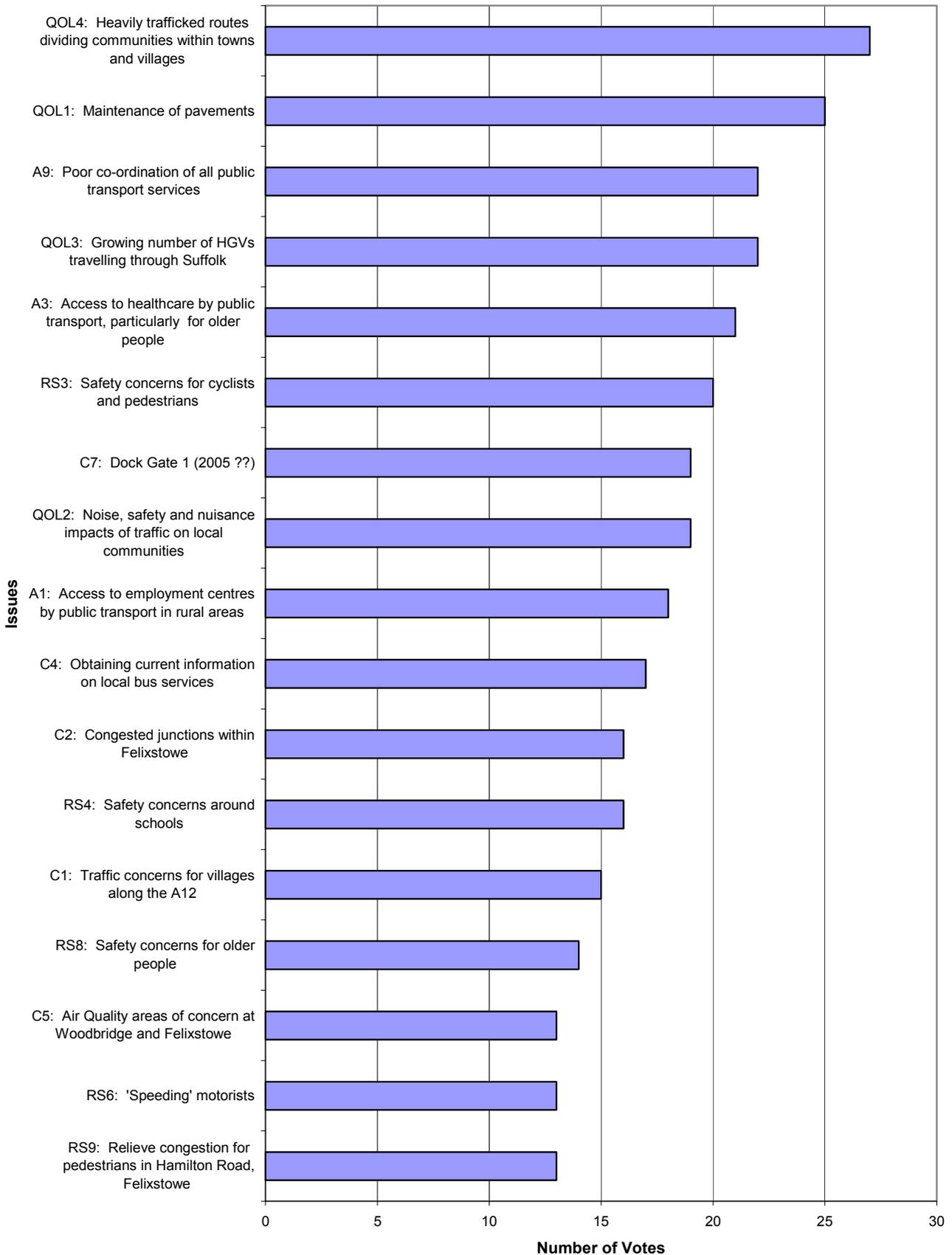


Chart 5: Waveney Issue Prioritisation

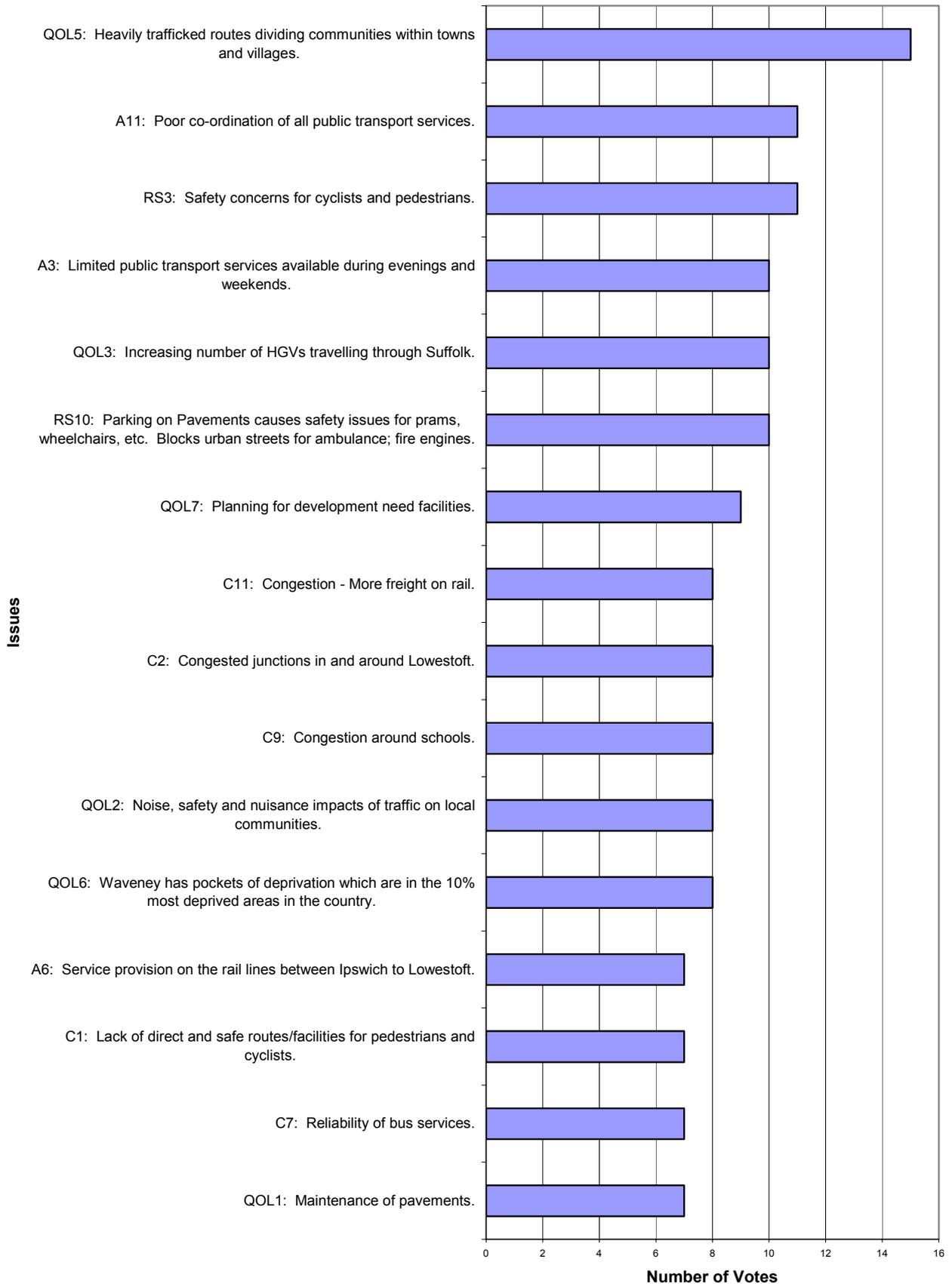


Chart 6: West Suffolk Issue Prioritisation

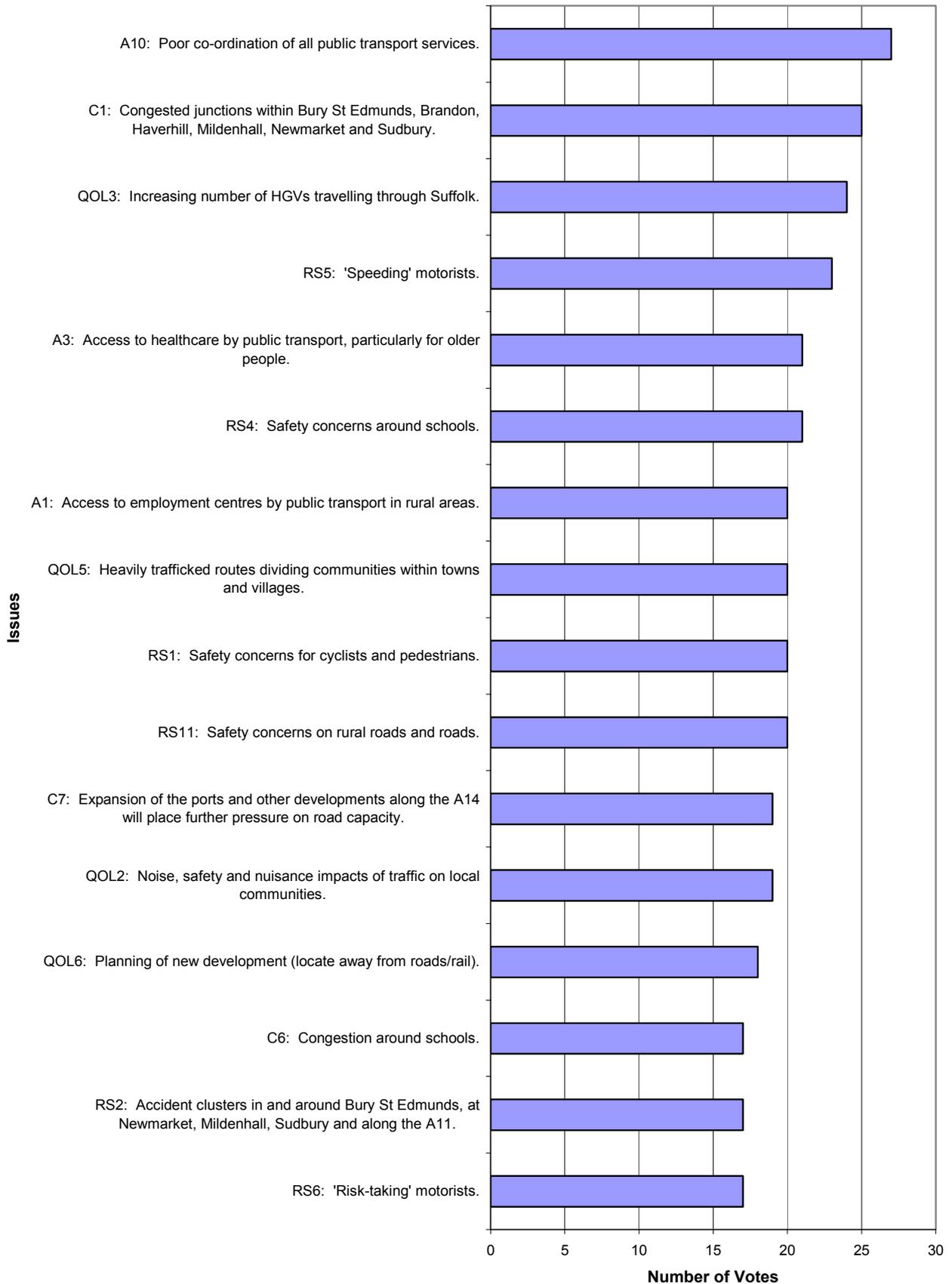


Chart 7: Issues with >50 Votes - All Themes

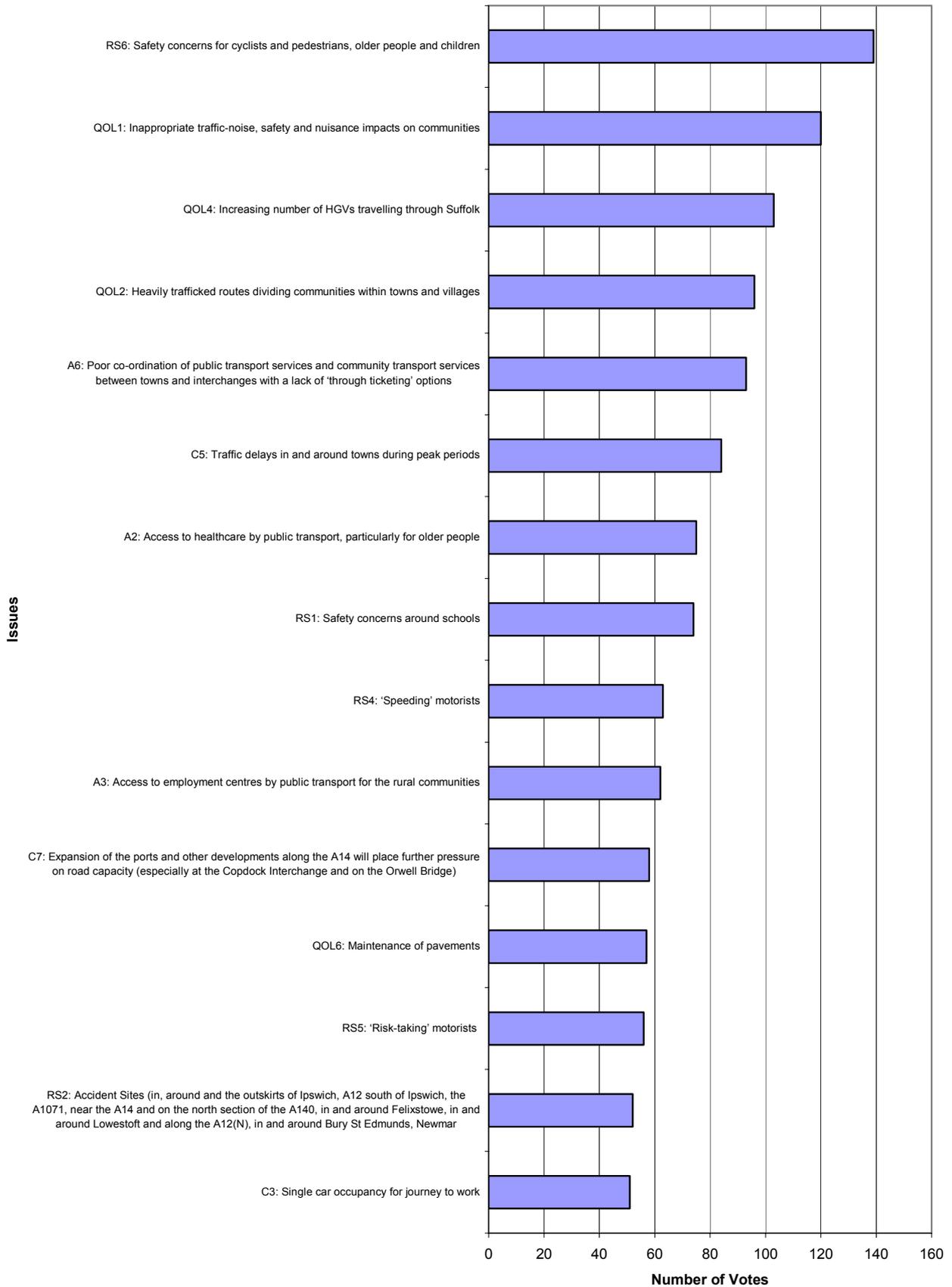


Chart 8: Priority Issues - Accessibility

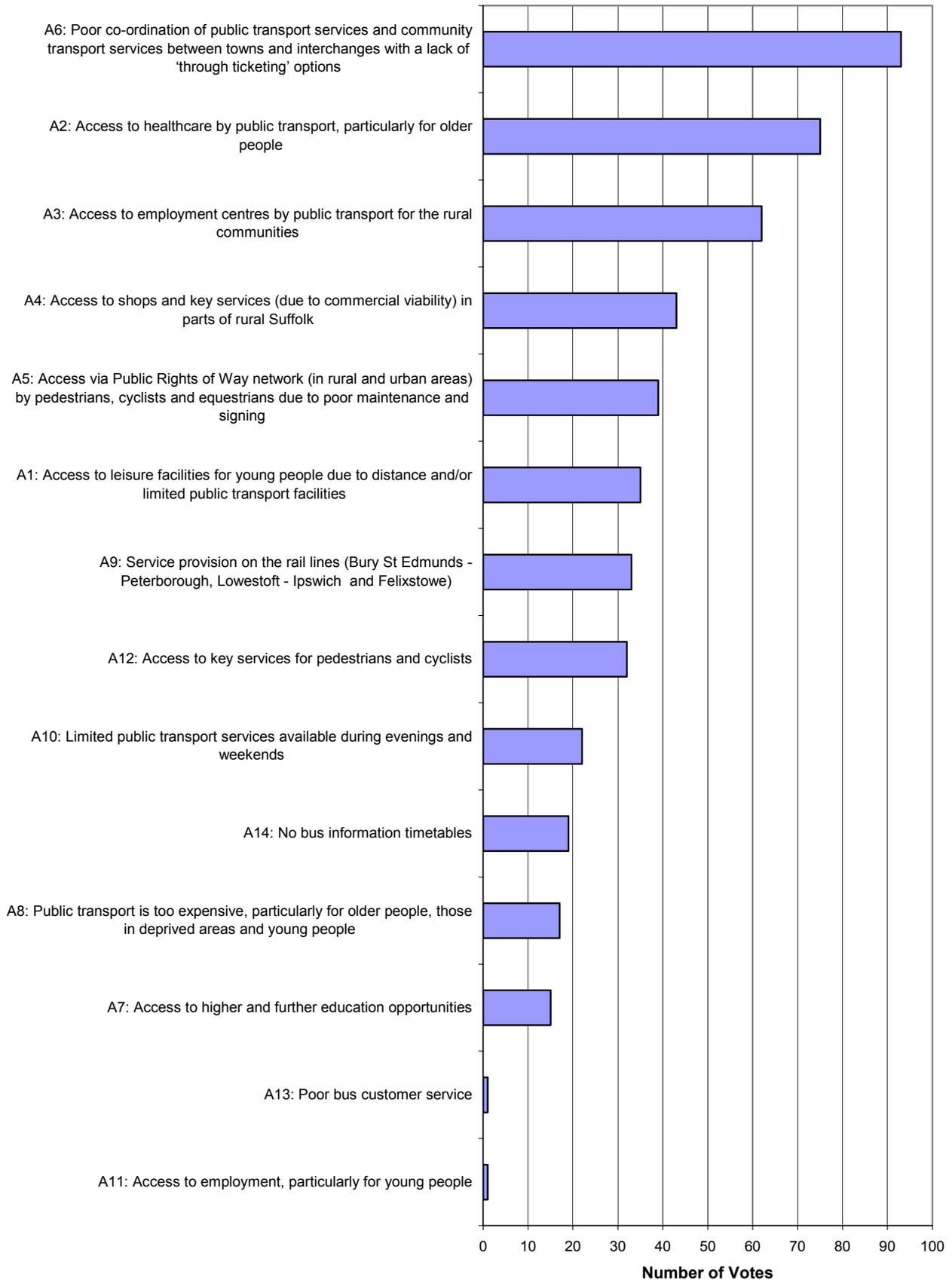


Chart 9: Priority Issues - Congestion & Air Quality

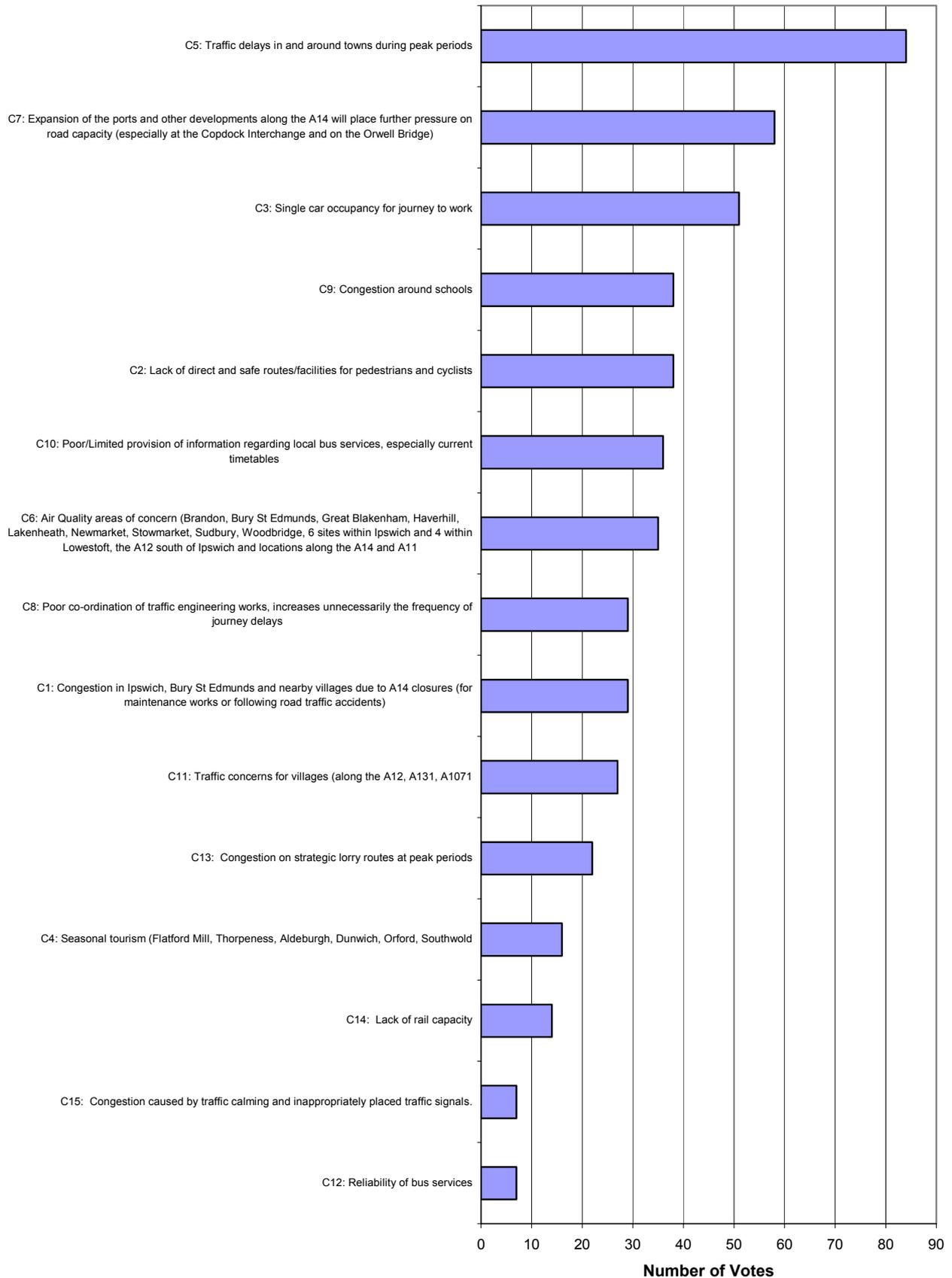


Chart 10: Priority Issues - Quality of Life

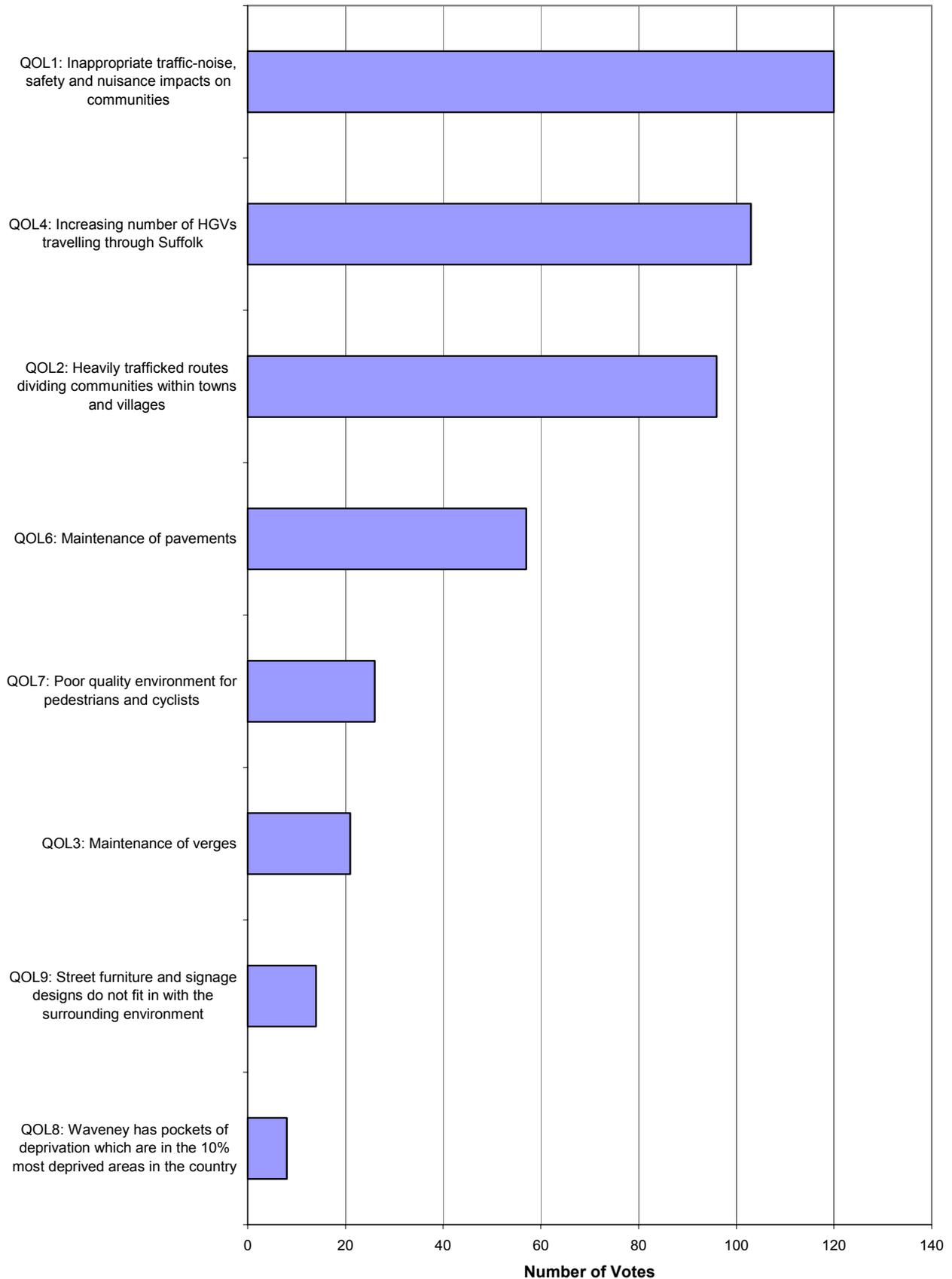


Chart 11: Priority Issues - Road Safety

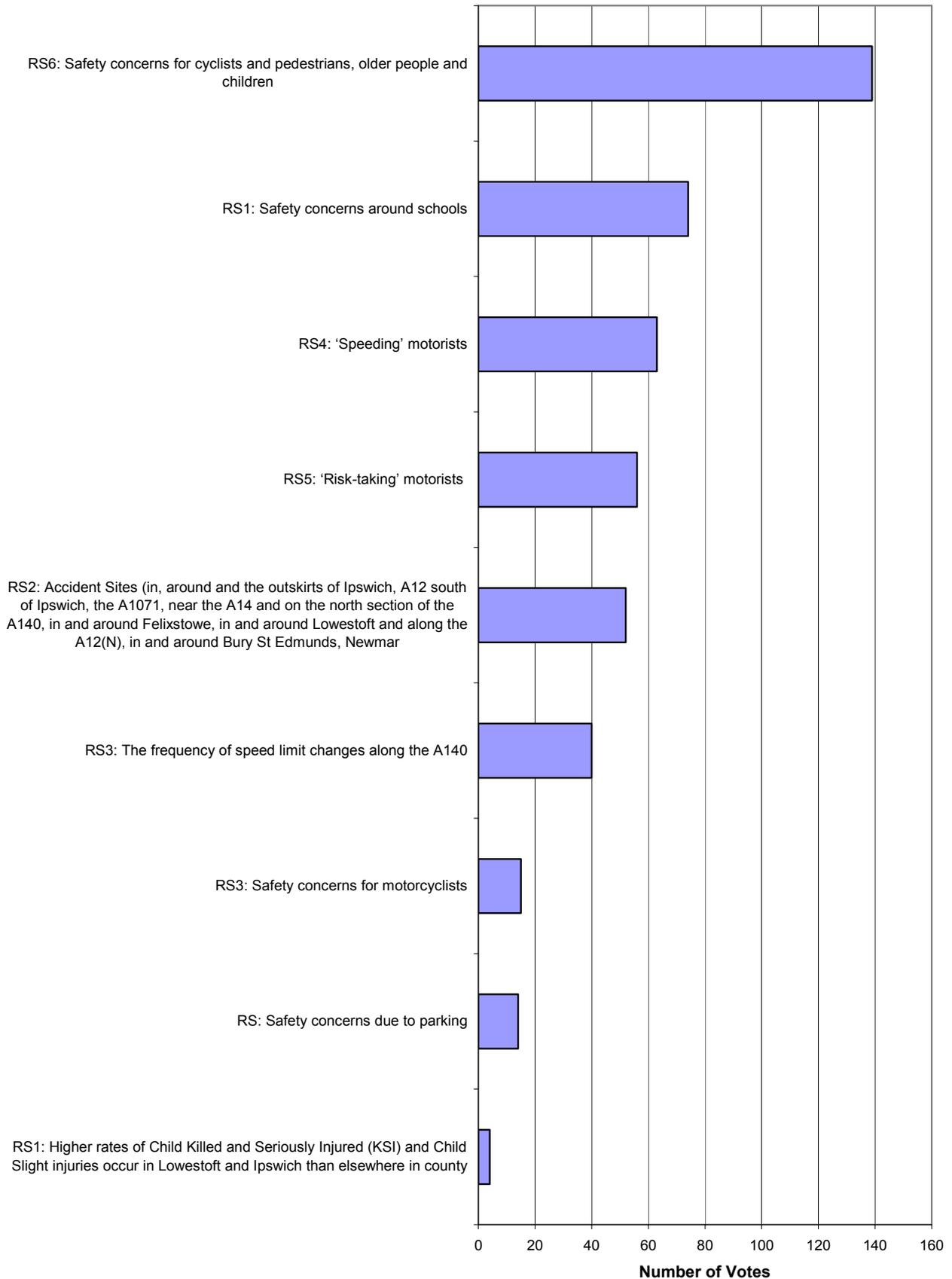


Chart 12: Theme Prioritisation for LTP2 Budget Allocation

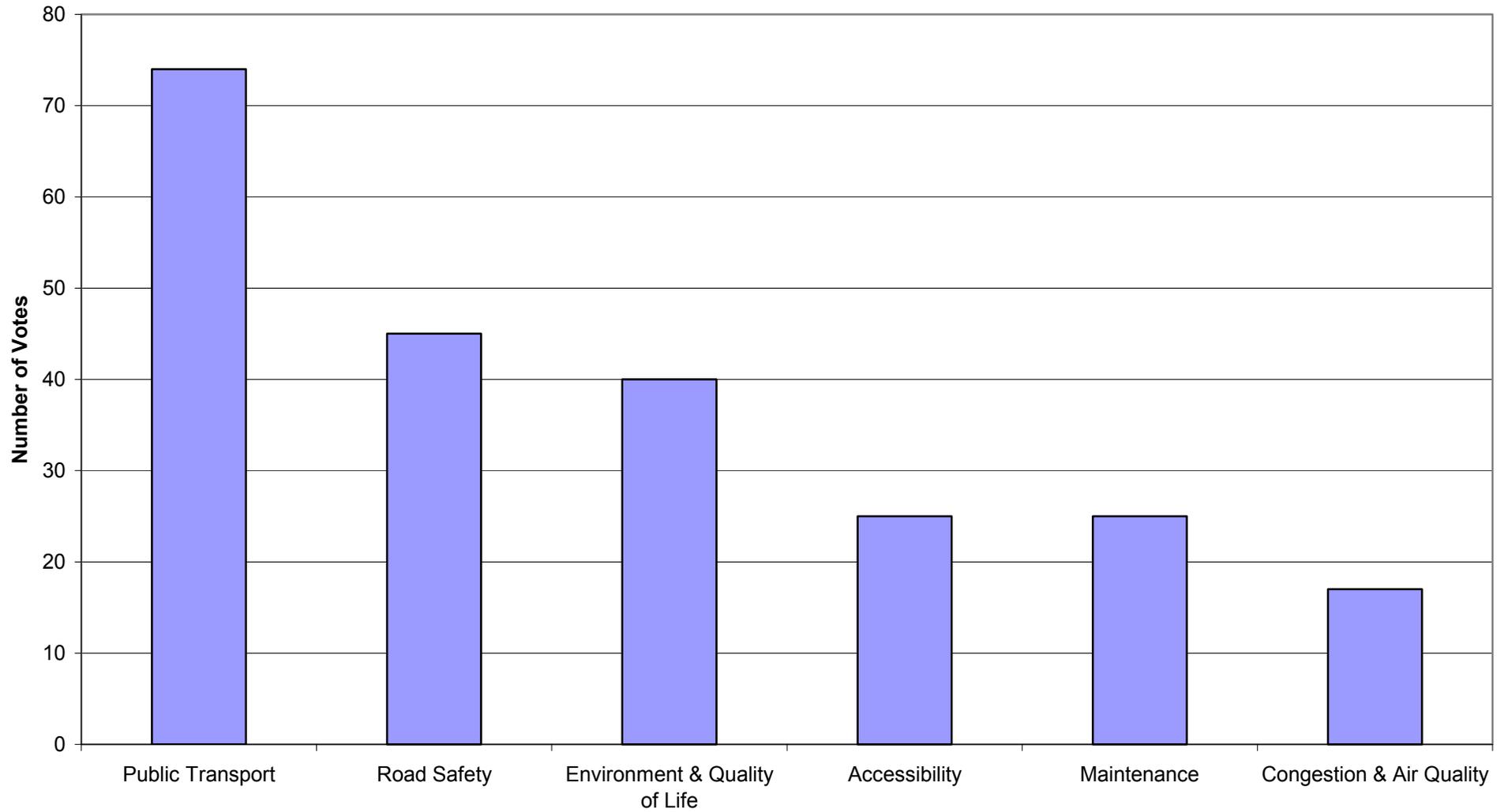


Chart 13: Quality of Life Indicator

