

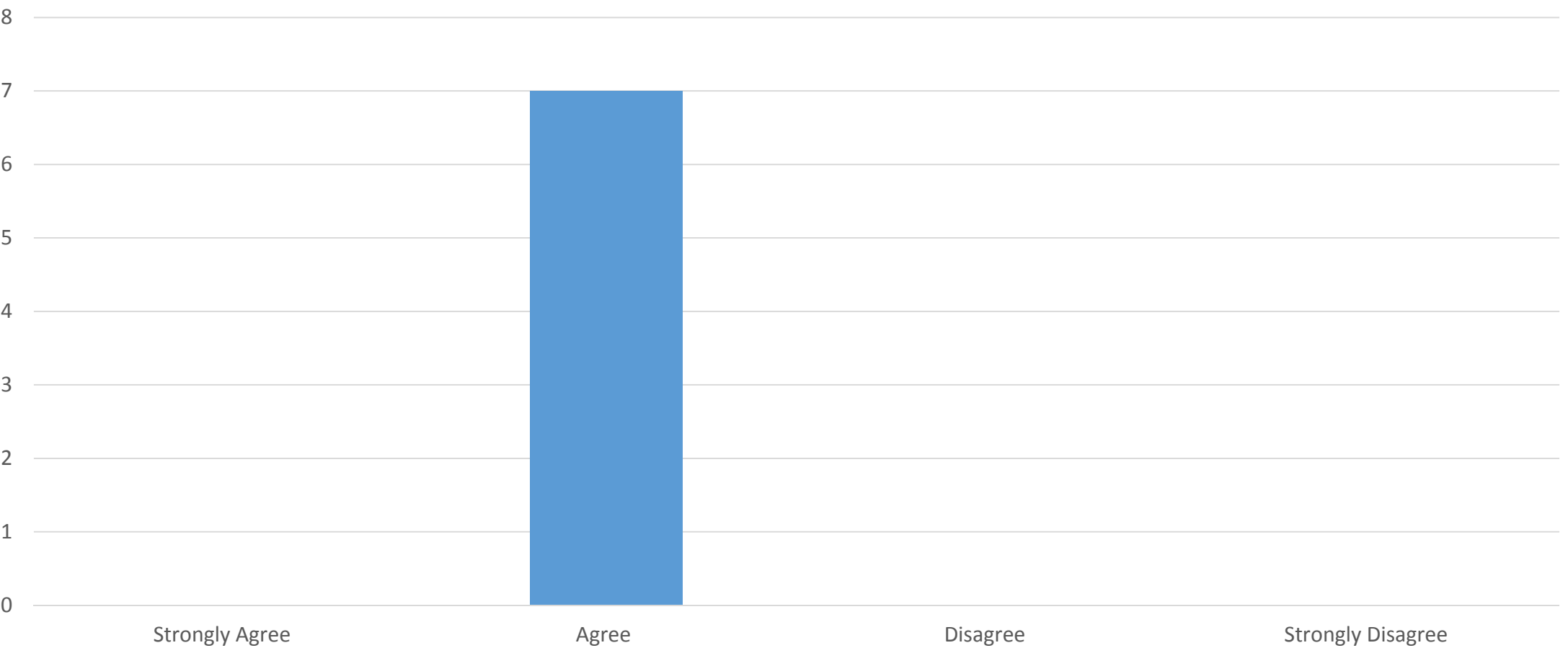
# Standards Committee

Response to Ethical Standards Questionnaire

# Response to Questionnaire

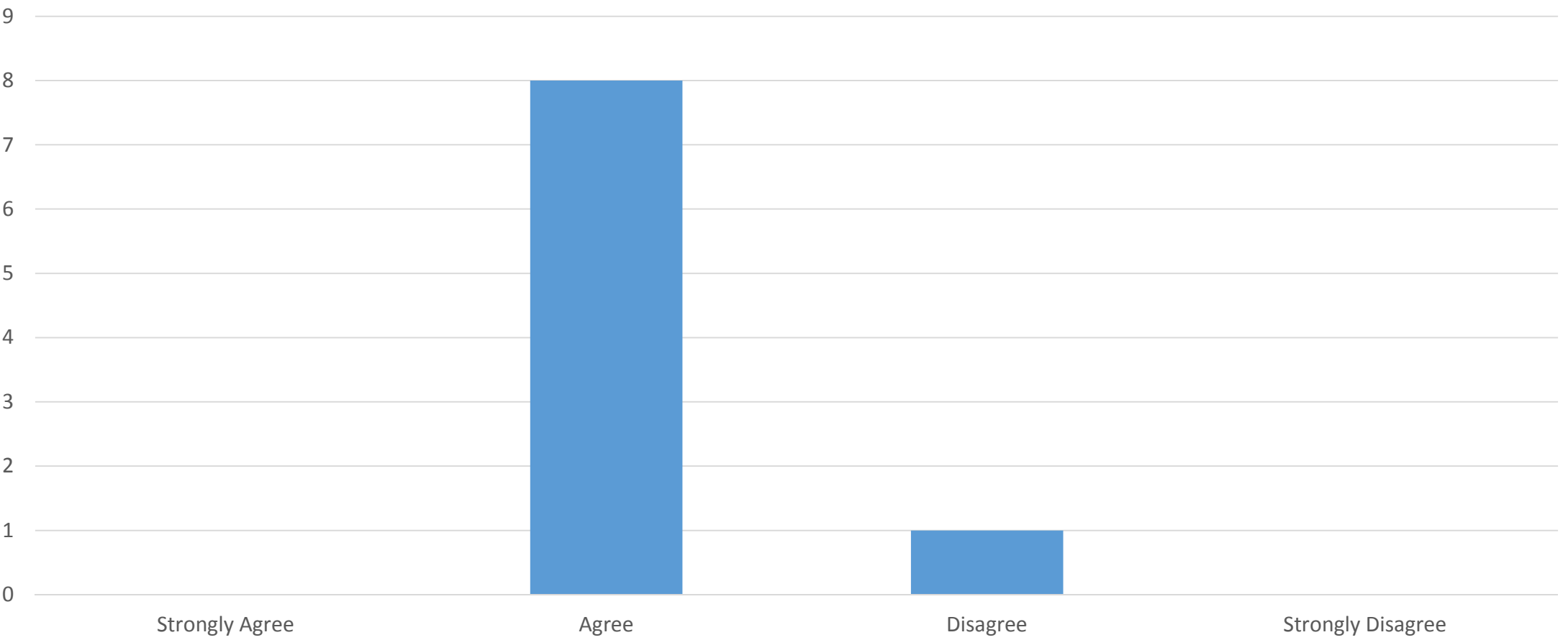
- The questionnaire was sent out to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> tier management on two occasions.
- In all 9 responses were received.
- Comments received have also been included

# Question 1: The work of the Standards Committee has a positive effect on the work of the Council



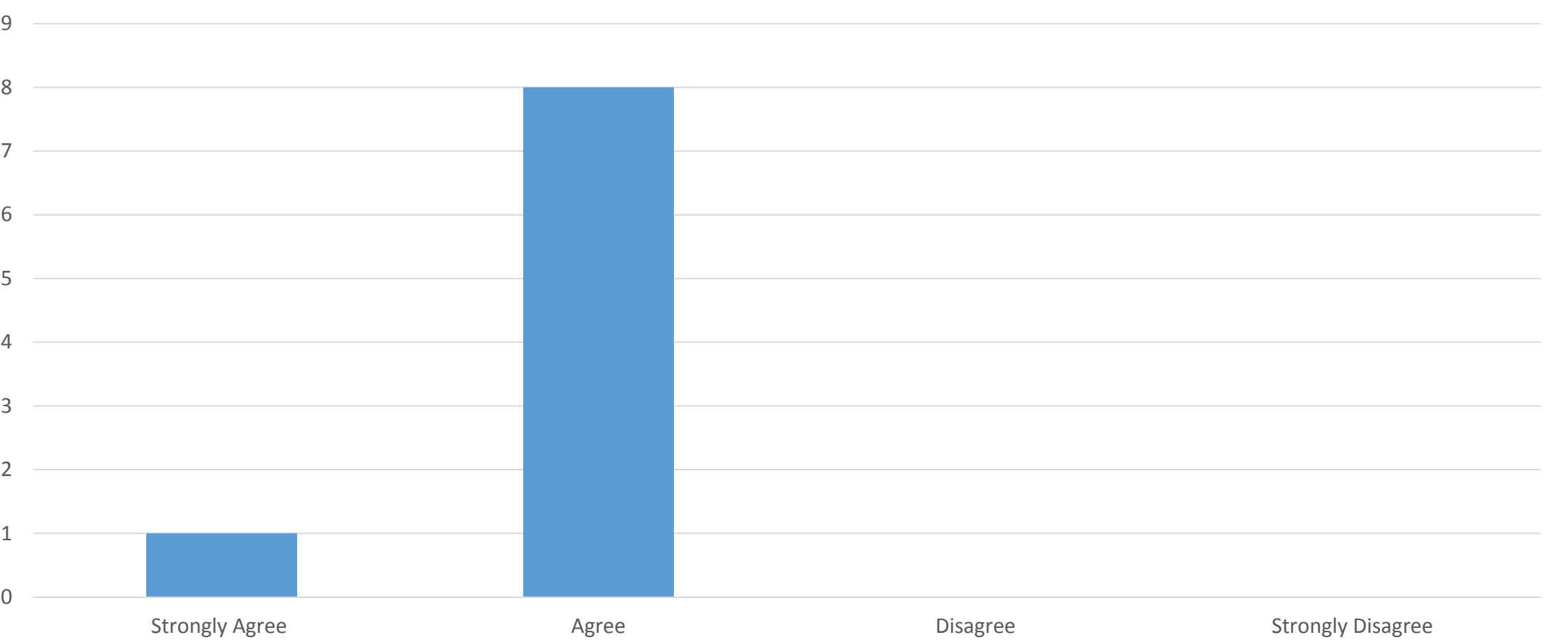
**100 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

Question 2: I believe that the public perception of the Council is that it operates in a manner that meets ethical standards



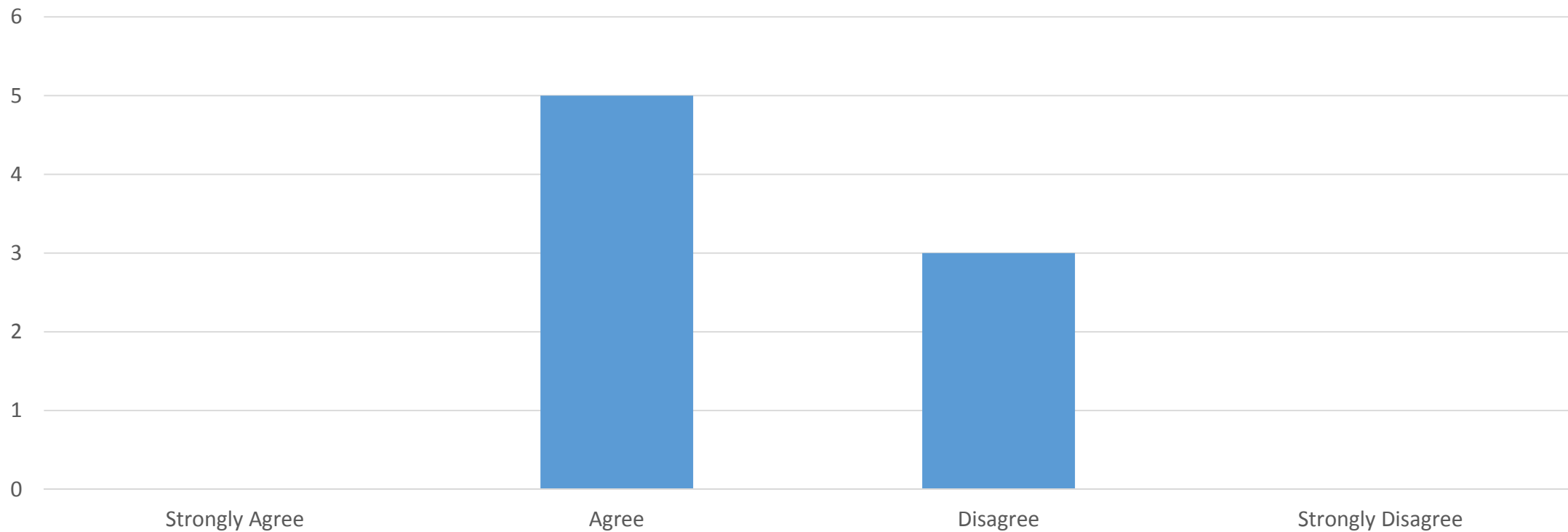
**89% of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

# Question 3: The Council has clear policies and guidance on Ethical standards



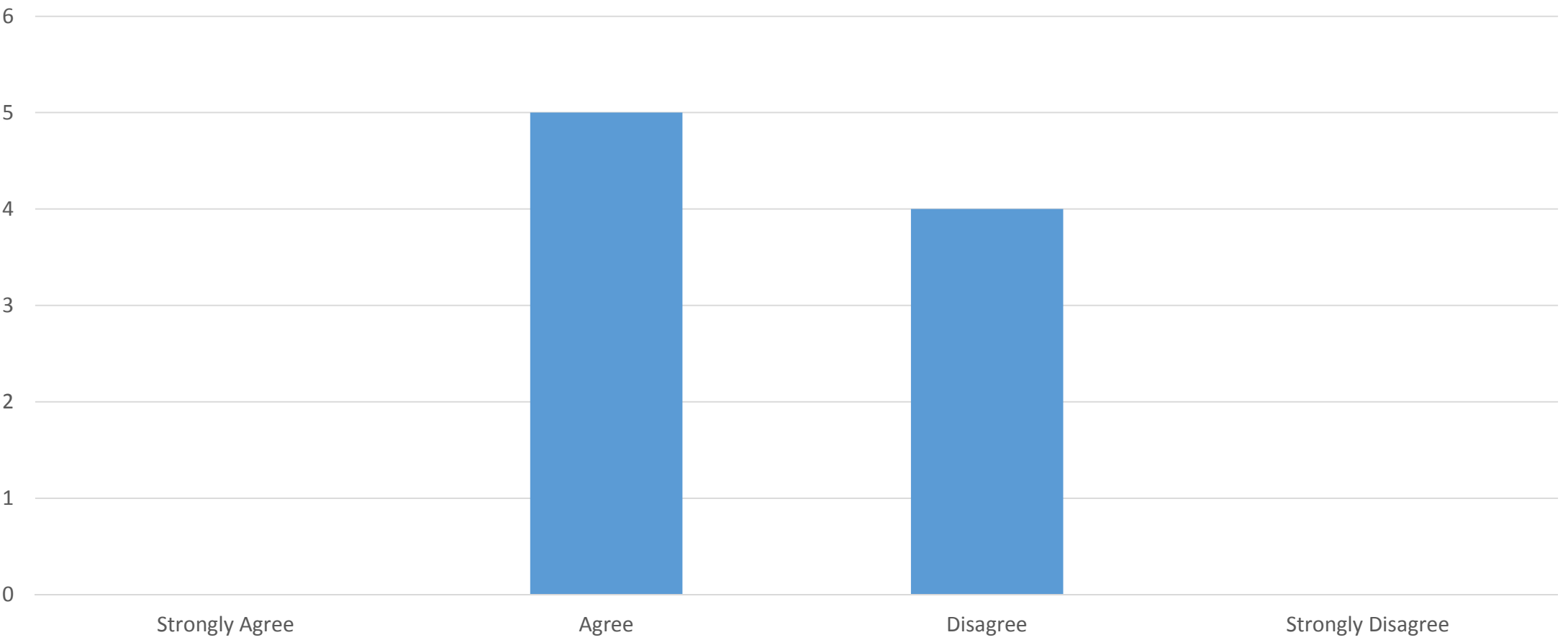
**89 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

# Question 4:There is trust and mutual respect between officers and members of the Council



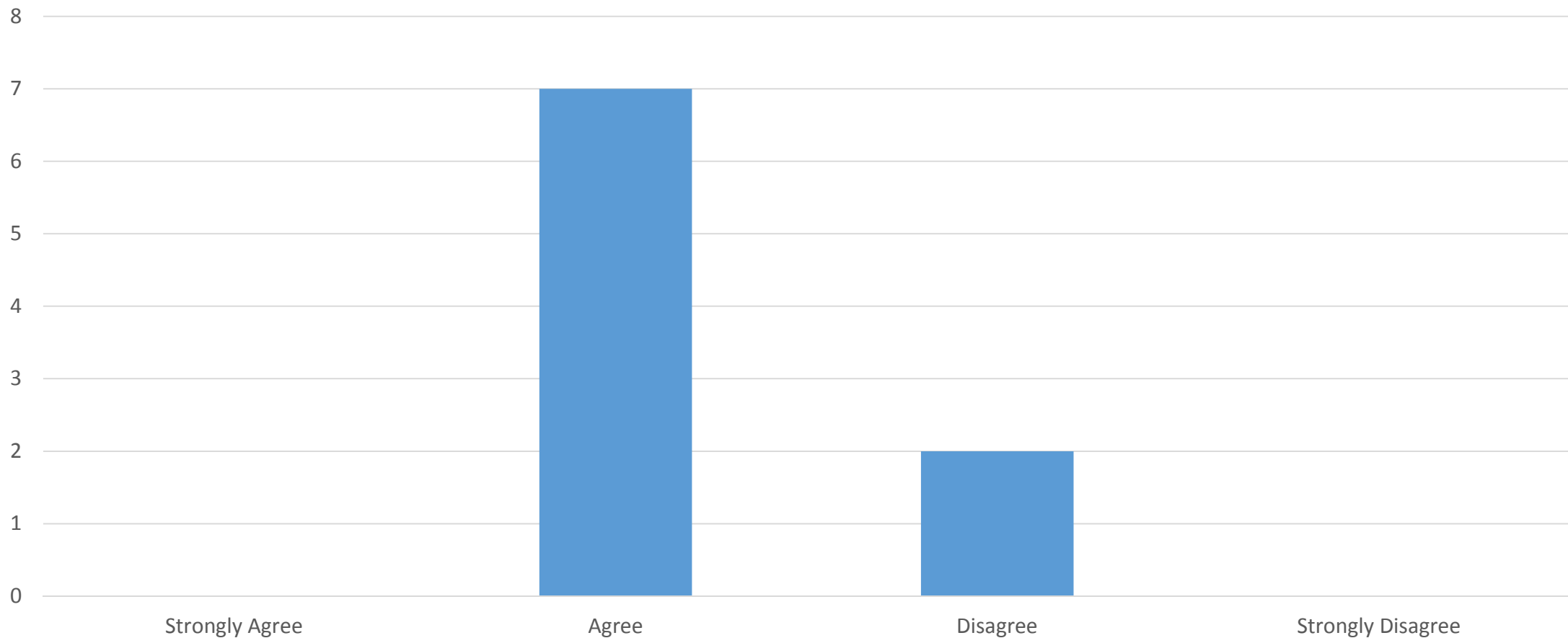
**62 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

# Question 5:The differing roles between members and officers in the Council are clearly defined



**55 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

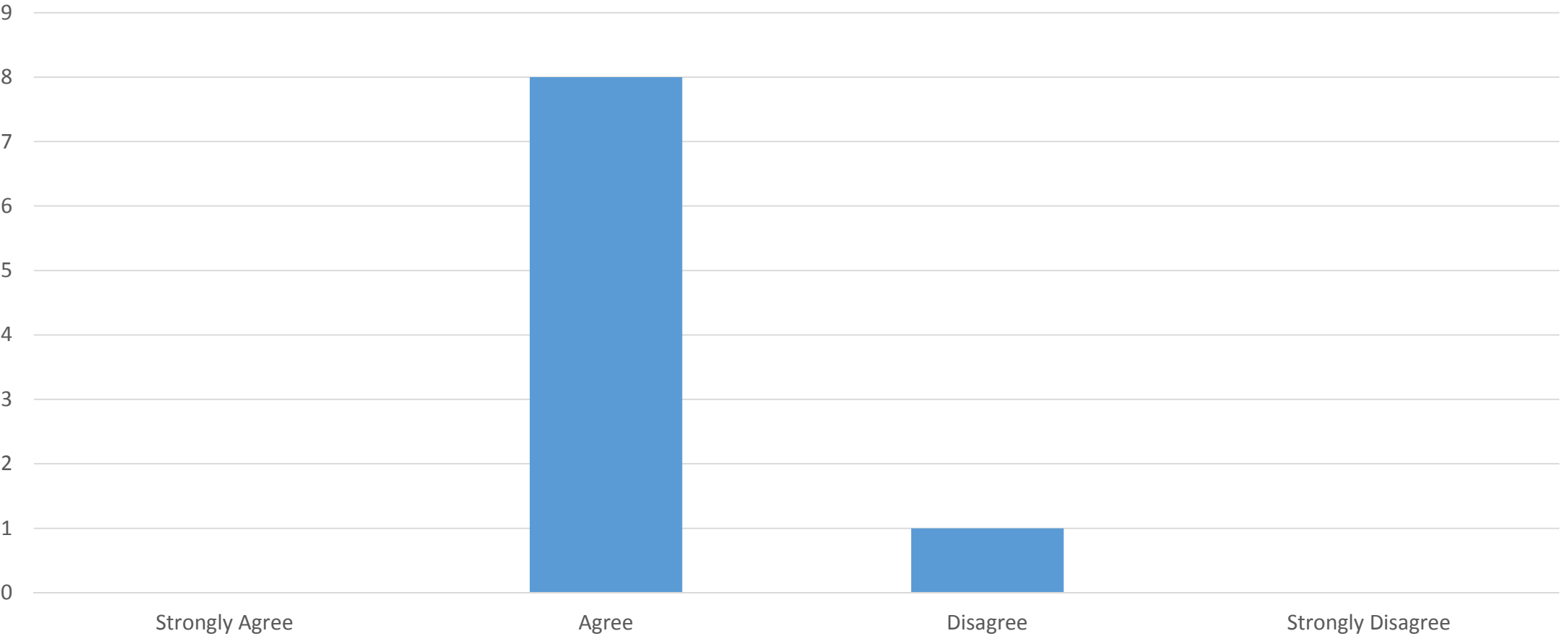
## Question 6: The behaviour of elected members and officers displays an understanding of ethical standards



**78 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

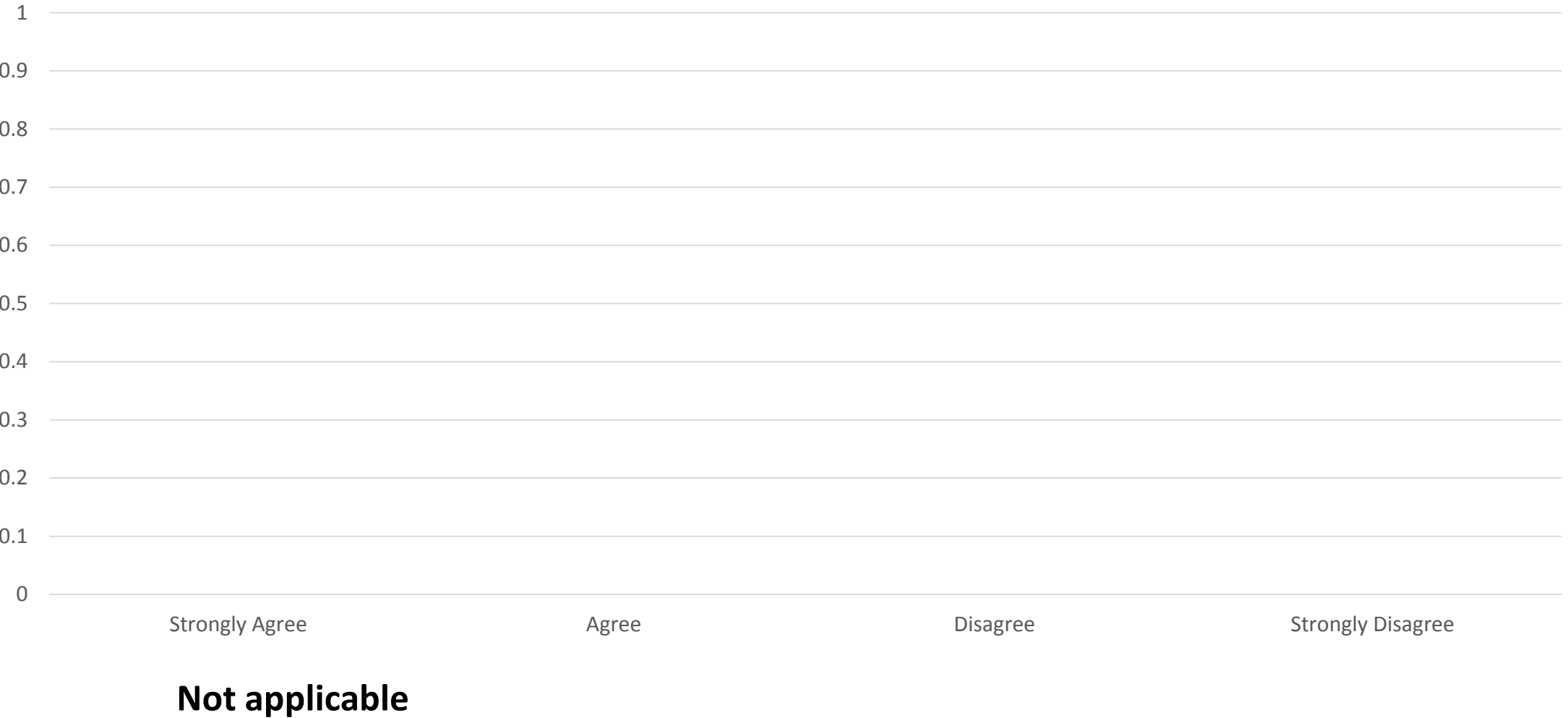


# Question 7: Interests of elected members are declared openly and available to the public

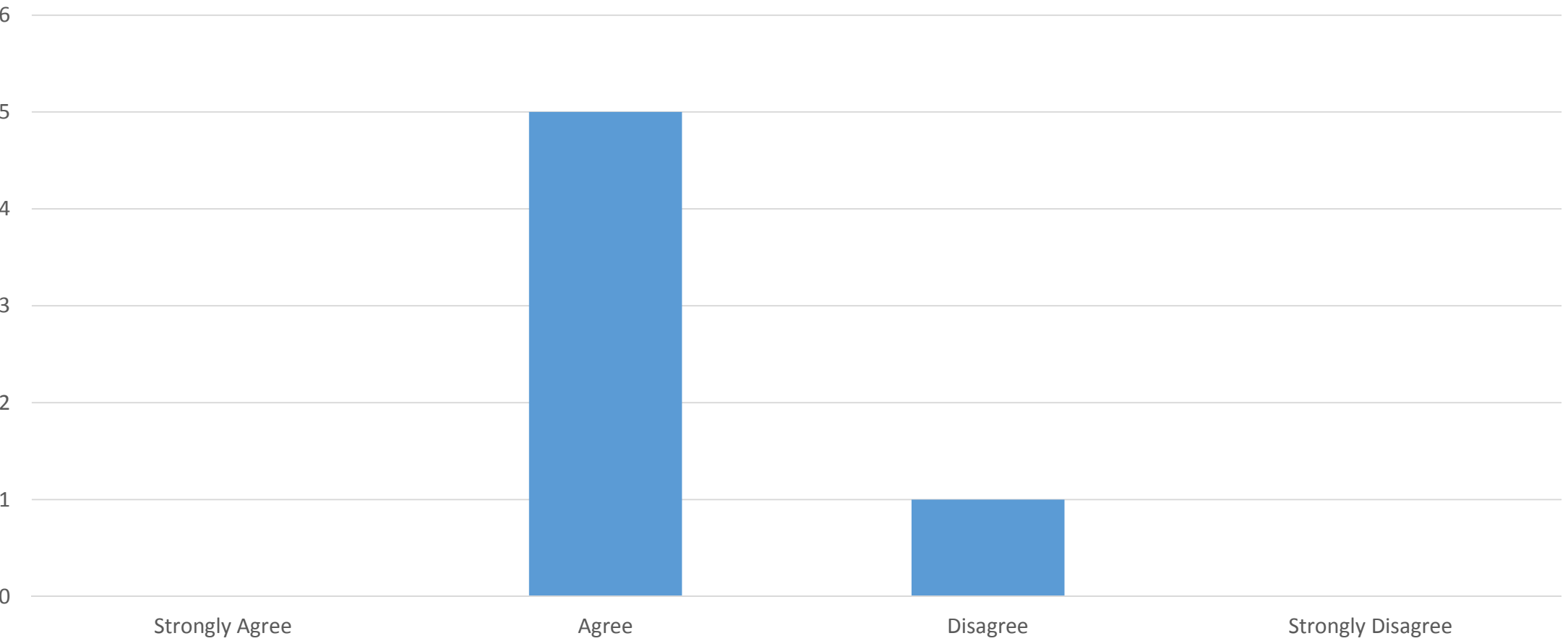


**89 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

# Question 8: As an elected member it is easy for me to declare and register an interest

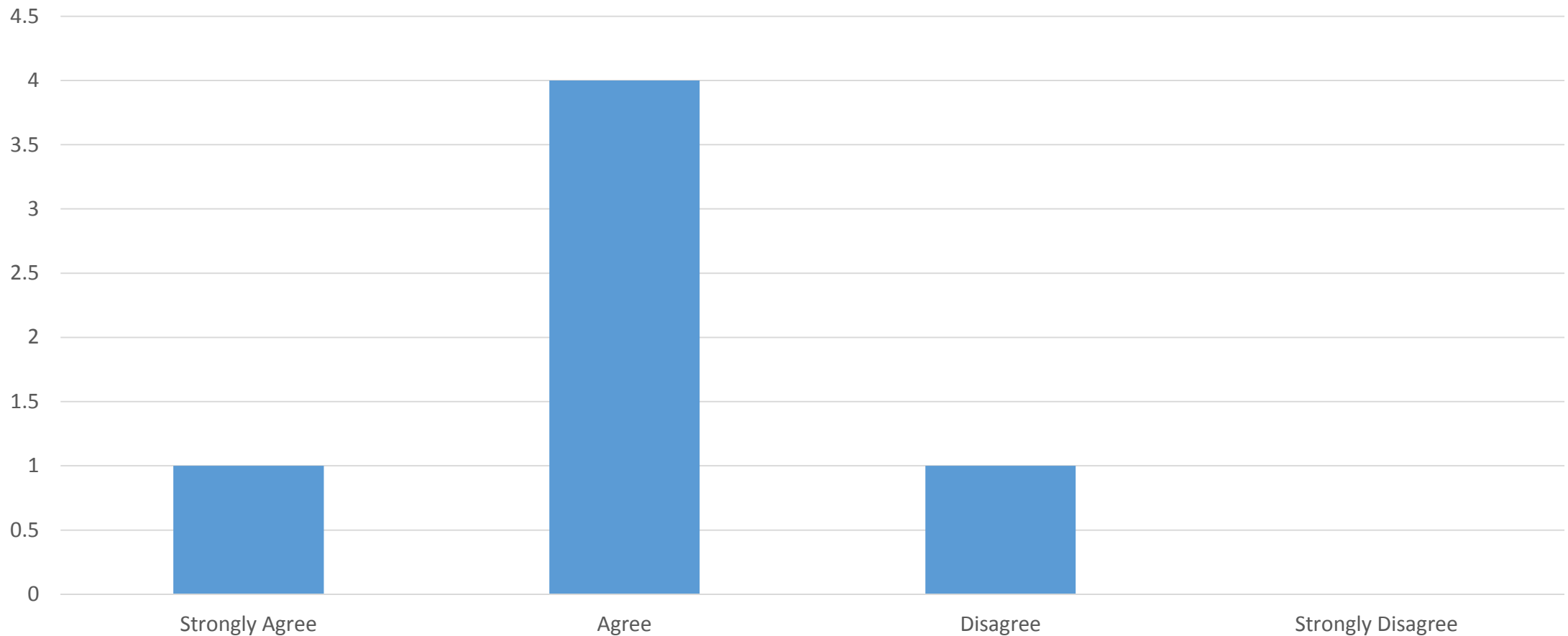


# Question 9: I know where to access the Councillor Code of Conduct



**55 % of respondents replied in a positive manner (strongly agree or agree)**

# Question 10: I would benefit from further training on the code of conduct



**55 % of respondents replied that they agreed/strongly agreed that they needed further training**

# Questionnaire Comments

- I have never seen a copy of the Member's code of conduct.
- I suggest a box between agree and disagree is added for future responses. There are some grey areas that are not so clear to define
- The public mistrust of the apparatus of local government is embedded in the community and any decision that a community member does not agree with is often framed in terms of corruption. Additionally, the age of austerity and the need to cut services has driven out openness and transparency. This lack of openness impacts all levels and of the organisation, and the organisation's communications with the community at large. The ongoing need to frame service cuts as improvements and so-called efficiency savings leads mistrust and rightly so. The dialogue should be honest at all levels
- Whenever there are political changes, whether local government elections, by-elections or changes in political leadership/cabinet, and likewise senior management changes - there should automatically be refresher training in place to ensure all new parties are fully aware of the differing roles between members and officers, the code of conduct, declarations of interest and standards.