

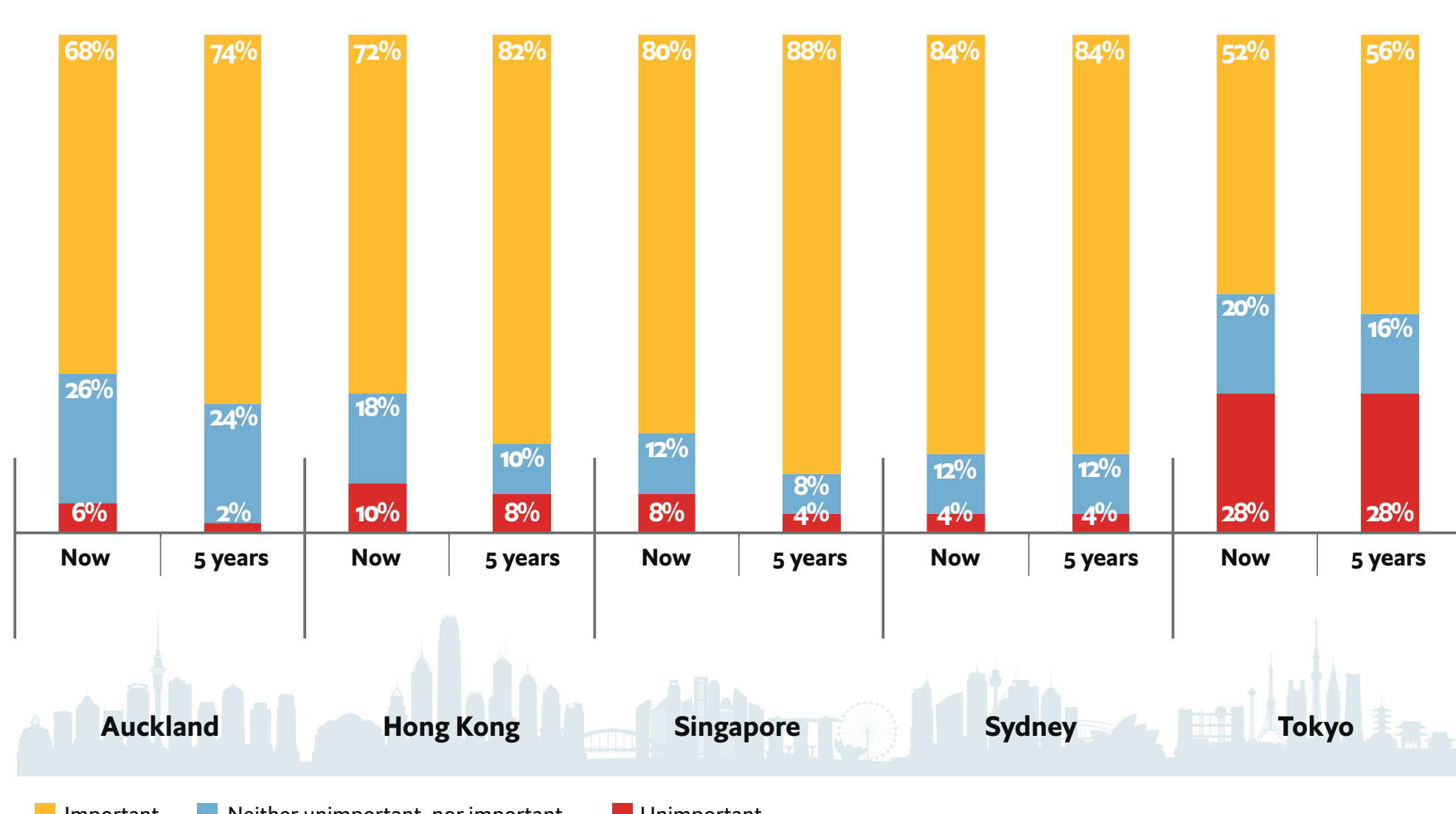
HUB OF BUSINESS CONTINUITY: HOW ASIA-PACIFIC CITIES ARE MANAGING DURING GLOBAL DISRUPTION

The covid-19 disruption brings new opportunities and challenges for business hubs across the world. As governments and cities make immediate decisions to tackle the health challenges of the pandemic, they also need to create an environment which allows businesses to continue to operate. Technology and innovation, the financial environment, as well as liveability are emerging as the key differentiators on what constitutes a better business hub during a crisis and into the future.

This research from The Economist Intelligence Unit, sponsored by BlackLine, compares the performance of five business hubs in the Asia-Pacific region: Auckland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sydney, and Tokyo.

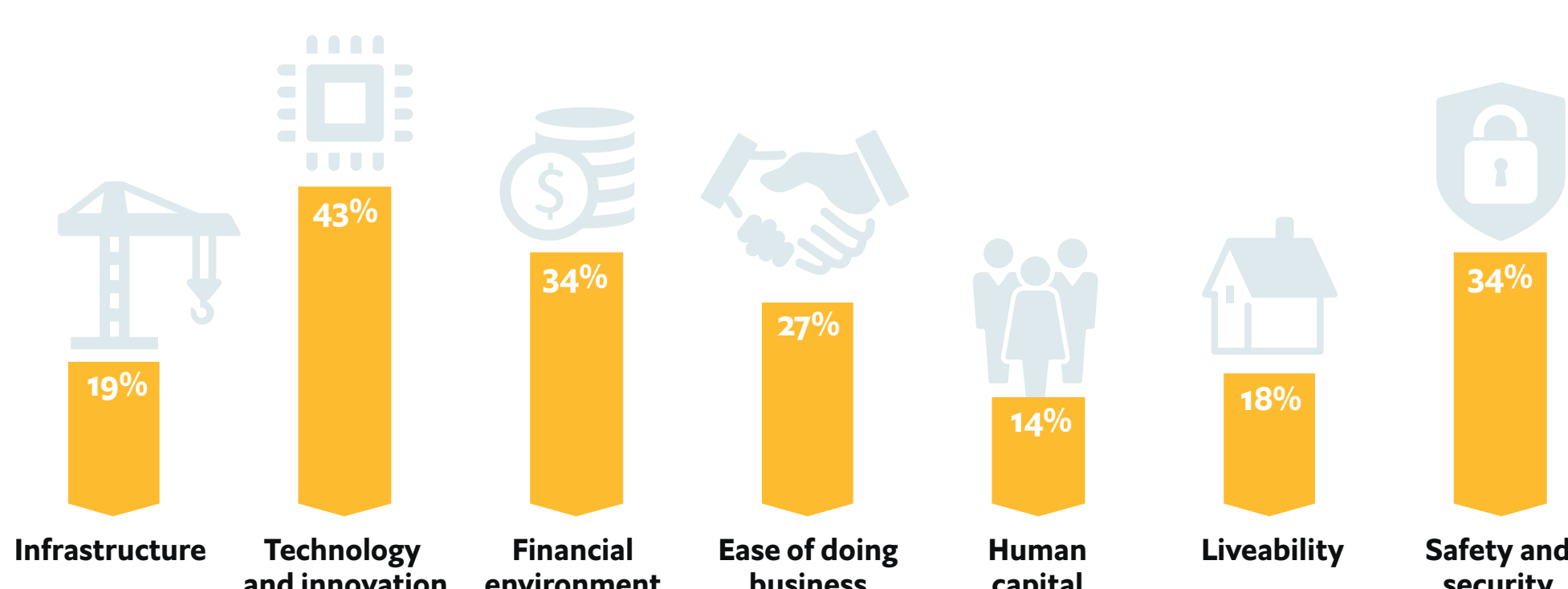
Importance of hubs for business remains strong

The importance of being based in a business hub during covid-19 (% of all respondents)



A city's technology and innovation environment most important

Elements of a business hub most important to companies during disruption (% of all respondents)

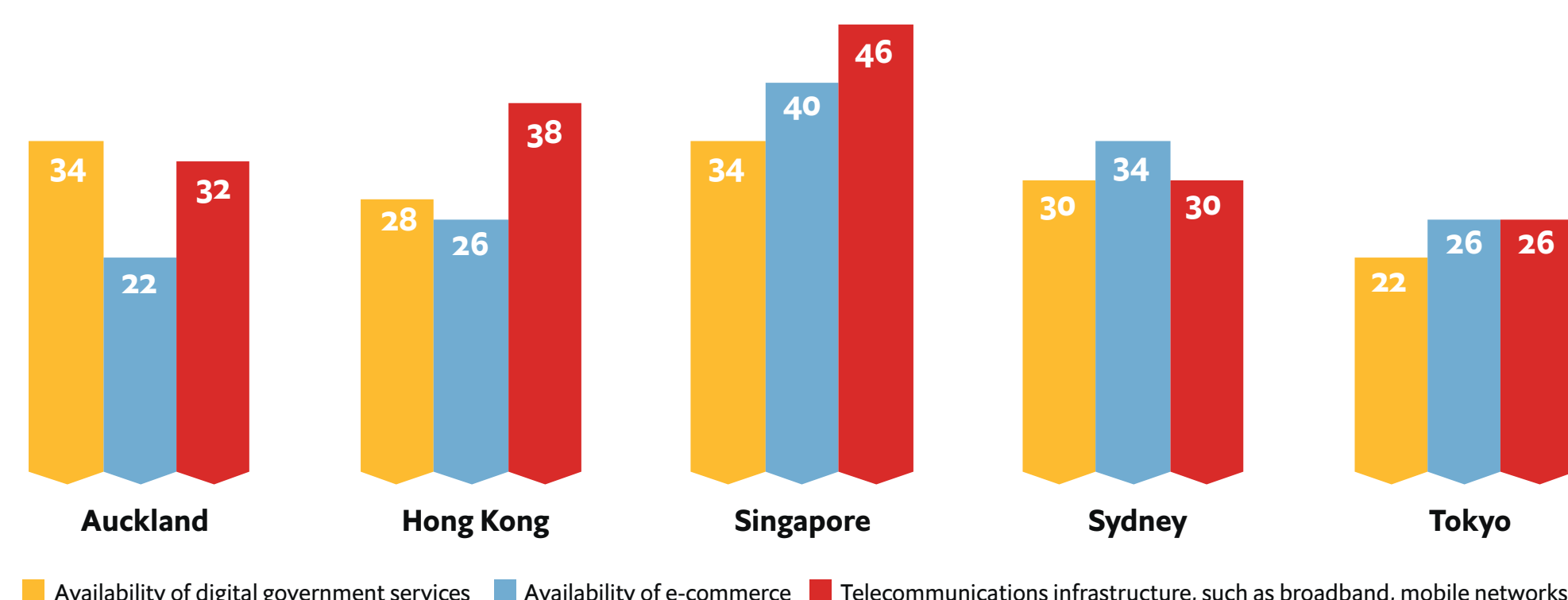


TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

During the current covid-19 pandemic, technology has emerged as a game-changer for maintaining continuity of business operations as people have been forced, encouraged, or opted to work remotely.

Covid-19 has placed a particular emphasis on digital infrastructure which is essential for supporting business continuity

Business hub technology and innovation elements which perform very well during disruption (% of respondents saying the city is doing very well)

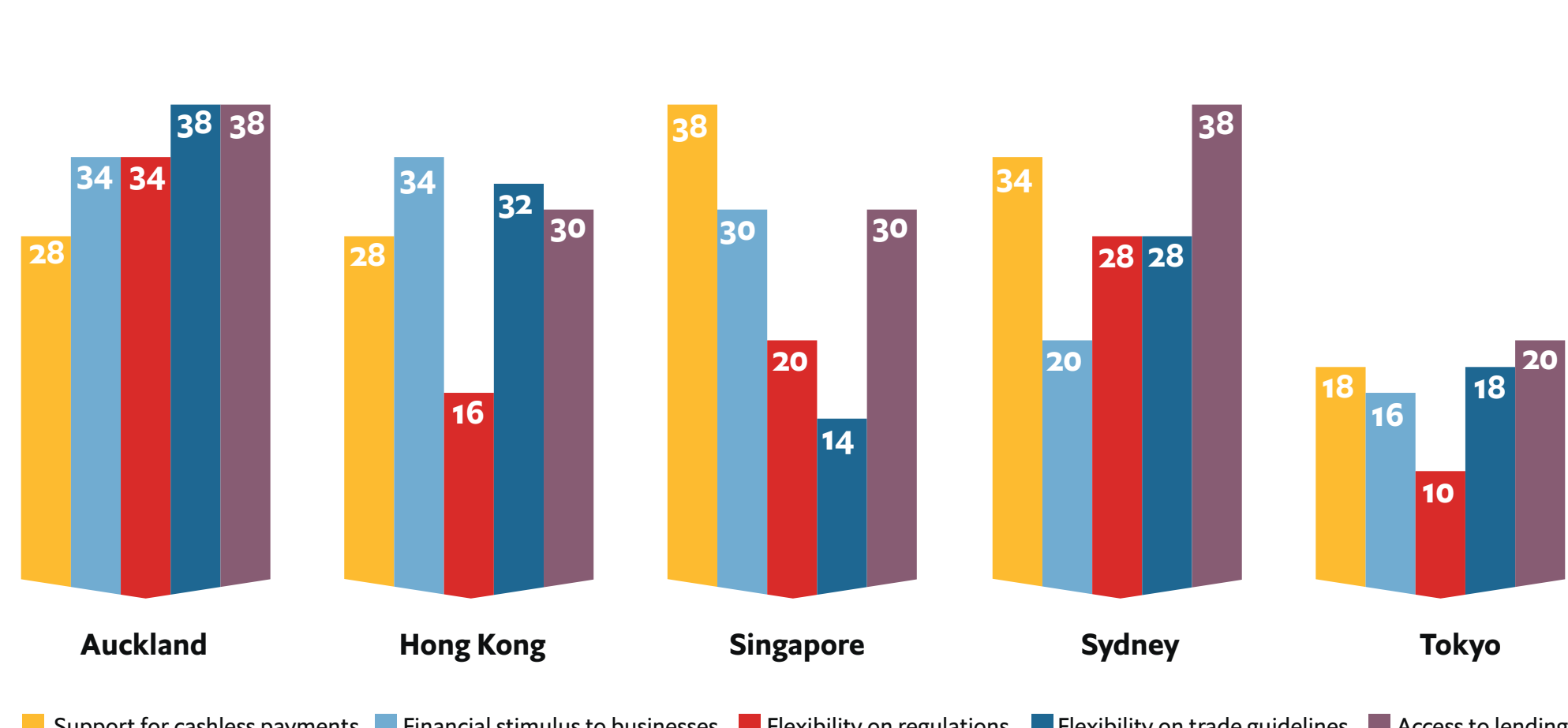


FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT

During the pandemic, most companies rely on digital infrastructure and remote processes to keep their businesses operating. Cities with a solid financial environment in place will also be better placed to support such companies.

Auckland's strong health response to covid-19 is mirrored by its financial response

Business hub financial environment elements which perform very well during disruption (% of respondents saying the city is doing very well)



WORKABILITY

The ability to attract and retain talent is vital for businesses to compete, making the living and working environment cities create very important.

Cities have created a safe environment, but doing business is challenging

Business hub workability elements which perform very well during disruption (% of respondents saying the city is doing very well)

