

Public attitudes towards decentralisation

Methodology: Savanta interviewed 2,055 UK adults aged 18+ online between 9th and 11th June 2023. Data were weighted to be representative of the UK by age, sex, region and social grade.

1. How do you think local services (e.g. education, healthcare etc) in the UK should be managed? Base: All respondents (n=2,055)

- One in five (19%) UK adults say that local services, such as education and healthcare should be managed either mostly or completely by central government in Westminster whilst a third (33%) say the same about local government. A similar proportion (34%) say that local services should be managed equally by central government and local government. One in seven (14%) say they don't know.
- 18–34-year-olds (23% vs. 18% and 16% among 35–54-year-olds and over 55s) and Conservative voters (25% vs. 17% among Labour voters) are more likely to say that local services should be completely or mostly managed by central government in Westminster.

2. To what extent do you understand how local government works (e.g., how services are run, how they are funded and how they interact with central and regional government)? Base: All respondents (n=2,055)

- While most (55%) UK adults say that they understand a lot or little about how local government works, only one in ten (10%) say they understand a lot. In addition, almost two in five (38%) say don't understand a lot or at all (7% say they don't know).
- Men (62% vs. 48% among women) and those from the highest socioeconomic grade (67% of AB vs. 48-53% among lower socioeconomic grades) are most likely to say they understand how local government works.

3. To what extent do you think it is important or not important to vote in local elections? Base: All respondents (n=2,055)

- Four in five (81%) UK adults say that it is important to vote in local elections, however, just under half of those (48%) say that it is *very* important. Less than one in six (13%) say that it is not important (6% say they don't know).
- Whilst almost three quarters (73%) of 18–34-year-olds say it's important to vote in local elections, this figure rises to nine in ten (89%) among over 55s.

4. Which of the following best describes your view? Base: All respondents (n=2,055)

- Three in five (60%) UK adults say they would be more likely to vote in local elections if they felt that their local council could make more decisions regarding their local area whilst only three in ten (31%) say that it would not make a difference as to whether they voted in local elections (9% say they don't know).
- Over 55s (36% vs. 26% and 30% among 18-34s and 35-54s) and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (37% vs. 28-30% among higher socioeconomic grades) are more likely to say that local councils having more power to make decisions regarding their local area would make no difference to whether they voted in local elections.

5. **How much control would you like your community to have over how your council delivers local services?** Base: All respondents (n=2,055)

- Seven in ten (69%) UK adults say that they would like their community to have more control over how their council delivers local services. One in five (20%) say they would like their community to have about the same amount of control whilst less than one in twenty (3%) say they would like their community to have less control (7% don't know).
- Labour voters are much more likely than Conservative voters to say that they would like their community to have more control over how their local council delivers local services (78% vs. 70% of Conservative voters).

6. **Can you name the following...** Base: All respondents (n=2,055)

- Half (51%) of UK adults say that they can name the party or parties that run their local council, however, this figure drops to a third (35%) when asked if they can name their local councillor(s) and three in then (29%) when asked to name the leader of their local council.
- Over half of men (55% vs. 48% of women) and over 55s (60% vs. 44% and 48% among 18-34s and 35-54s) say that they can name the party or parties that run their local council, significantly more than their counterparts.