

# IPSOS / LGIU Local Elections polling

April 2024

# The public still recognise the role councils play in impacting the quality of life in their local area

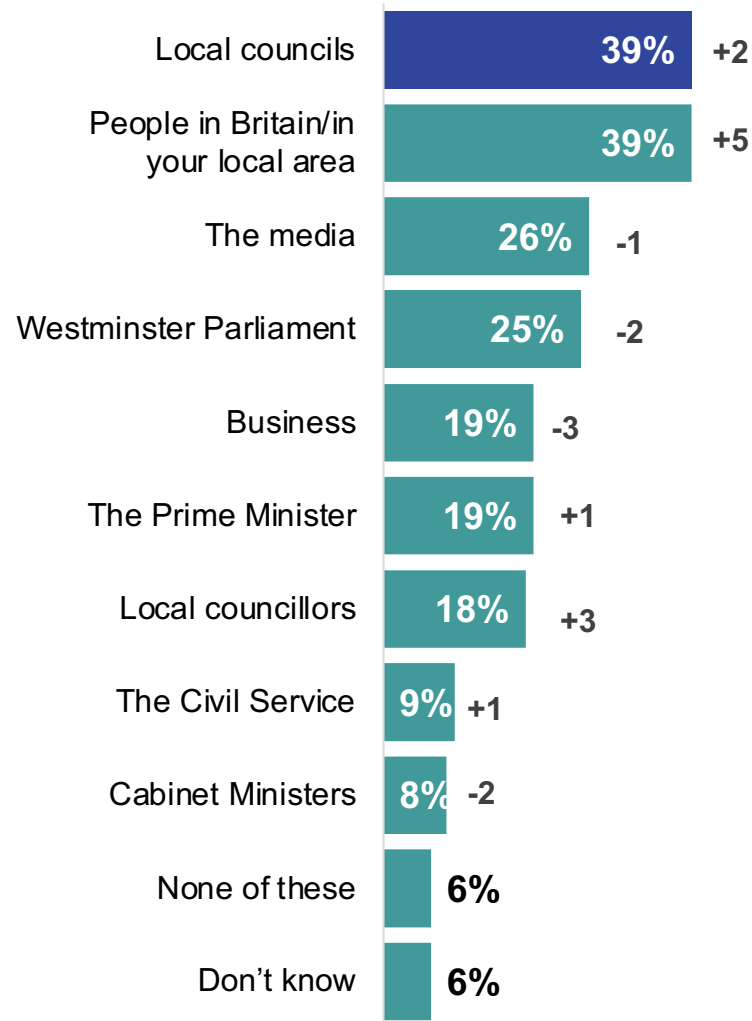
From this list, which two or three of the following, if any, do you believe have the most impact on...

a) people's everyday lives

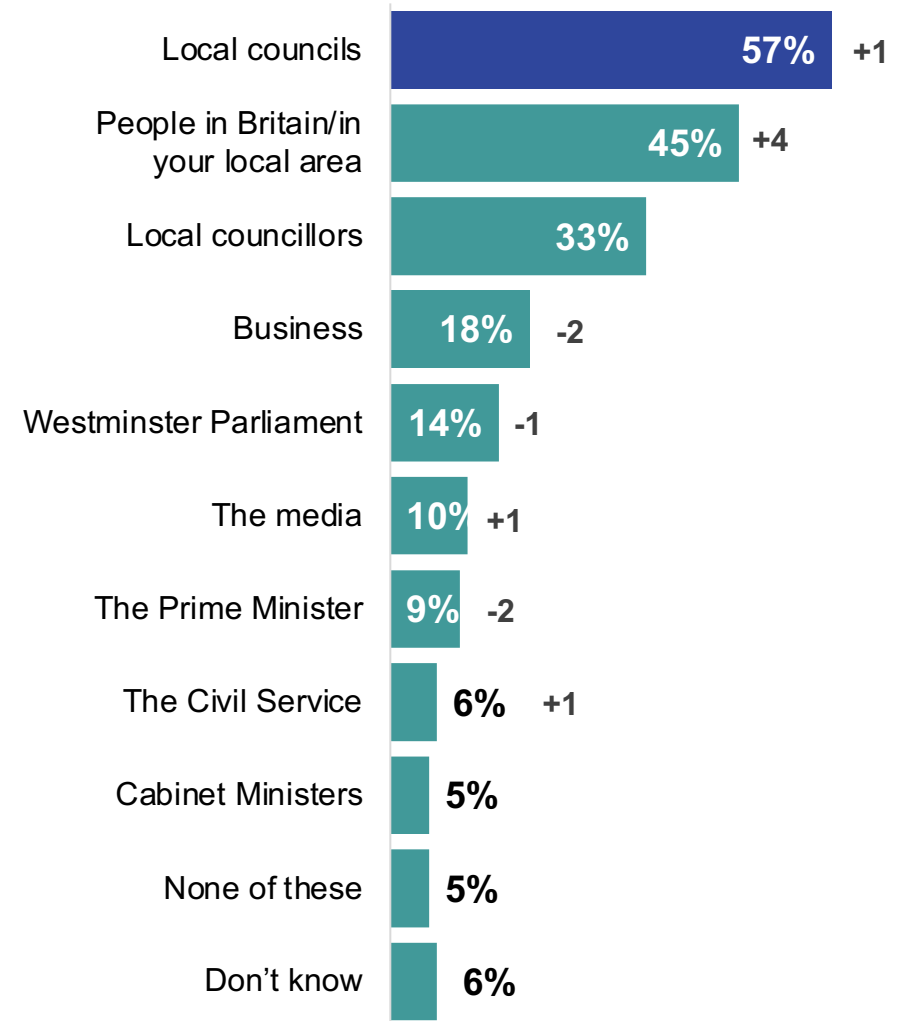
b) the quality of life in your area?

( + / - changes since 2023)

% impact on people's everyday lives



% impact on quality of life in your area



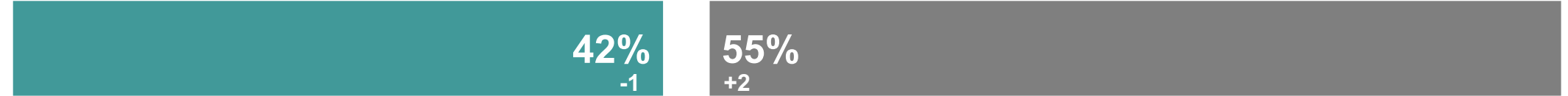
Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024

# Generally speaking, the public still do not feel well informed about the work local councils / councillors do compared to Westminster

How much, if anything, would you say you know about...

**A great deal / a fair amount** **Not very much / at all**

...the work of Members of Parliament in Westminster?



...the work of your local councillors?



...how decisions are taken in your local council?



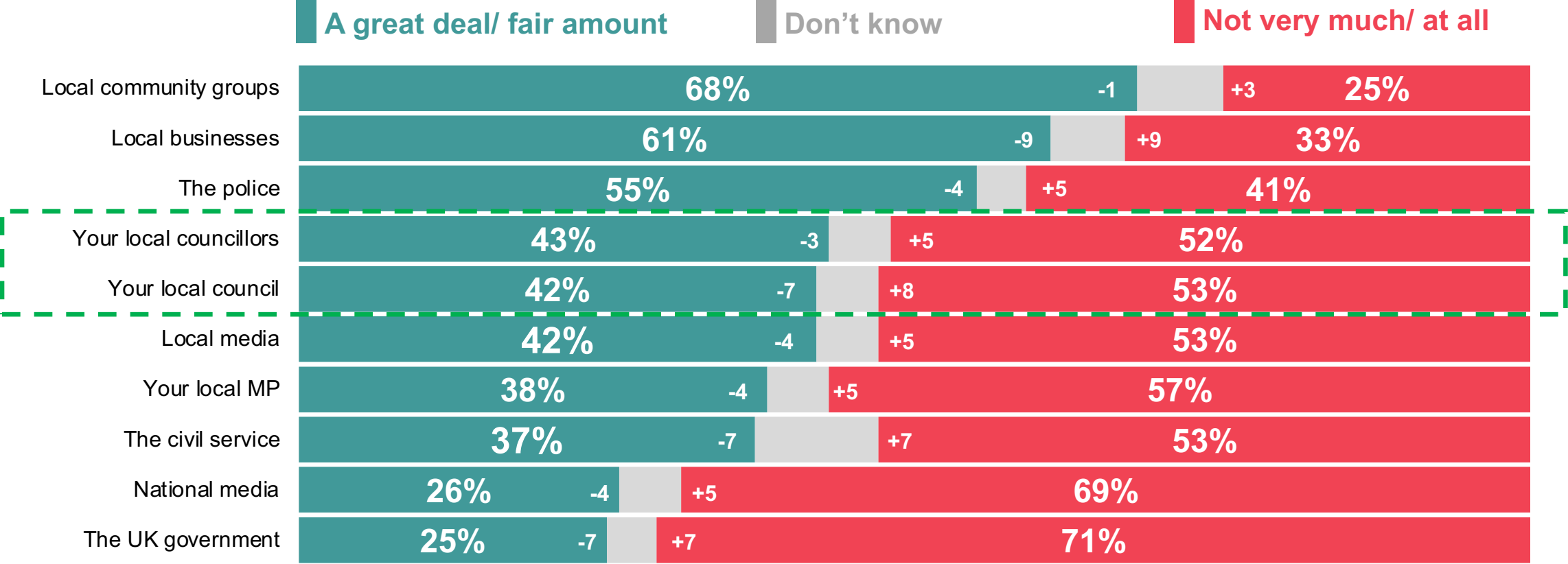
( + / - changes since 2023)

Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024



# Trust has fallen in a range of stakeholders to act in the best interests of local people – but councils / councilors remain more trusted than national politicians

To what extent, if at all, do you trust each of the following to act in the best interests of people in your local area?



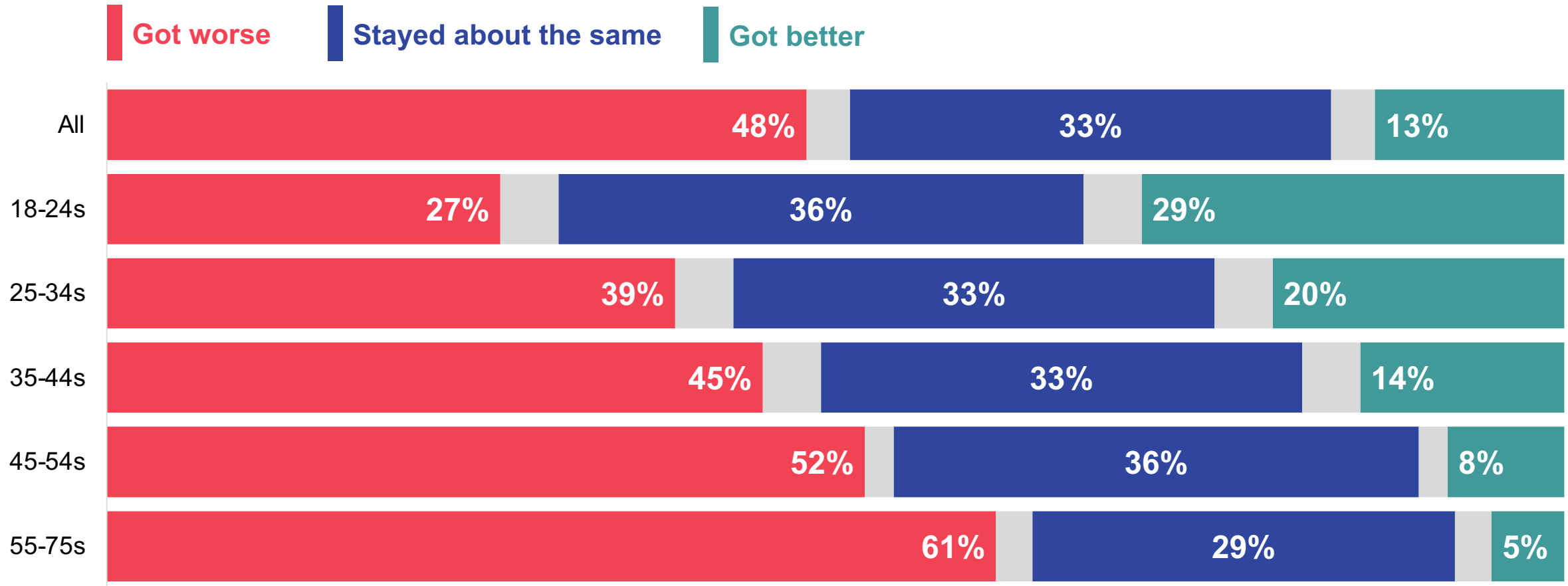
( + / - changes since 2023)

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# This coincides with pessimism in the quality of local services. Half say they have got worse over the last five years – higher among 55-75s

Thinking about local services overall, do you think the quality of services in your local area has got better or worse in the last five years, or has it stayed about the same?



Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024

# Local councillors / councils are among the most likely to be credited by those who think local services have been improving

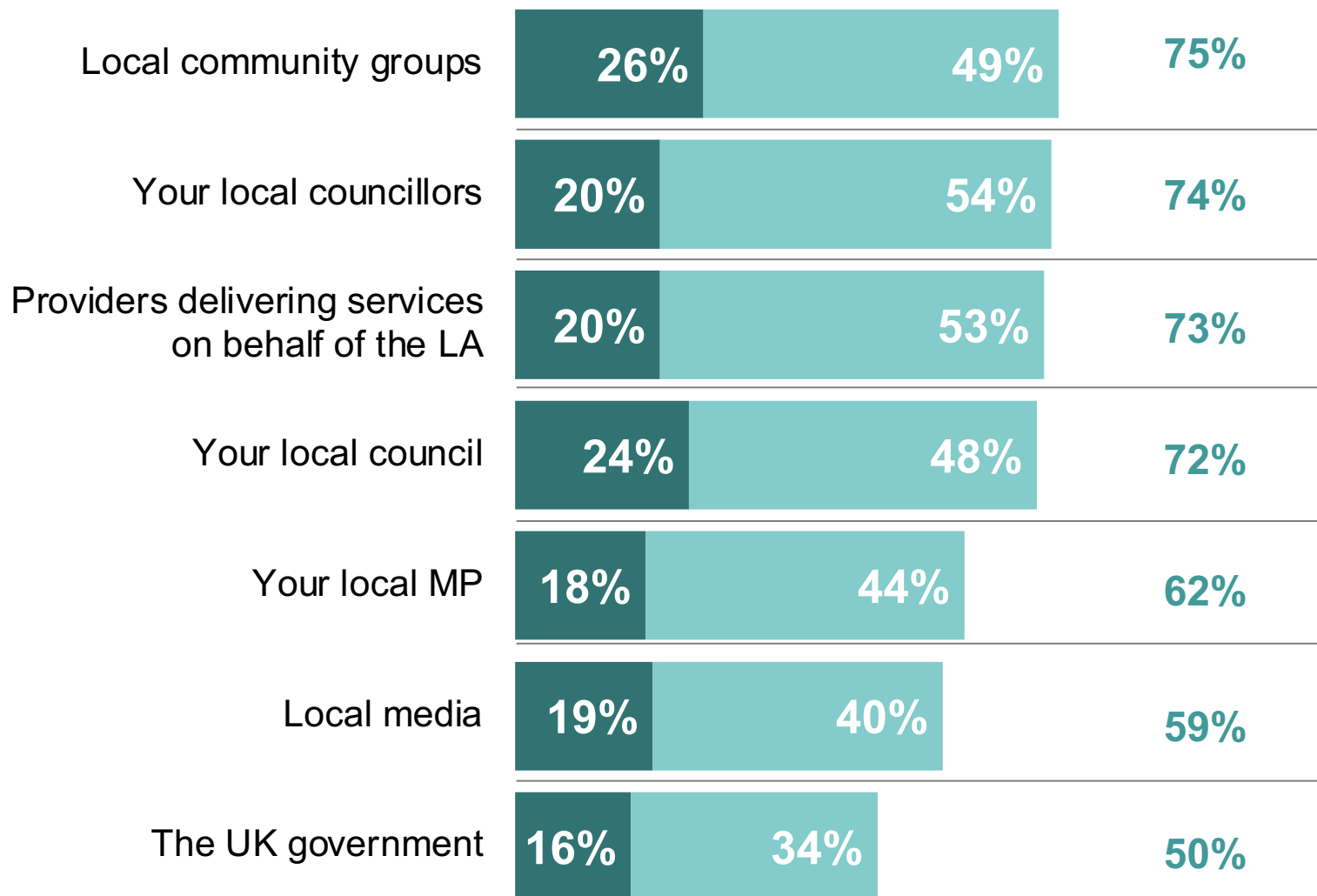
To what extent, if at all, do you think the following are responsible for the fact local services have got **BETTER**?

**A great deal of responsibility**

**A fair amount of responsibility**

Among those who think public service have **got better** (13%)

**Total**

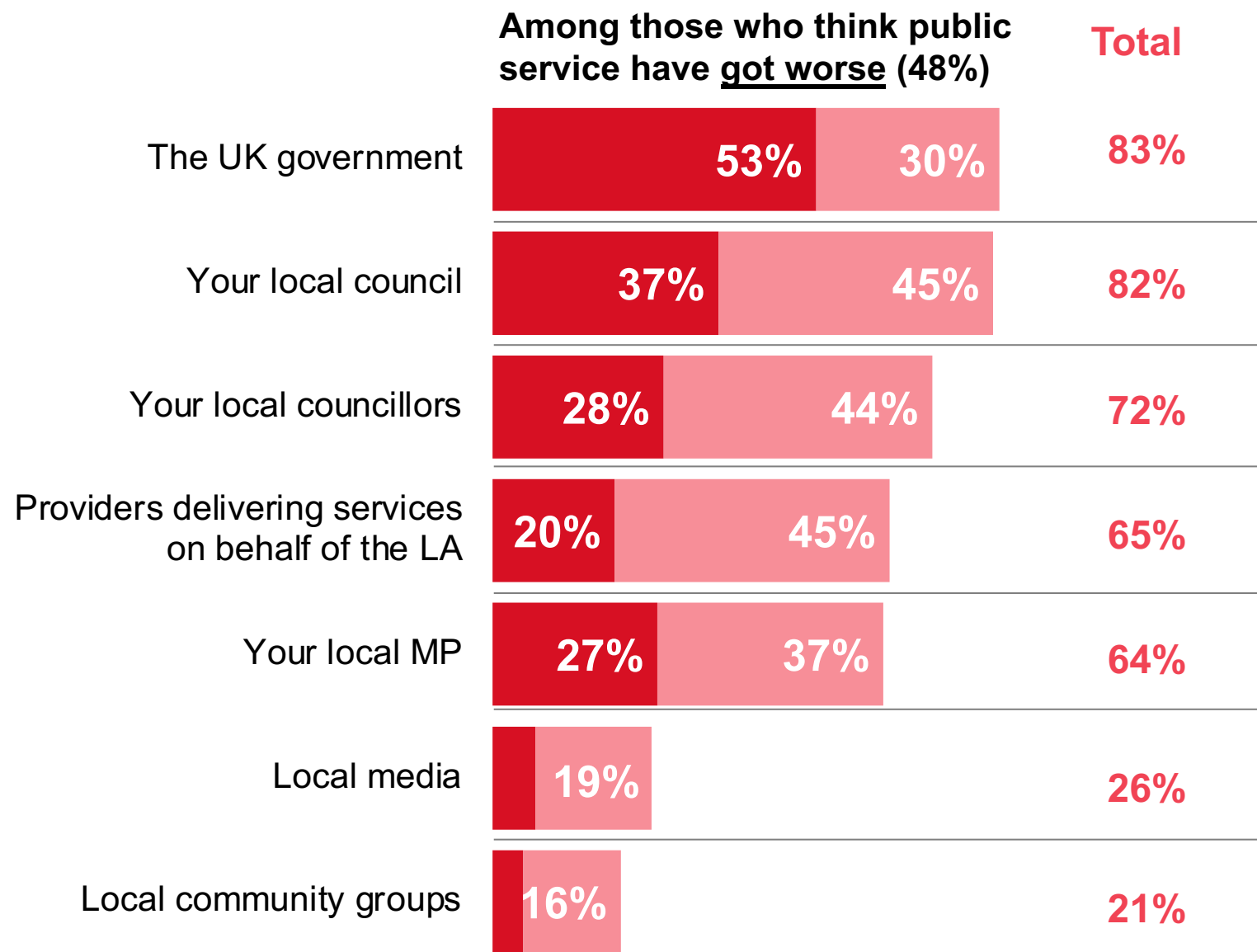


**Base:** 239 online adults aged 18-75 in England who think local services have **got better**, including those 5 – 8 April 2024



# However, those who think services are getting worse also hold their local council responsible – although they are not blamed as strongly as the UK government

To what extent, if at all, do you think the following are responsible for the fact local services have got WORSE?

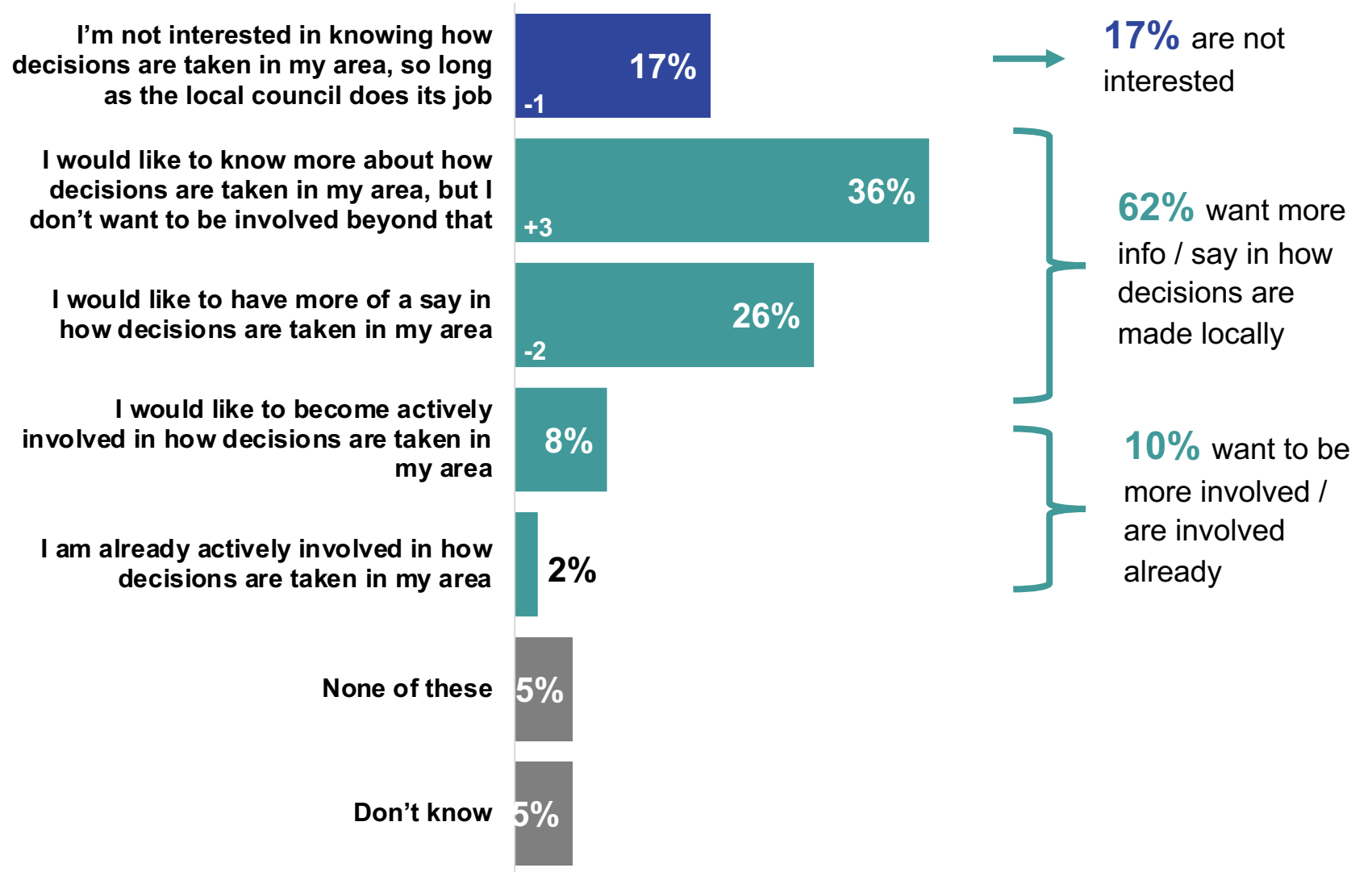


Base: 887 online adults aged 18-75 in England who think local services have got worse, including those 5 – 8 April 2024



# Majority say they want to know more about how decisions are taken locally / have more say in them – though few want to be actively involved

Which of these statements, if any, comes closest to your own views towards how the local council makes decisions about local public services in your area?

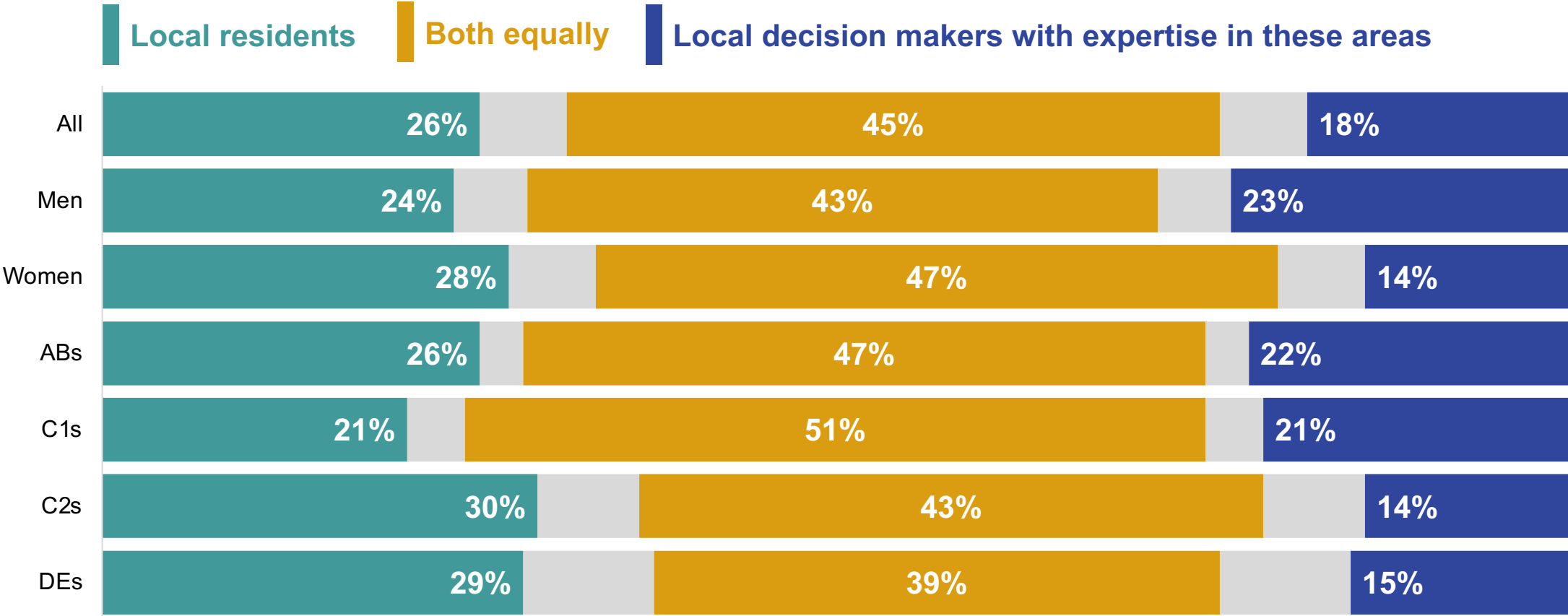


Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024



# Ideally there would be a mix of local residents and local experts making decisions.

Overall, whose views do you think are most important, if either, when it comes to making decisions like these that impact your local area?



Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024

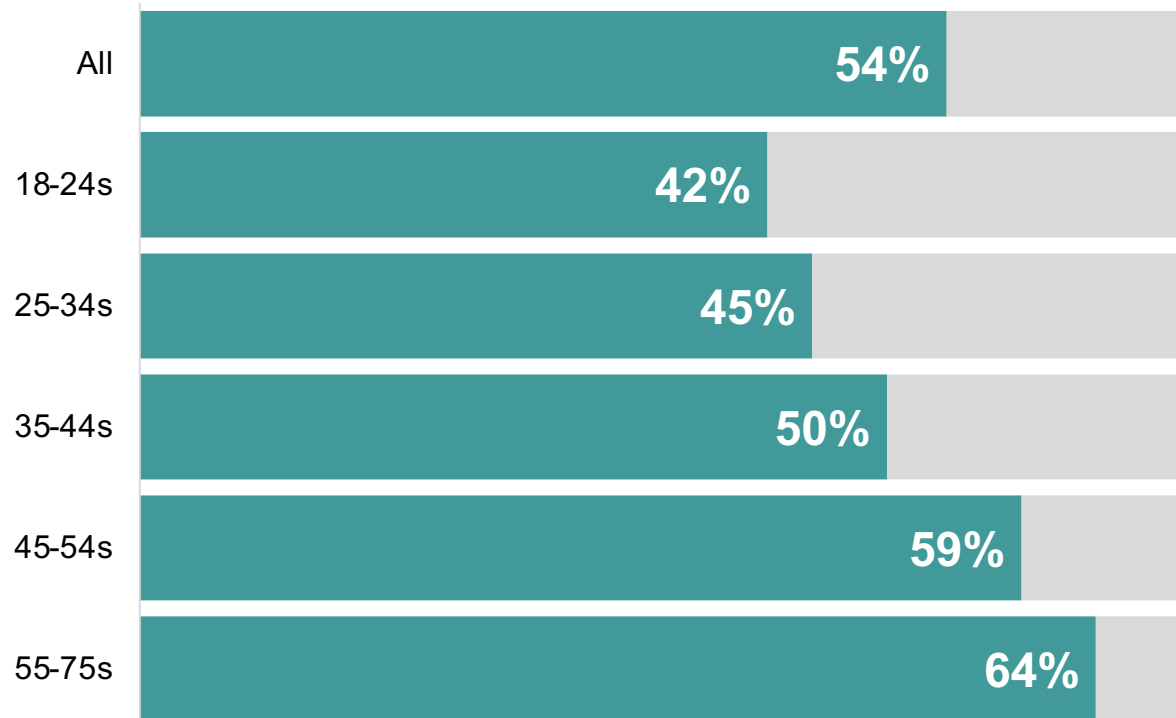


# More broadly, there is support for local decision making (particularly among older groups), but outcomes are still seen as key

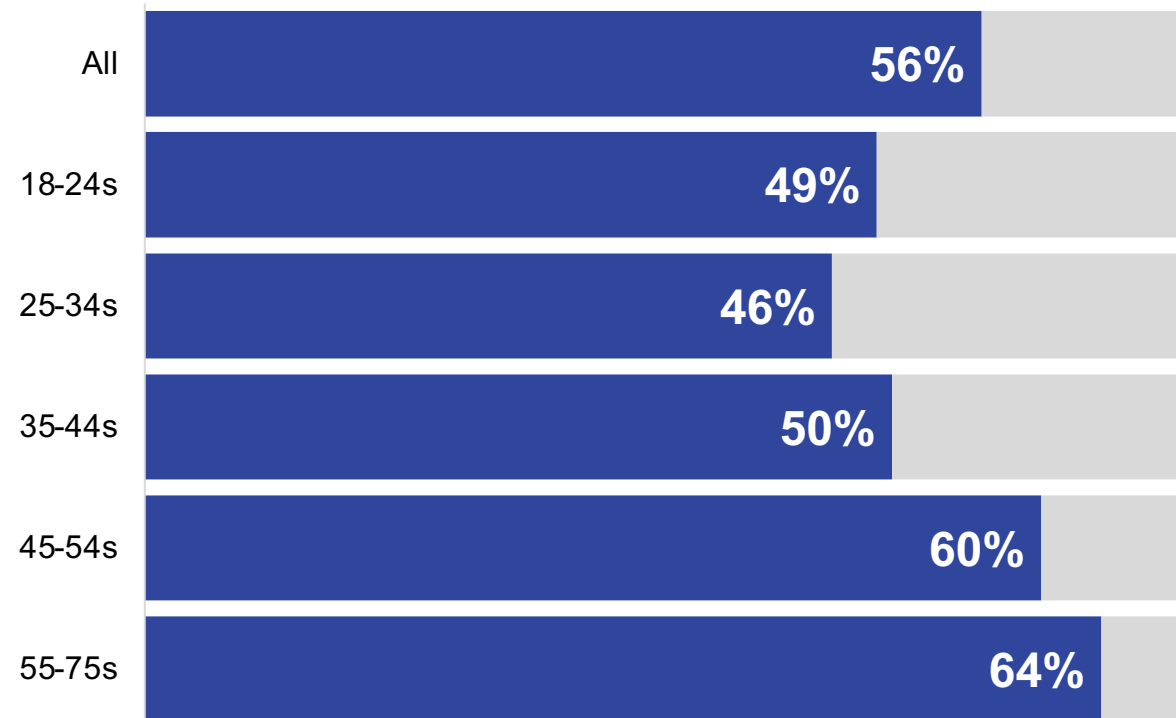
To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**% Agree**

**Too many policy decisions affecting my local area are made outside it**



**It does not matter who makes decisions affecting my local area as long as they are the right decisions**



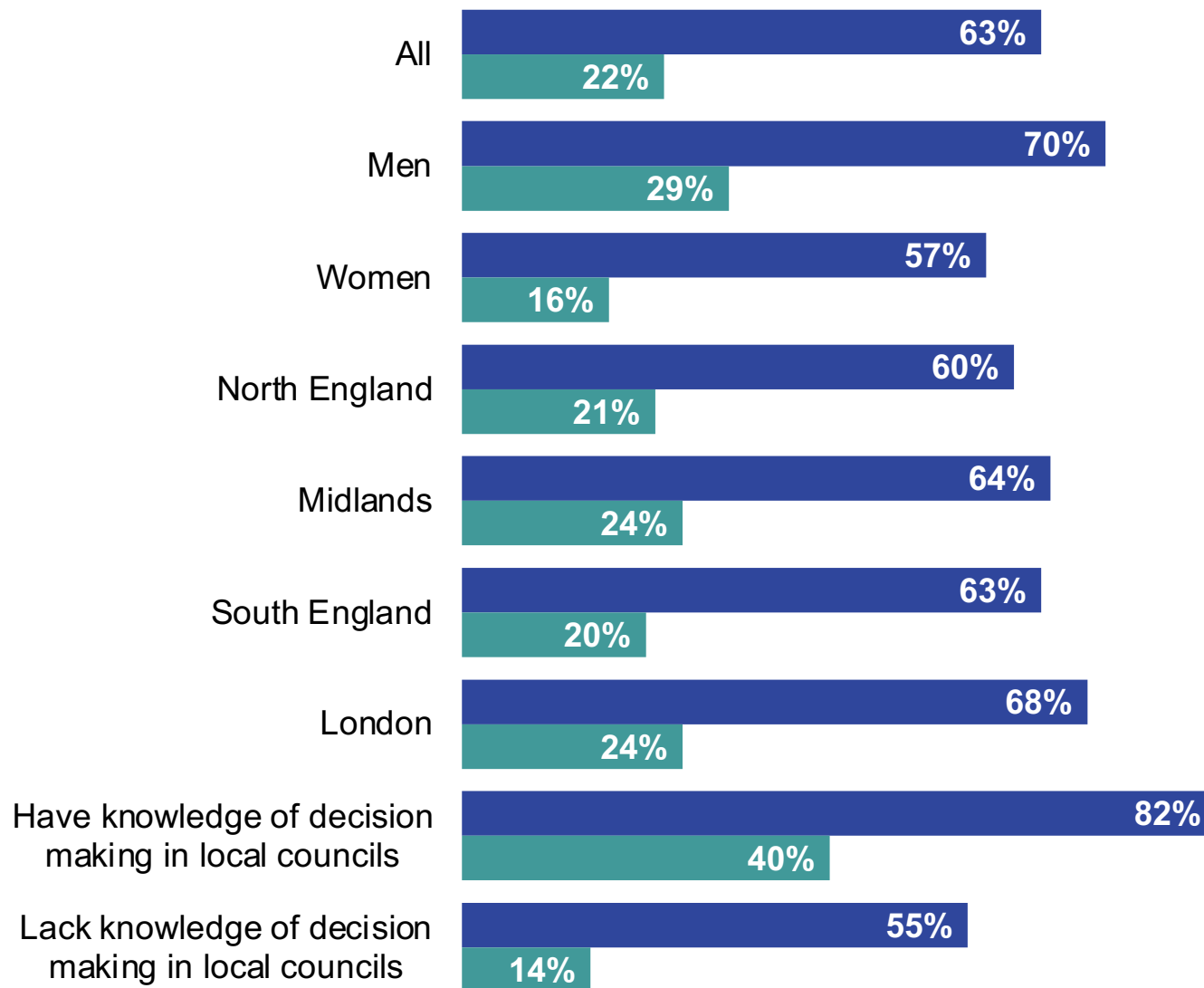
Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024

# While majorities claim to have heard of section 114 notices, detailed knowledge remains low

Over the last few years, eight councils in England have issued ‘section 114’ notices. These are issued when a council is unable to meet its spending obligations within existing revenue for the year. These are often referred to as ‘effective bankruptcies’. Before today, how much, if anything, would you say you have seen, read or heard of local councils issuing section 114 notices?

**At least heard of section 114 notices**

**Knows a great deal / fair amount about section 114 notices**



Base: 1,837 Online adults aged 18-75 in England, 5 – 8 April 2024

## To summarise...

- The public recognise the role local councils and councillors play locally and trust them to act in the interests of their local area more than central government.
- But awareness of what they do is limited – though many are unconcerned with that.
- Trust has fallen in most stakeholders to act in the best interests of local people – reflective of the national mood being gloomy.
- Double edged sword for local councils / councillors. They are credited both with things getting better... but also worse. Although they blame the Govt more.
- There is support for local decision making – but outcomes are still seen as key.

# Ipsos

## For more information

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