

Local Government in Wiltshire Topline Results 25 May 2007

- This topline shows results for a telephone survey conducted among a representative sample of residents by Ipsos MORI between 14 and 20 May 2007.
- Results are based on 1,252 residents, aged 18+.
- The sample was stratified to ensure that at least 300 residents were interviewed in each district. Quotas set by age, gender and work status.
- Data are weighted by gender, age, working status and district council area to reflect the demographic profile of the county of Wiltshire (Census 2001).
- Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to computer rounding or the exclusion of 'don't know' categories.
- An asterisk (*) indicates a percentage of less than 0.5% but greater than zero.

Q1. **Firstly, can I just check if this is your main home, or a second home?** SINGLE CODE ONLY. CLOSE IF SECOND HOME OR DON'T KNOW

Base: All approached for interview (1,251)

	%
Main Home	100
Second home	-

Q2. **Please can you tell me which one of the following district areas you live in:** READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY. CLOSE IF OTHER OR DON'T KNOW

Base: All approached for interview whose main home is in Wiltshire (1,251)

	%
Kennet	29
North Wiltshire	27
West Wiltshire	17
Salisbury	27
Other	-

Q3. **How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that very/fairly satisfied/dissatisfied?** SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Very satisfied	52
Fairly satisfied	38
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4
Fairly dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	2
Don't know	*

- Q4. **How strongly do you feel you belong to each of the following areas? Is that very strongly, fairly strongly, not very strongly or not at all strongly? SINGLE CODE ONLY. RANDOMISE ORDER OF READ OUT**

		Very strongly	Fairly strongly	Not very strongly	Not at all strongly	Don't Know
Your neighbourhood/village	%	46	37	12	3	2
Your town or the nearest town	%	33	42	16	8	1
The district of . . .	%	29	43	19	6	2
The county of Wiltshire	%	33	44	16	5	1
England	%	63	27	6	2	1

- Q5. **How much would you say you know about local councils and the services they provide? PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that a great deal, a fair amount, not very much or nothing at all? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	%
A great deal	10
A fair amount	53
Not very much	32
Nothing at all	4
Don't know	*

- Q6. **How well informed do you think local councils keep you about the services and benefits they provide? PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that very well informed, fairly well informed, not very well informed or not at all well informed? READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	%
Very well informed	15
Fairly well informed	50
Not very well informed	27
Not at all well informed	7
Don't know	1

- Q7. **From what you know, how many councils provide the main services in this area? NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: NOT INCLUDING PARISH COUNCILS. SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	%
One	28
Two	31
Three or more	13
Don't know	27

Q8. In fact there are two main councils which provide, or are responsible for, most services in your area - [INSERT NAME FROM Q2 RESPONSE] District Council and Wiltshire County Council.

I am now going to read out a list of services and, for each one, I would like you to tell me whether you think it is the responsibility of [INSERT NAME] District Council or Wiltshire County Council, or whether both councils or neither council is responsible. This is not a test. We are just interested in your perceptions, not whether you are right or wrong. If you are unsure, please feel free to say so. READ OUT a) to g). ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

		[NAME] District Council	Wiltshire County Council	Neither	Both	Not sure/ Don't know
a)	Road sweeping and litter collection	% 77	14	*	5	4
b)	Social services	% 26	56	*	8	10
c)	Rubbish collection	% 84	10	*	3	2
d)	Leisure centres and swimming pools	% 63	23	1	6	7
e)	Road maintenance	% 17	69	1	7	6
f)	Planning	% 59	22	*	13	5
g)	Schools	% 17	69	*	7	7

Q9. In total, there are four district councils providing local services in Wiltshire including [INSERT NAME FROM Q2 RESPONSE] District Council. Wiltshire County Council provides other services for the county. There are proposals to create a single council providing all services across the whole of Wiltshire based on the current county boundary and covering all of the four district areas.

How much if anything do you feel you know about this issue? PROBE AS NECESSARY Is that a great deal, a fair amount, not very much or nothing at all? SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
A great deal	4
A fair amount	24
Not very much	40
Nothing at all	32
Don't know	*

Q10. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the view that there is a need to change from the existing two-tier system with two local authorities (the District Council and County Council) to a new system with a single authority providing all services covering the whole of Wiltshire? PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that strongly/tend to agree/disagree? SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Strongly agree	15
Tend to agree	15
Neither agree nor disagree	12
Tend to disagree	16
Strongly disagree	35
Don't know	7

Q11. **How strongly do you agree or disagree with the view that, rather than creating a single council providing all services across the whole of Wiltshire, it would be better if the existing County Council and the four district councils worked more effectively together. PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that strongly/tend to agree/disagree? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	%
Strongly agree	52
Tend to agree	26
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Tend to disagree	6
Strongly disagree	6
Don't know	5

Q12. **As mentioned there are four district councils in Wiltshire providing local services. Wiltshire County Council provides other services for the county. Imagine that there was a single council providing all services across the whole of Wiltshire. I am going to read out some statements that people have made about this proposal. Please tell me to what extent to you agree or disagree with each one. PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that strongly/tend to agree/disagree? RANDOMISE ORDER of a) to g). SINGLE CODE ONLY**

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither/ nor	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
a)	A single council providing all services in Wiltshire would be remote and less in touch with local people and local issues	49	22	4	14	8	2
b)	With a single council it would be clearer who is responsible for local services	32	31	5	15	15	3
c)	The change to a single council would be too disruptive	31	21	8	23	12	6
d)	It won't affect me if there is a single council in Wiltshire or not	11	17	5	25	37	5
e)	A single council would be more efficient than the current system to two councils	16	20	8	22	28	6
f)	The change to a single council would mean that local councillors would have less power to improve things in their local area	41	28	4	14	8	4
g)	Wiltshire is too big an area to be served by one council providing all services	45	19	5	17	10	3
h)	ASK LAST I would like to have more information on any proposals before making up my mind	58	23	4	9	6	1

Q13. I am now going to read out a number of different statements about local government in Wiltshire and I would like you to tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with each one. PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that strongly/tend to agree/disagree? READ OUT a) to f). RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY

		Strongly Agree	Tend to agree	Neither/nor	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
a)	The current system of local government, with each area having a district and county council, works well for me and my family	% 28	38	13	9	7	5
b)	There is not enough co-ordination of all public services (including Police / health) in my local area	% 31	24	11	17	5	11
c)	Leaders of all the councils in Wiltshire should meet together regularly to take forward the needs of the county as a whole	% 61	31	3	3	1	2
d)	It wouldn't matter to me if there were fewer councillors representing me and my area, providing all areas in the county are fairly represented	% 28	40	5	14	11	2
e)	I would like a single point of contact where all my council queries can be answered	% 53	26	5	10	4	2
f)	The current system of local government, with a district and county council, is confusing	% 26	29	6	23	13	2

Q14. And how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way that [INSERT NAME FROM Q2 RESPONSE] District Council is running the area? PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that very/fairly satisfied/dissatisfied? SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Very satisfied	13
Fairly satisfied	54
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10
Fairly dissatisfied	12
Very dissatisfied	9
Don't know	2

Q15. Finally, I would like to ask you again: how strongly do you agree or disagree with the view that, there is a need to change from the existing two-tier system with two local authorities (the District Council and County Council) to a new system with a single authority providing all services covering the whole of Wiltshire? PROBE IF NECESSARY Is that strongly/tend to agree/disagree? SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Strongly agree	15
Tend to agree	17
Neither agree nor disagree	9
Tend to disagree	18
Strongly disagree	36
Don't know	5

Demographics

Gender

	%
Male	49
Female	51

QA. Age

	%
18-24	9
25-34	17
35-44	18
45-54	20
55-59	9
60-64	8
65-74	12
75+	7
Refused	*

QB. Working Status

	%
Working – Full-time (30+ hrs/wk)	47
Working – Part-time (8-29 hrs/wk)	17
Working – (under 8 hrs/wk)	*
Housewife/husband	6
Retired	22
Registered unemployed	1
Unemployed but not registered	1
Permanently sick/disabled	2
On a training scheme	*
Voluntary work	*
Student	3
Other	1

QC. How long have you lived in this area? IF UNSURE PROBE FOR ESTIMATE. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Less than 6 months	2
At least six months but less than a year	3
At least a year but less than 5 years	13
At least 5 years but less than 20 years	31
20 years or more	51