



APSE PERFORMANCE NETWORKS CONFERENCE

November 2015

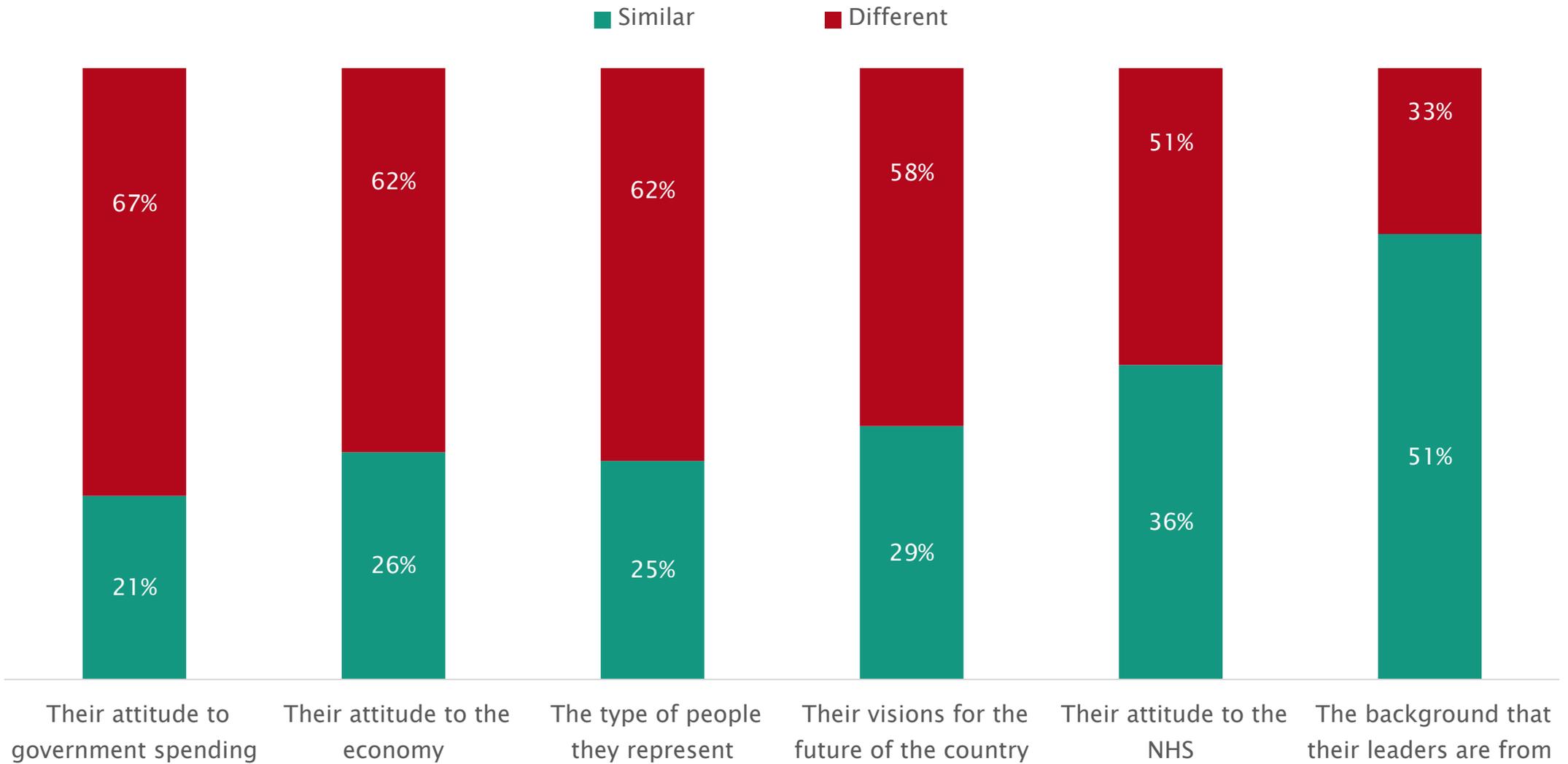
POLITICAL CONTEXT



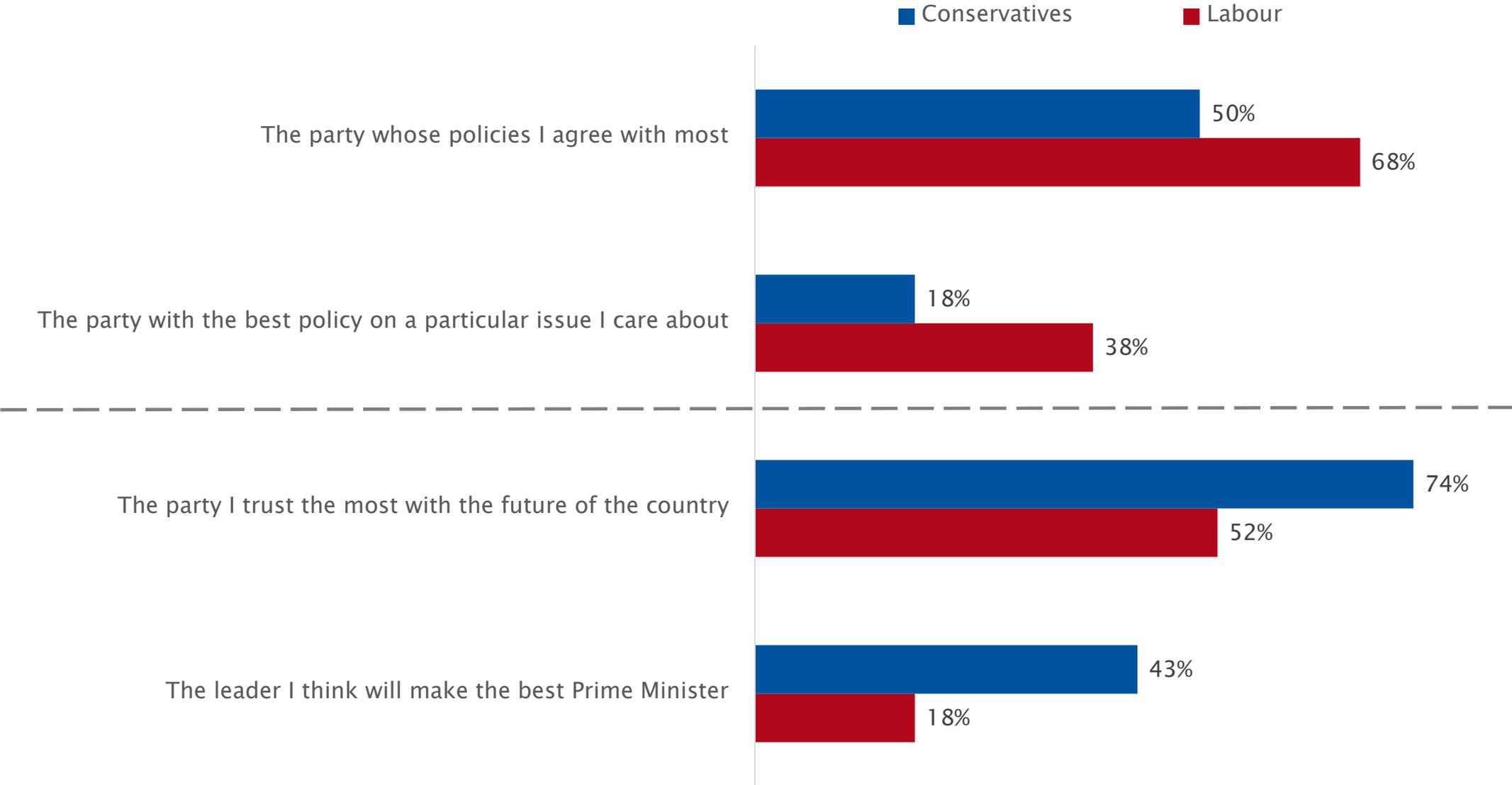
FOUR NATIONS – FOUR WINNERS



LABOUR DIFFERENT ENOUGH?

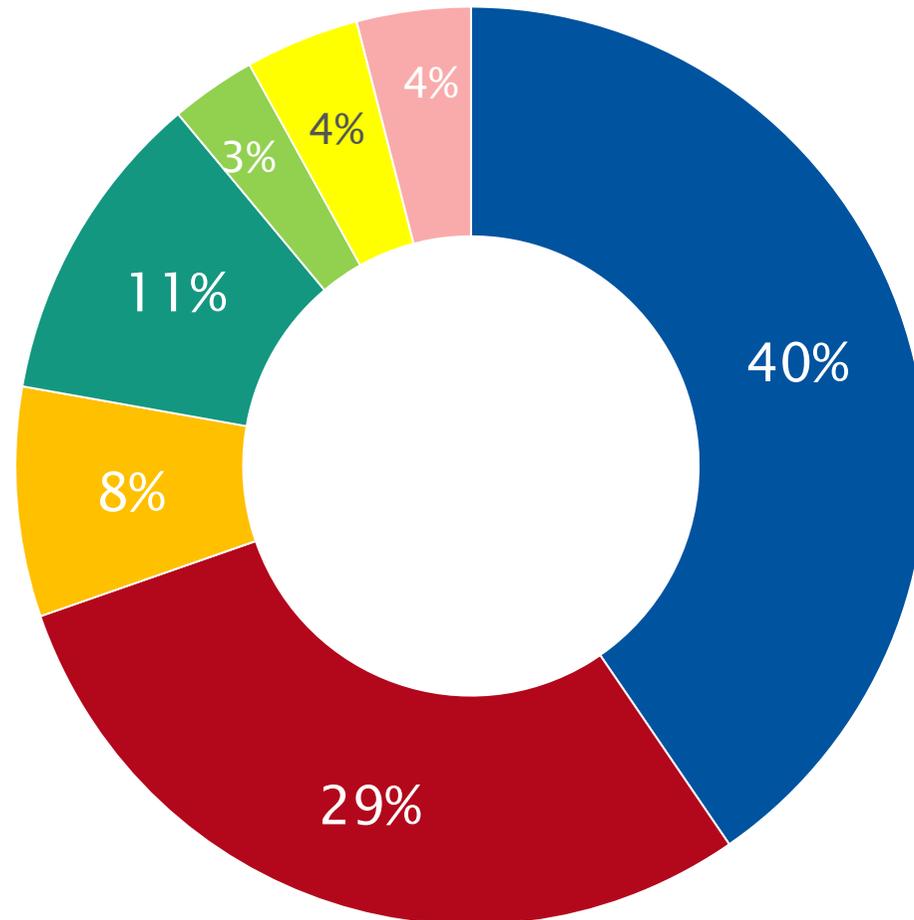


CONSERVATIVES WON THE HEAD, IF NOT THE HEART

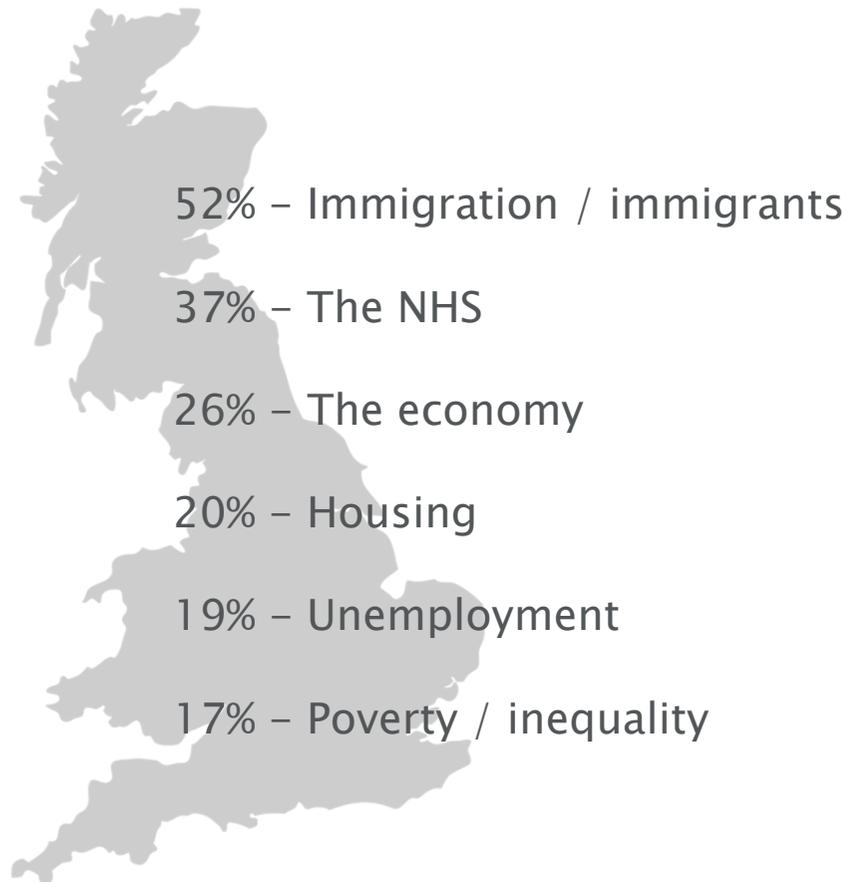


Source: ComRes, 3,998 British adults who have voted, 7th May 2015, Q. Which of the following are important factor(s) in helping you decide who you voted for?

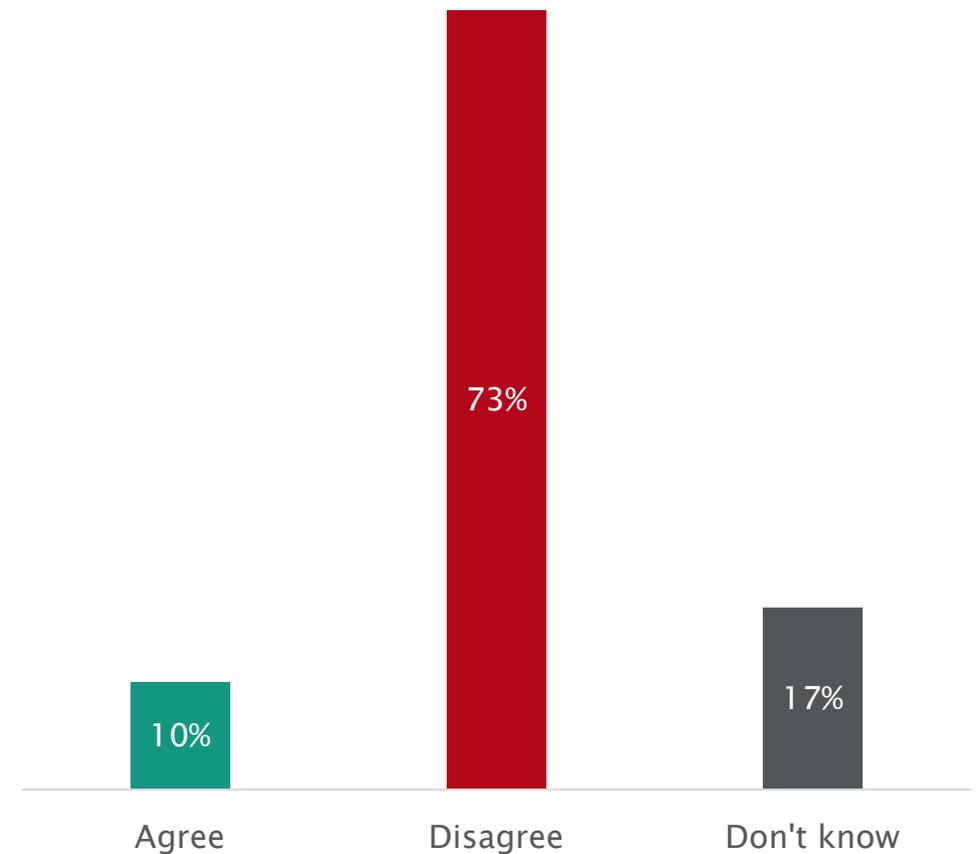
CURRENT VOTING INTENTION



PUBLIC PRIORITIES



The UK economy has been fixed

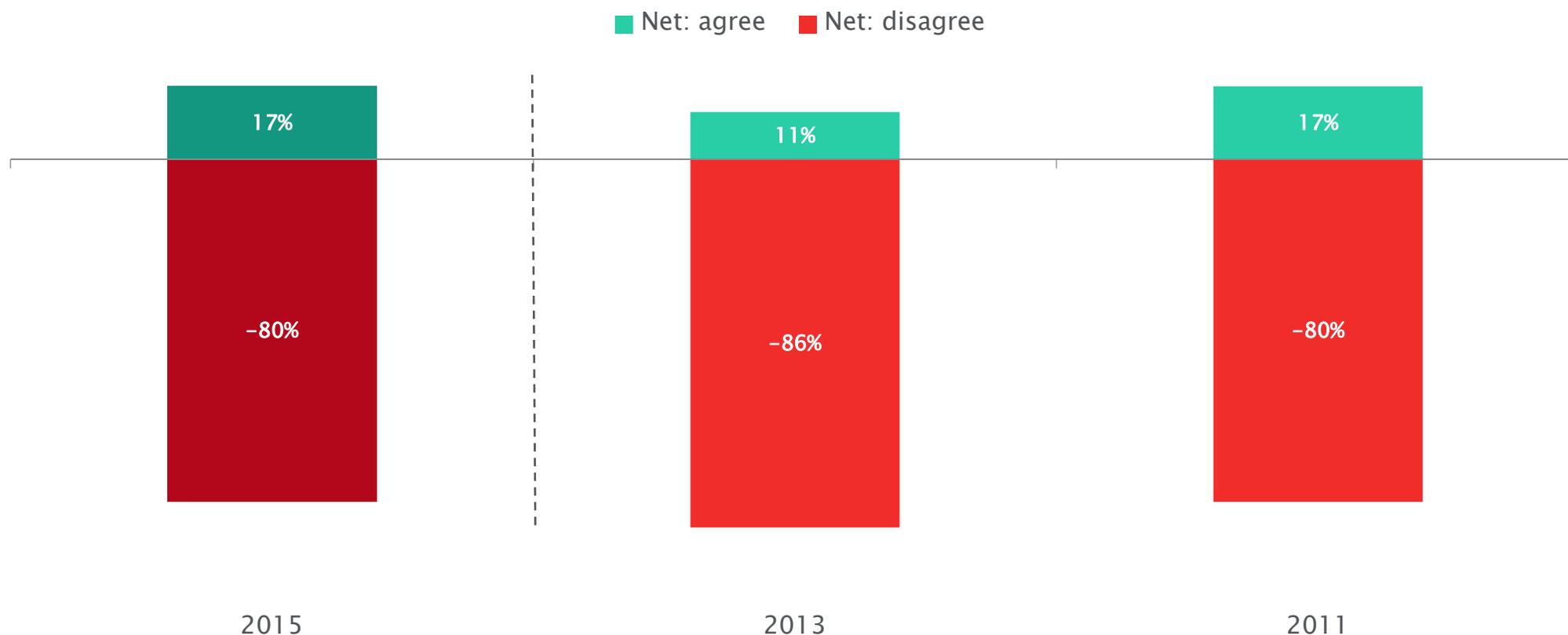


ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



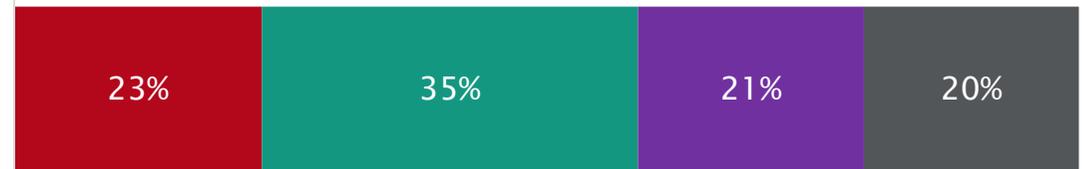
COUNCILLORS REMAIN DISSATISFIED WITH THE BALANCE OF POWER

“The current balance of power between central and local government is about right”

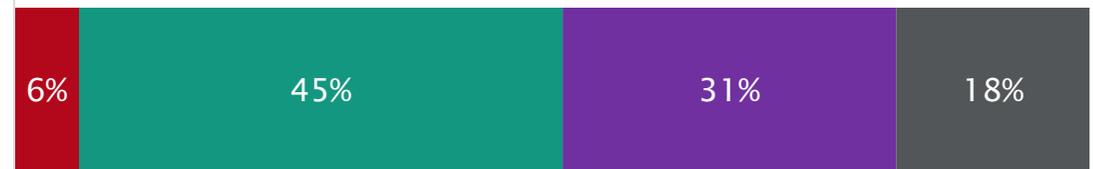


DEVOLVING DECISION MAKING?

The amount of powers on spending, taxation and general decision making LOCAL COUNCILS have



The amount of powers on spending, taxation and general decision making in the UK GOVERNMENT has



■ Too low ■ About right ■ Too high ■ Don't know

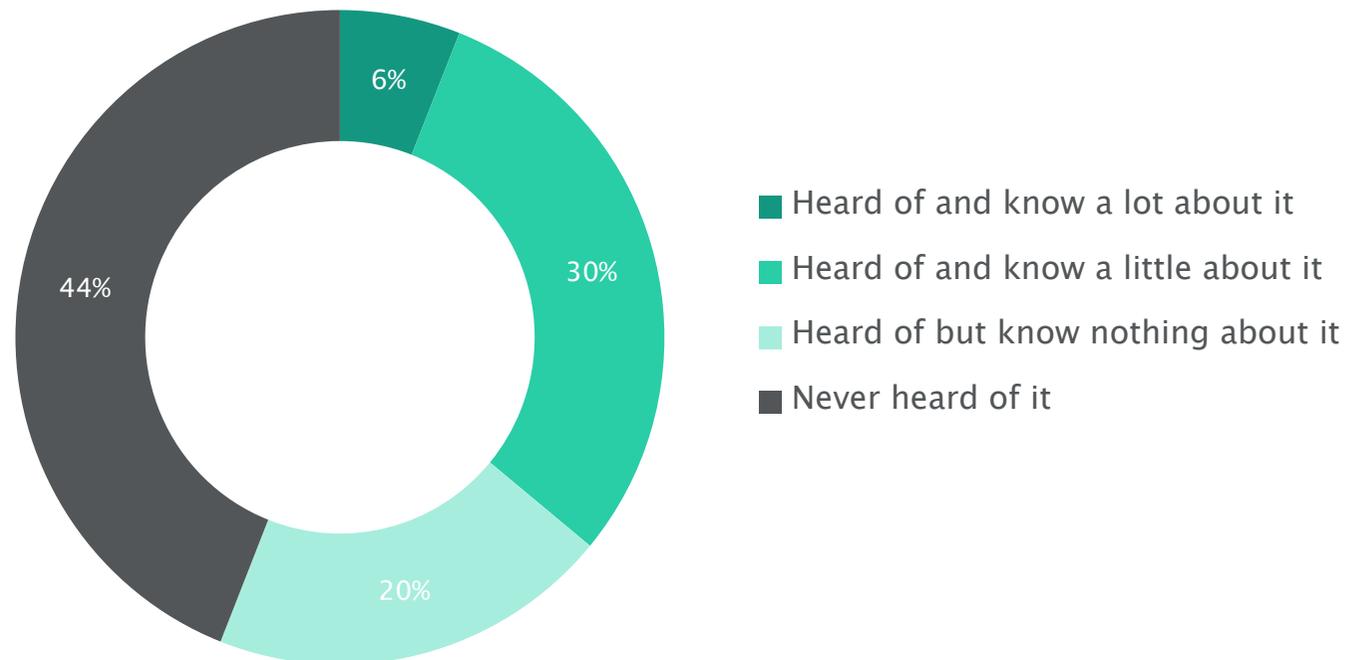
NORTHERN POWERHOUSE – POPULAR IN PRINCIPLE

“Local politicians in the North, rather than MPs in Westminster, should have control over services like **transport and health** to improve the region.”

82%

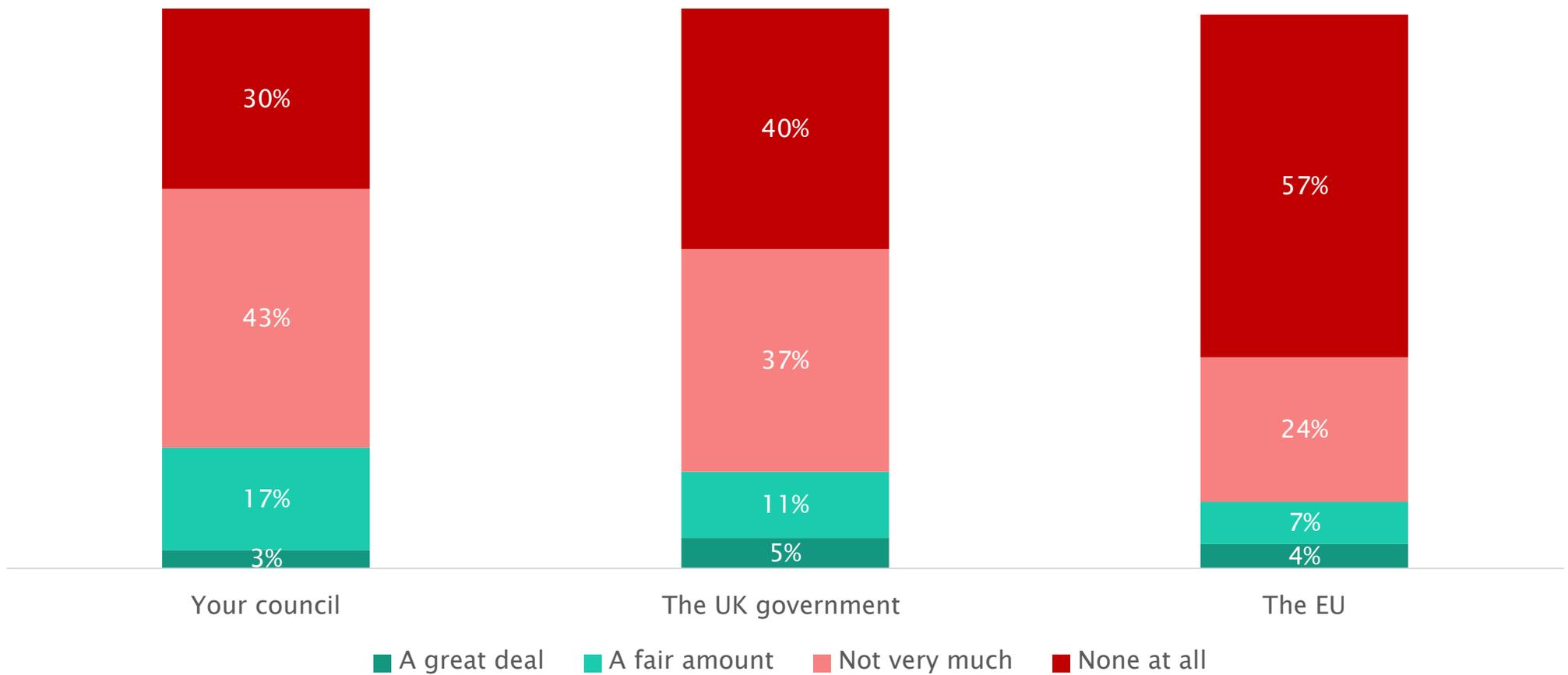
15%

How much, if at all, do you know about the "Northern Powerhouse"?



RELATED TO INFLUENCE?

Amount of influence felt to have over the decisions made by...



SPLIT ON MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Control of spending on public services

The spending on and organisation of public services should be controlled by the UK government

41%

More power over the spending on and organisation of public services should be given to local and regional government

42%

AS WELL AS ON REVENUE RAISING & SERVICE DELIVERY

Tax raising powers?

The UK government should have control over how much money local councils receive, and how they spend it on public services

40%

Local councils should have more control over how much money they raise through taxes and how they spend it on public services

43%

Delivery models

The UK government should be responsible for how regional parliaments and local councils deliver public services

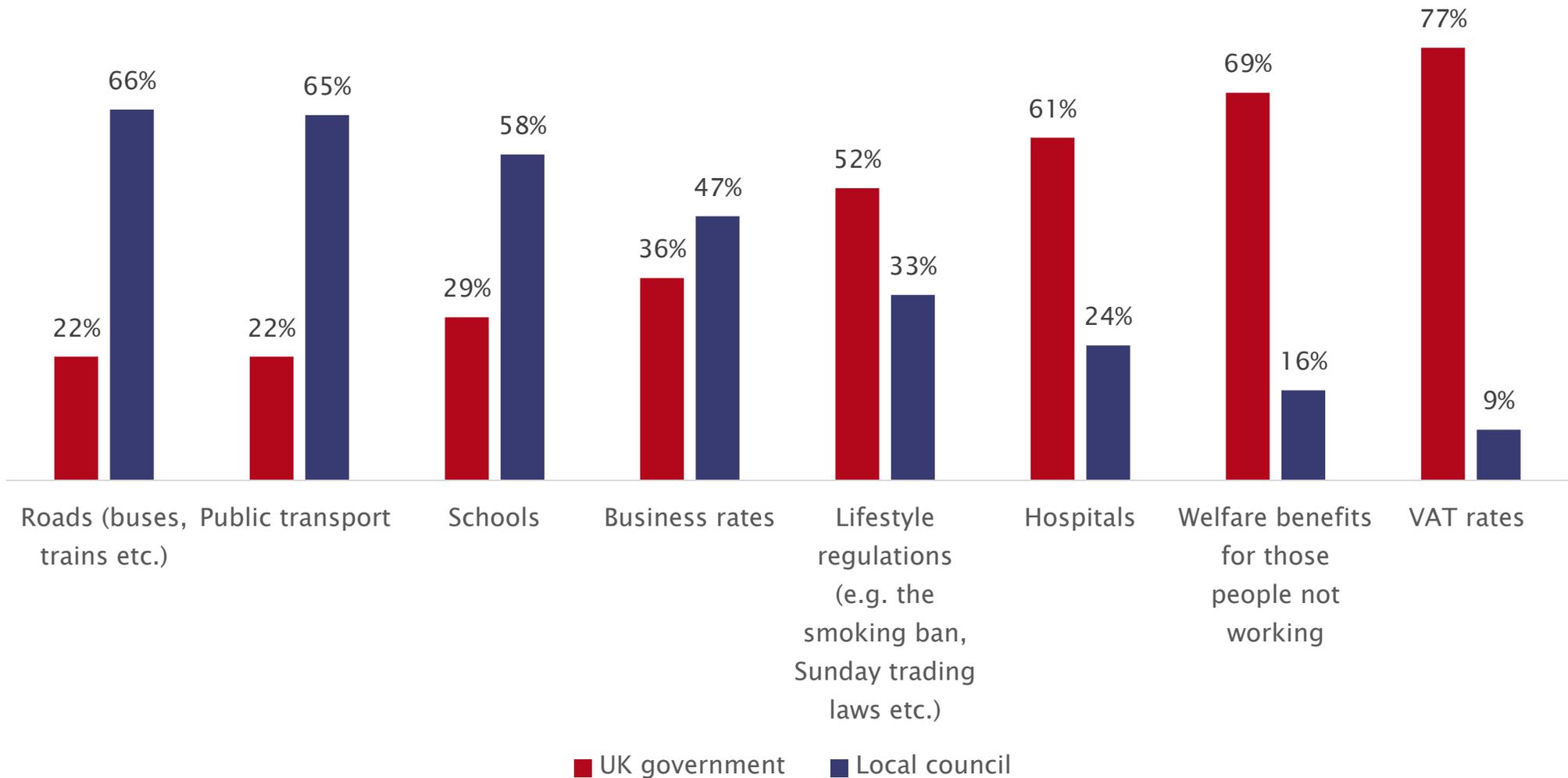
41%

Regional parliaments and local councils should have more power to experiment with how public services are provided to the public

41%

WHAT COUNCILS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR

Who should be ultimately responsible



BUT AGAIN SPLIT ON REGIONAL PARITY OF PROVISION VS. REGIONAL TAILORING

Equality vs. regional relevance

The UK government should allow regions and local areas to provide public services how they feel is best for their area

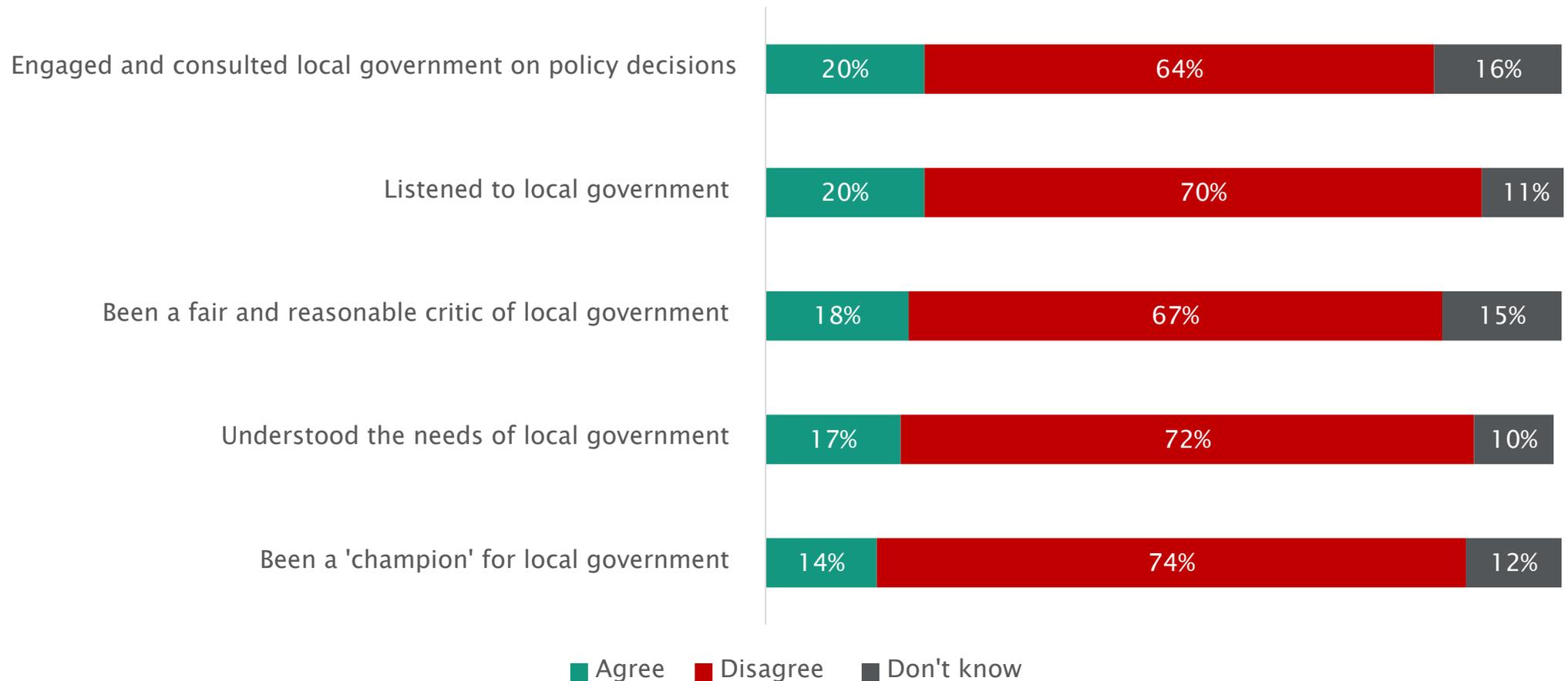
44%

The UK government should try to ensure public services are the same across the whole country

40%

DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP WITH CENTRAL GOVT

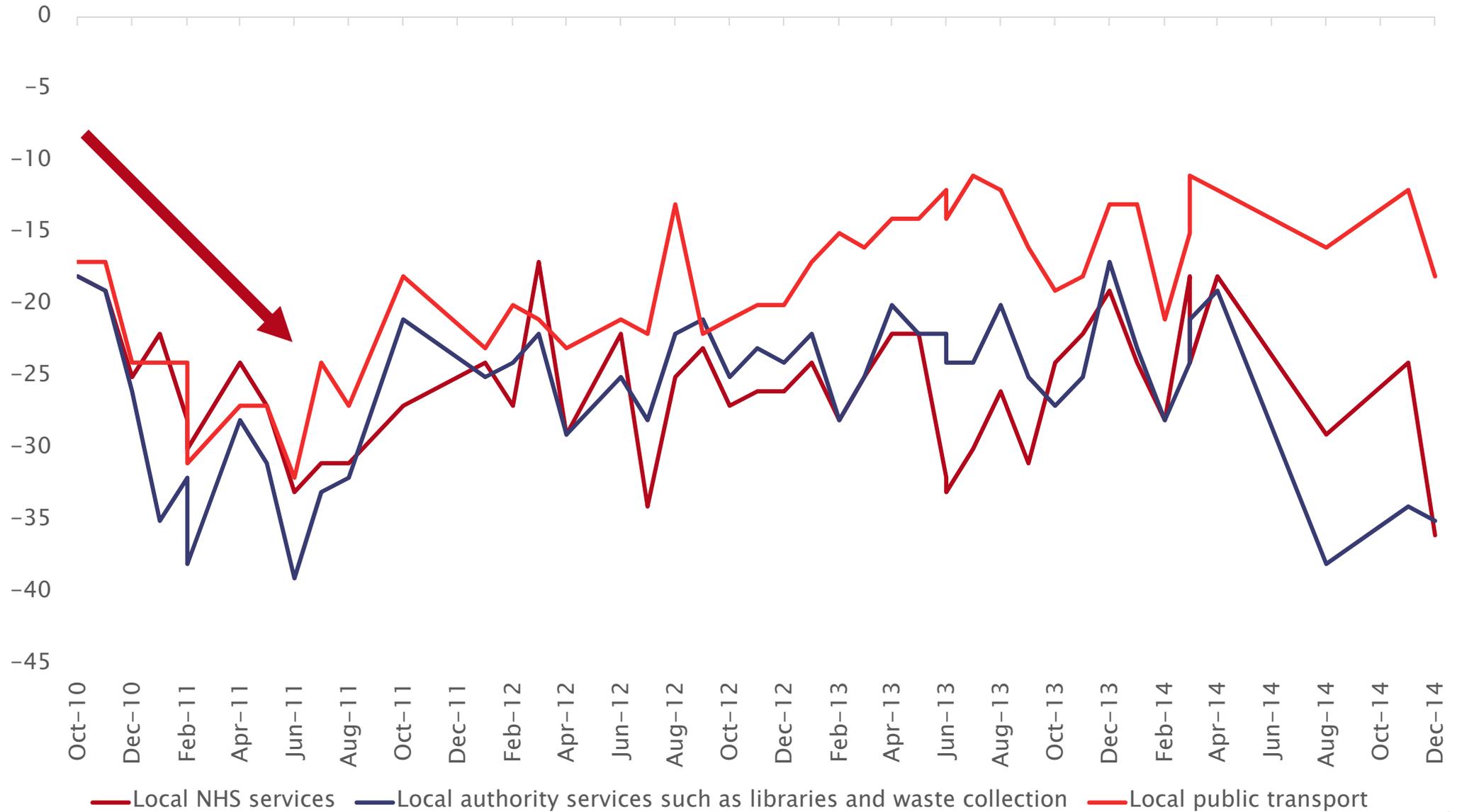
Since the General Election, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and his ministerial team have...



The background features a long-exposure photograph of a road at night, showing light trails from vehicles. The road curves to the right. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image. A red and white circular graphic is partially visible on the right edge.

COUNCILS' PERFORMANCE & PRIORITIES – COUNCILLORS

SATISFACTION ANTICIPATING ACTION

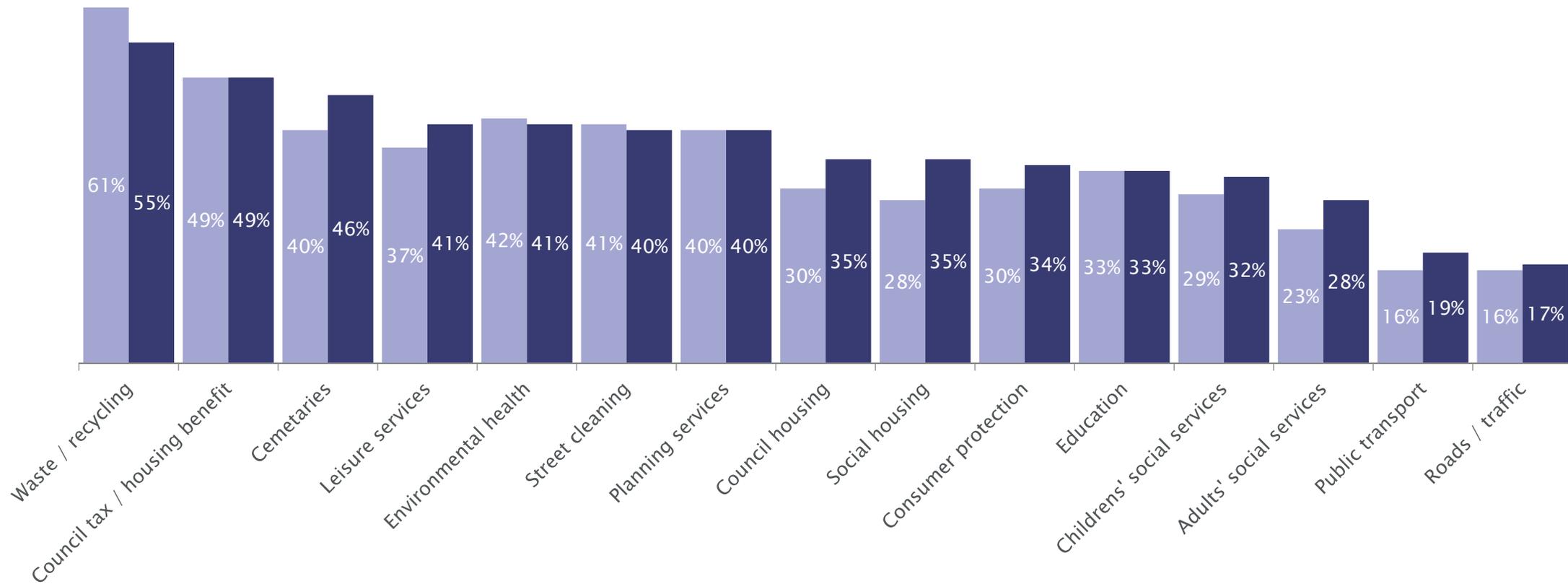


PERCEIVED PERFORMANCE

Perceptions of council's performance

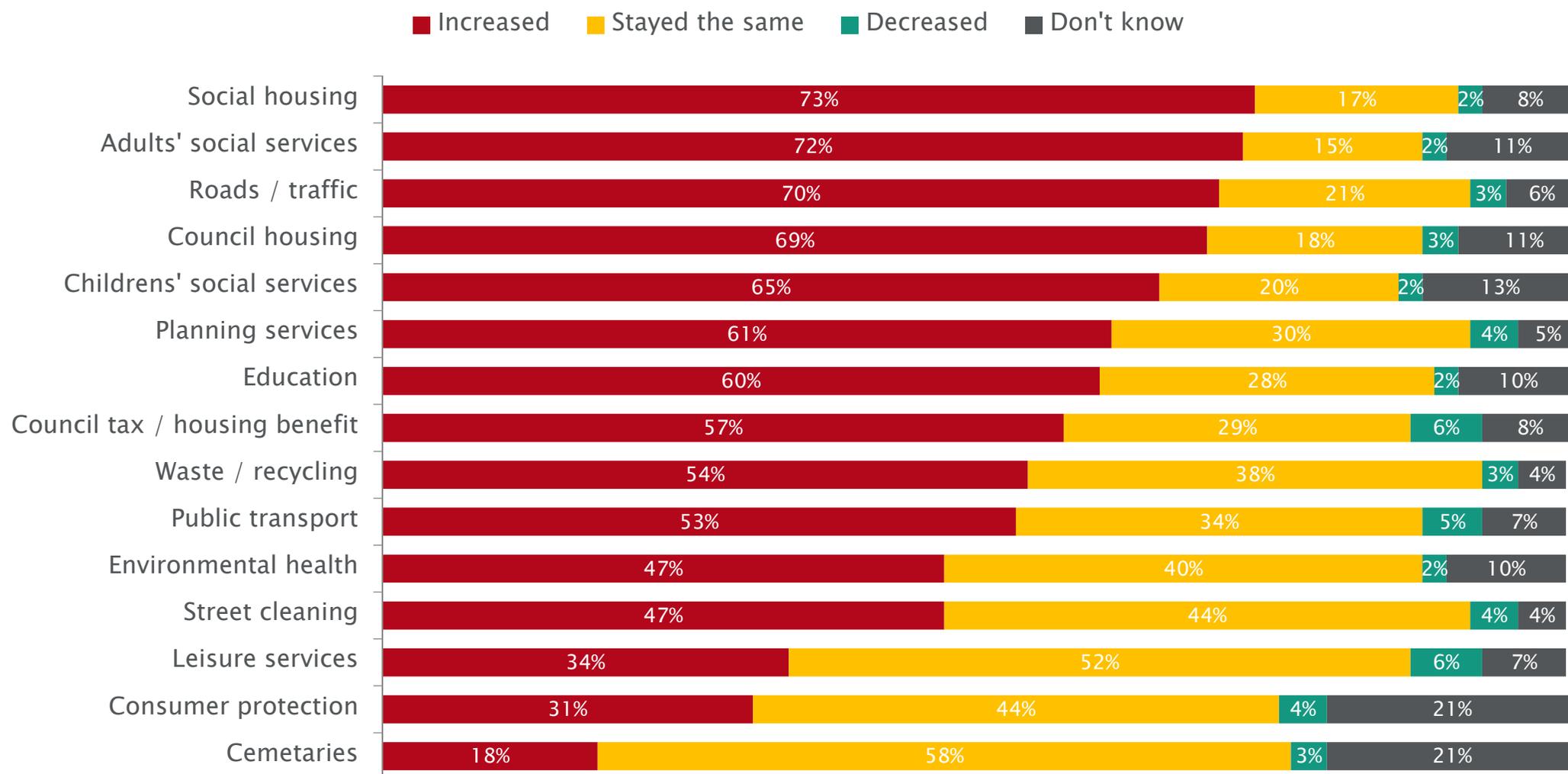
% selecting good (8-10/10)

■ 2013 ■ 2015



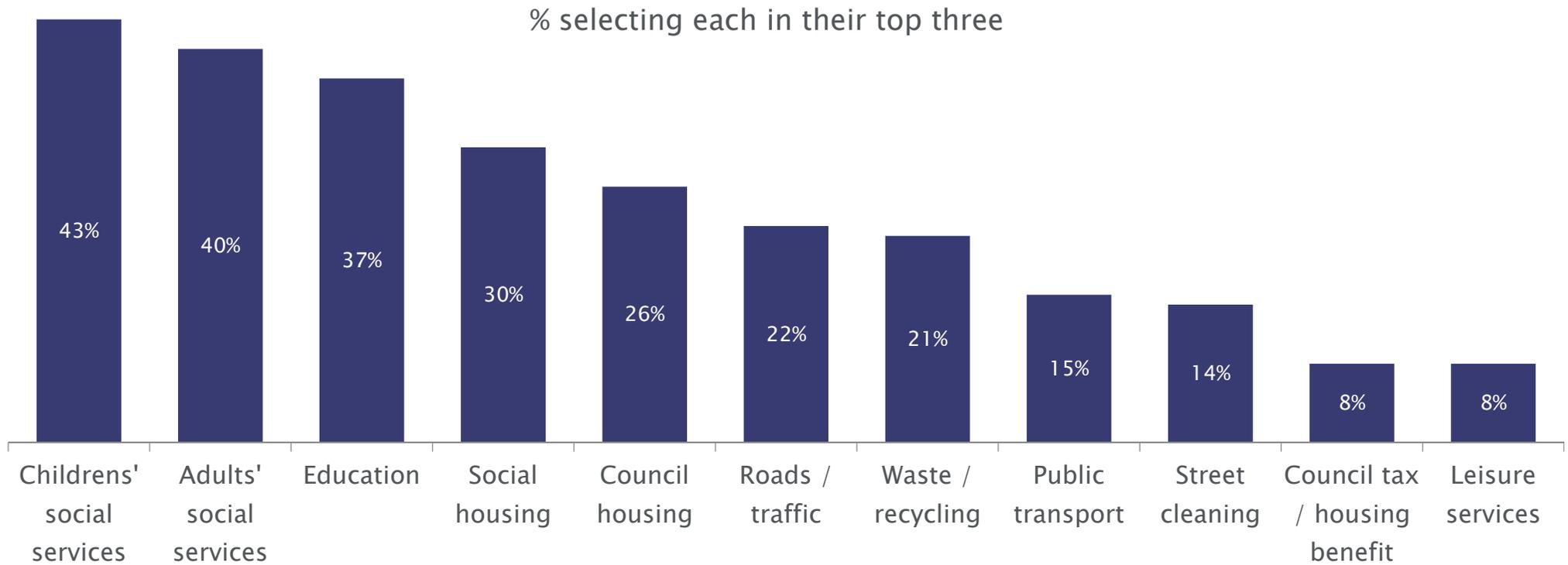
PERCEIVED DEMAND FOR SERVICES INCREASING

Changes to local demand for services in the last 12 months



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Priorities for investment

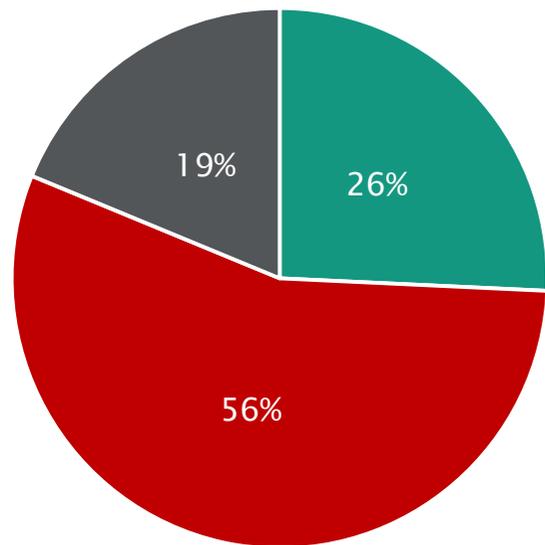


SPENDING CUTS



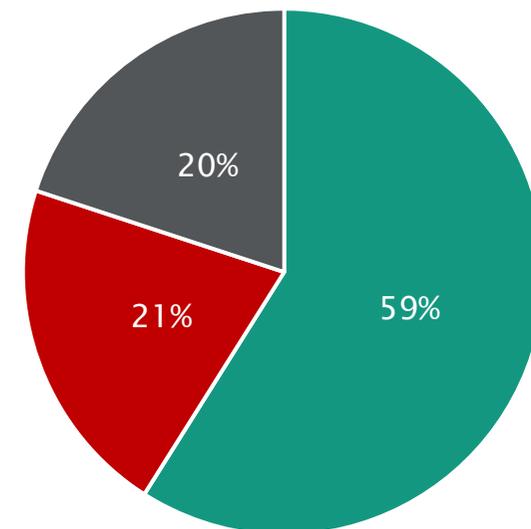
CUTS THE REMEDY FOR THE ECONOMY?

"The way the Government is going about cutting public spending is fair"



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't know

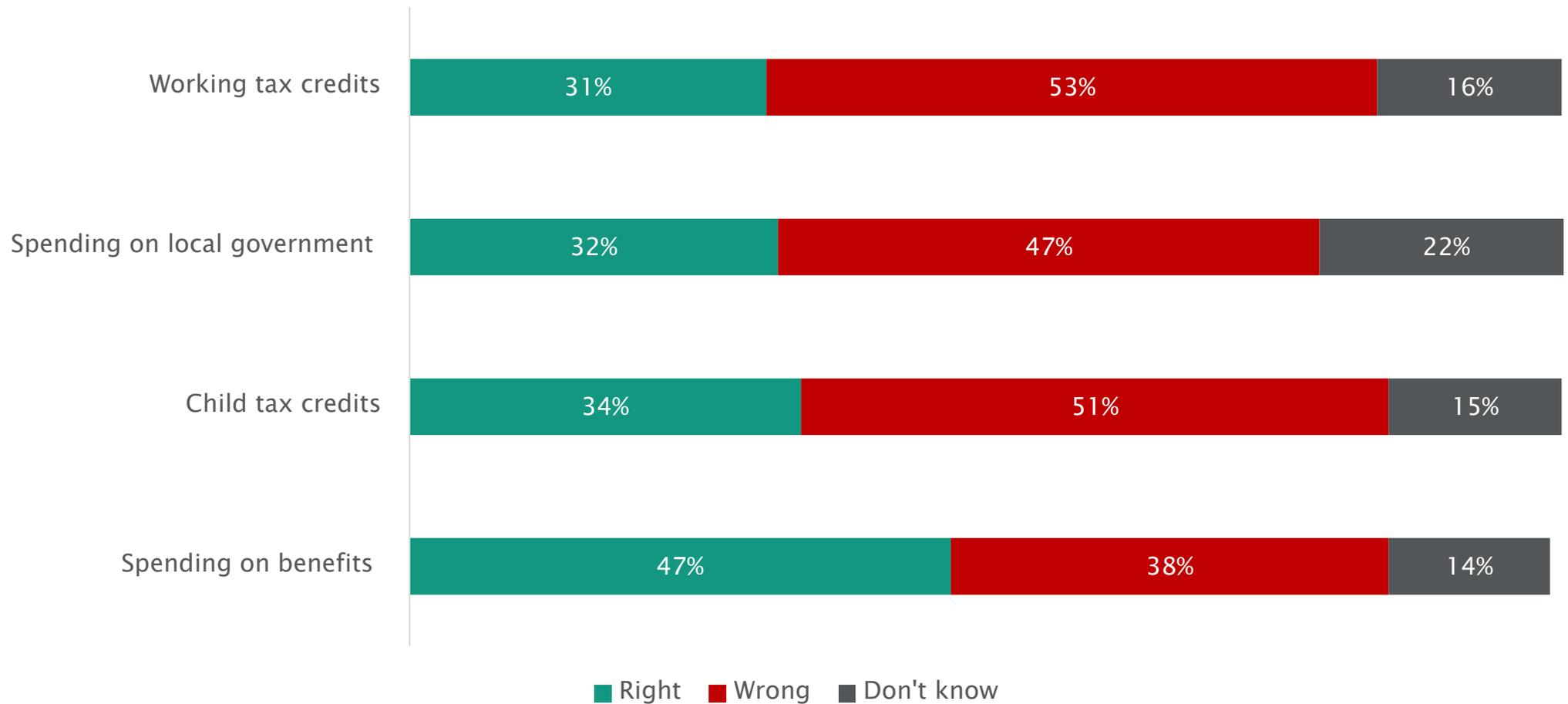
"It would be better to slow the rate of spending cuts even if it makes it take longer to get the country's finances back on track"



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't know

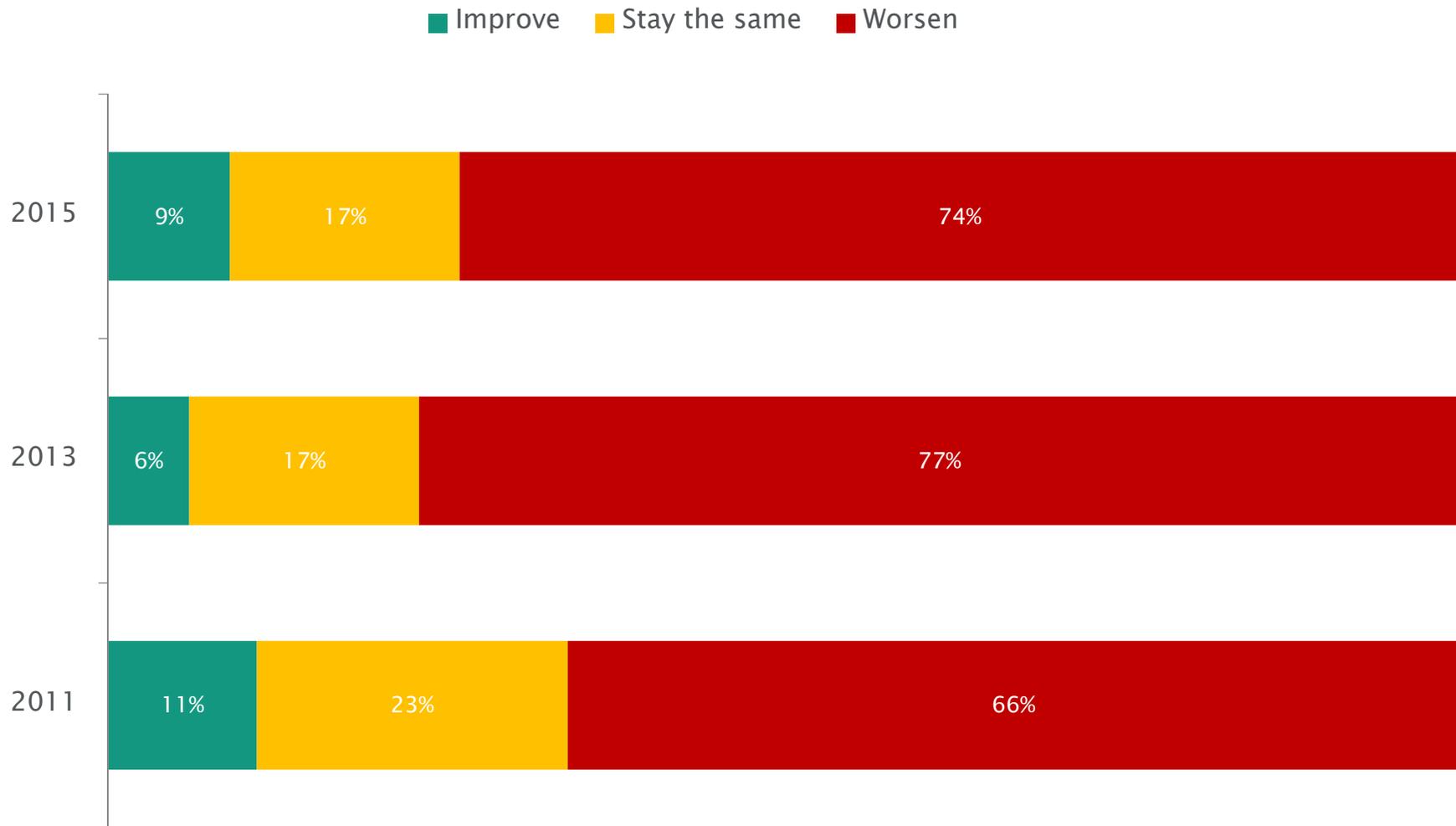
WHERE TO CUT

Government right or wrong to be reducing spending in its attempt to reduce the budget deficit:



ALL COMES BACK TO FINANCES

In the next 12 months do you think your council's financial situation will...



CONSTRAINED BY FINANCES & EMPOWERMENT

My council...

...is in a **better position to deliver services** to local residents than 12 months ago



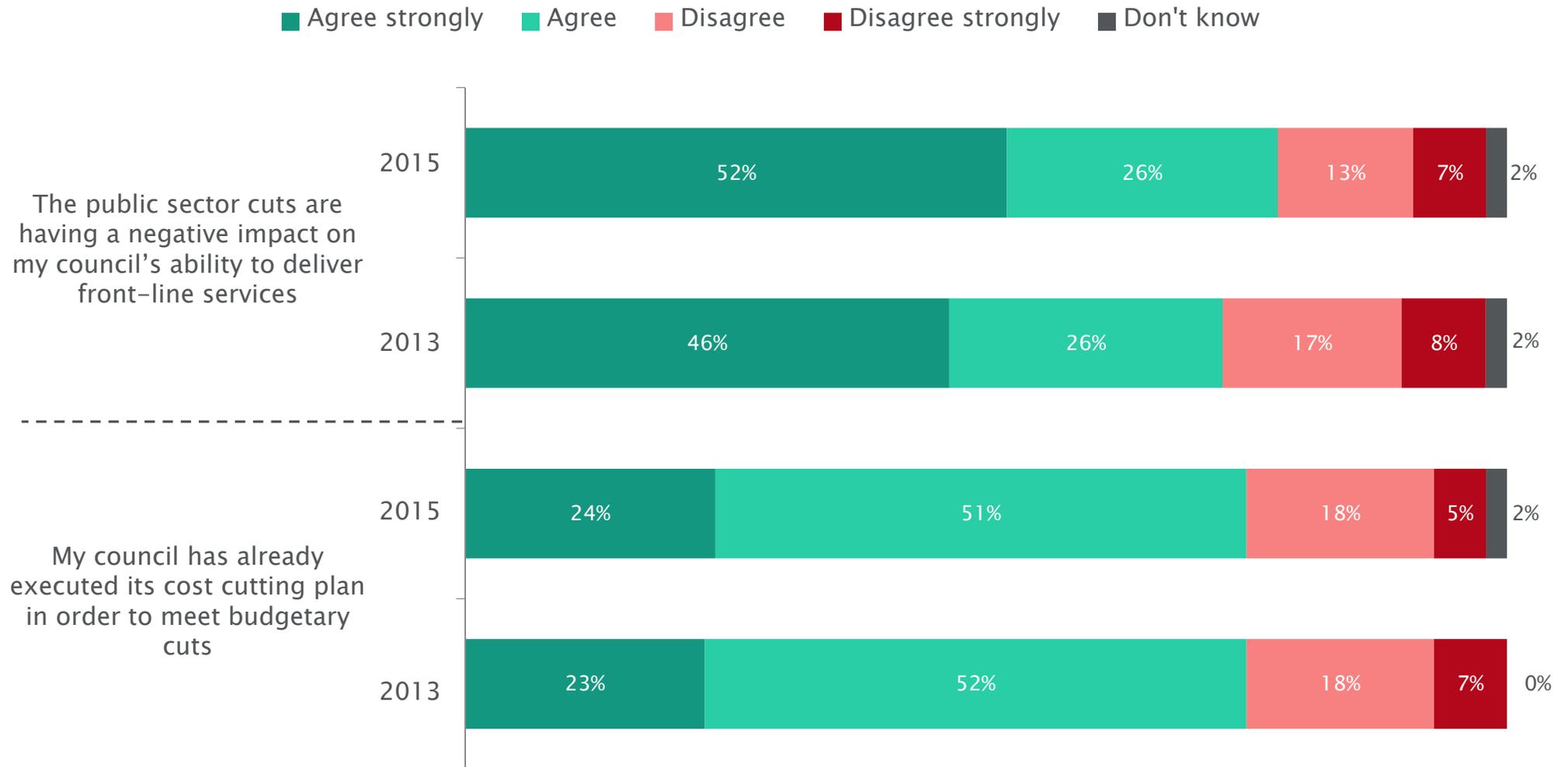
...has the **financial resources** it needs to deliver the **services that local residents expect**



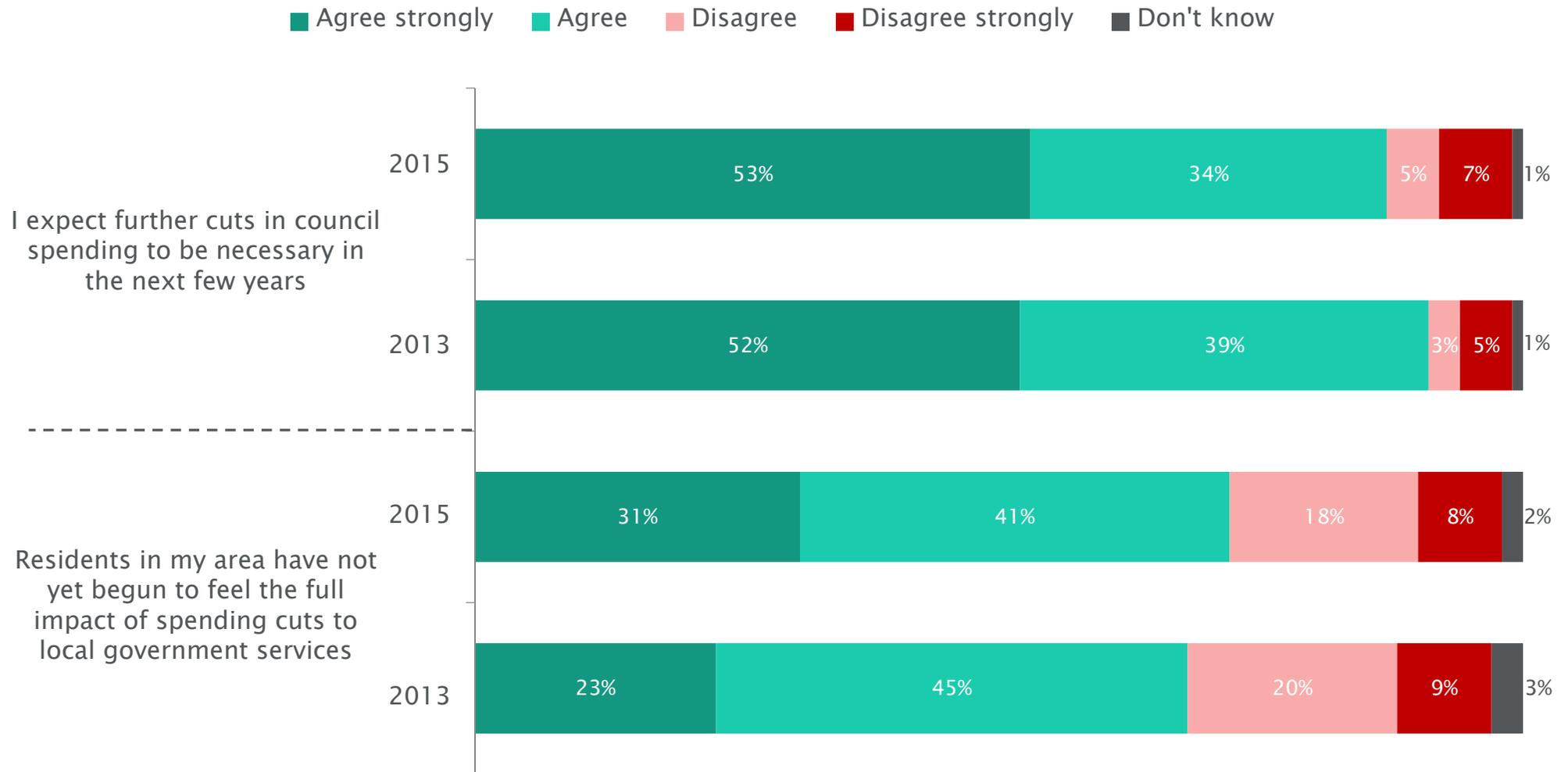
...is **sufficiently empowered** to provide services that local people really want



IMPACT OF CUTS INCREASINGLY FELT IN FRONT-LINE SERVICES



AND THERE IS MORE TO COME



CONSEQUENCES FOR LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY



WHERE FROM HERE?

Councillors

- Not optimistic about ability to deliver services
- Demand perceived to be increasing
- Fractious relationship with central govt

Public

- Support localism agenda
- Not come to terms with some of the implications
- Fractious relationship with central govt

- Doesn't get easier – expectations, responsibility, demand
- Immediacy of services provided
- Innovation, communications & engagement

An aerial night view of London, featuring the Gherkin building in the foreground and the city skyline in the background. A large red diagonal overlay covers the left side of the image.

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