

Poll Proves a Point

The MYB research poll seems to confirm what many had already suspected. Councils and city regions in particular want more powers but support for Elected Mayors is waning fast.

It has been proven in numerous cases that regional wide development has successfully taken place in a number of localities with existing and innovative leadership structures without the need for an Elected Mayor. To suggest otherwise is disingenuous to the achievements of city leaders in some of England's core cities.

Local authorities are in the vast majority of cases well placed to deliver more strategic approaches to transport, skills and employment as they have done with safer, cleaner, greener neighbourhoods and large scale regeneration projects

Whilst Elected Mayors and local authority restructures might have politicians frothing at the mouth with excitement surely it is common sense to recognise that this is more of a turn off to the average elector

If Government wants local authorities to be partners in delivering the vision of joined up public services that have so far eluded them they must devolve powers without pre-conditions. Elected Mayors may be welcome in some locations, alongside other forms of new governance arrangements, but that should be a localised matter not a further approach to tie local government to the apron strings of central Government.

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