



## YouGovStone 'Influentials Monitor' - survey results July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Each week we ask a selection of YouGovStone ThinkTank members to answer some topical questions. 258 senior individuals took part this week (Monday June 30<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>), covering the following topics:

- Zimbabwe
- 2012 Olympics
- the 10p tax changes
- car tax changes
- predictions for the economy.

### Zimbabwe

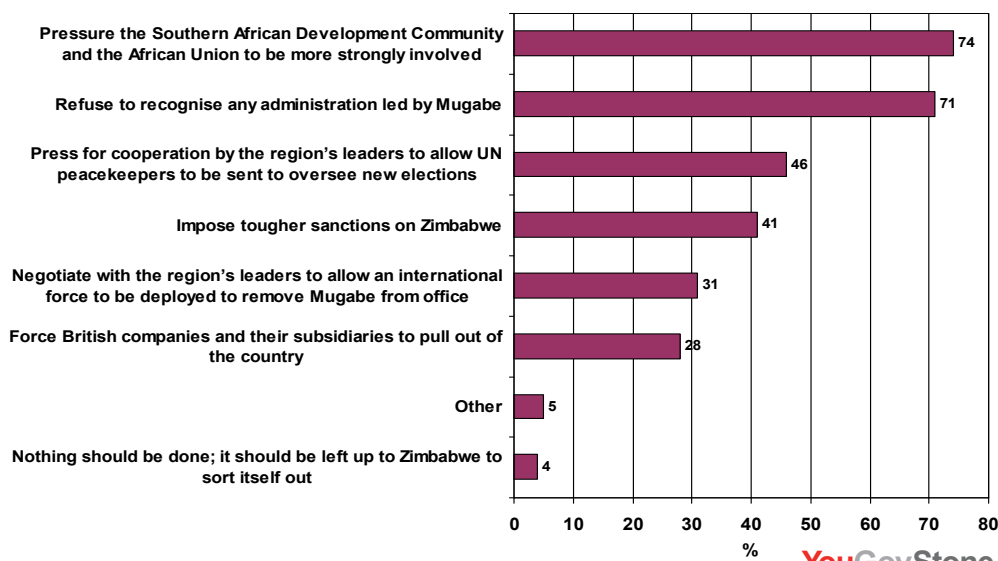
Following the highly disputed re-election of Robert Mugabe as President of Zimbabwe, we asked members of our ThinkTank what action they thought the British Government should take in response.

The most popular option, with almost three-quarters of respondents suggesting it, was for the British Government to put pressure on the Southern African Development Community and the African Union to be more strongly involved. Just behind this, 71% felt the British Government should refuse to recognise any administration led by Mugabe.

46% think that the region's leaders should be pressed to cooperate in allowing UN peacekeepers to be sent to oversee a new election and 41% think the British government should impose tougher sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Almost a third (31%) felt that there should be a negotiation with the region's leaders to allow an international force to be deployed to remove Mugabe from office. Less than 4% of our influentials think it should be left to Zimbabwe to sort its own problems out.

**Following the re-election of Robert Mugabe, what actions, if any, do you feel the British Government should take towards Zimbabwe?**



Base: 258 YouGovStone "influentials" June 30<sup>th</sup>



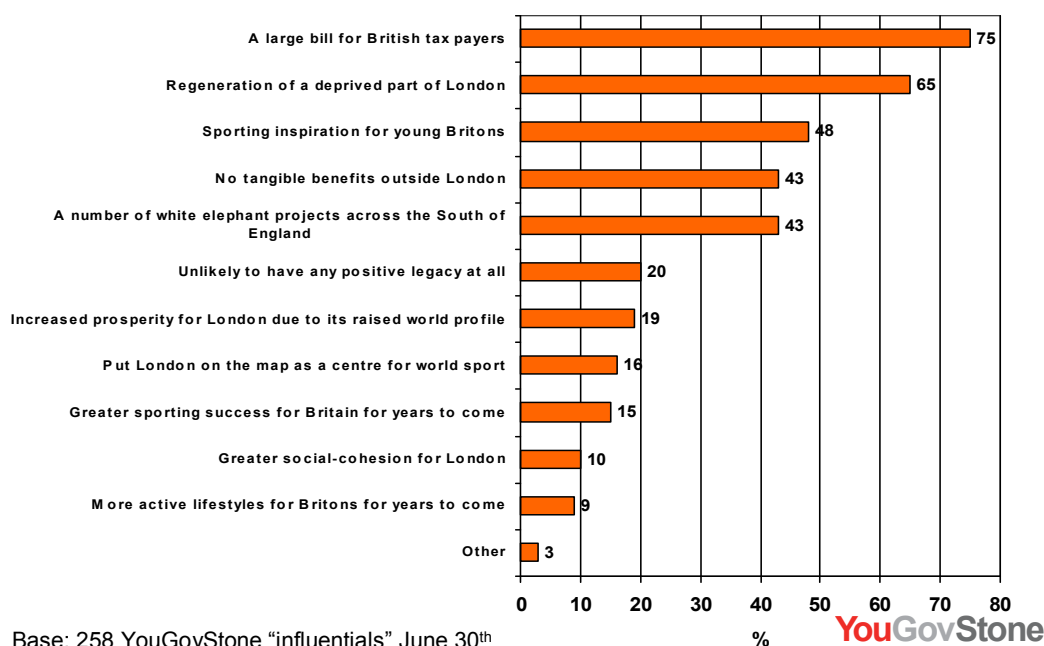
## 2012 Olympic Legacy

With constant speculation in the news over the estimated costs of the 2012 Olympic Games, our respondents were asked what sort of legacy they think will be left by the international event. The answer is that they need a lot more winning over.

The number one legacy of the Games, chosen by 75% of respondents, was felt to be a large bill for British tax payers. In a similarly negative vein, 43% foresee a number of white elephant projects across the South of England and the same number think there will be no tangible benefits outside London.

On a positive note, 65% see the legacy being the regeneration of a deprived part of London and nearly half (48%) of respondents think it will provide sporting inspiration for young Britons. Even if it is a sporting inspiration, only around 9% think the Games will lead to more active lifestyles for Britons over the longer term and just 15% see it delivering greater sporting success for Britons in coming years.

### What legacy for Britain, if any, do you feel the 2012 Olympics in London will leave?



It will be interesting to track these perceptions over time and see whether they become more positive once the Games cultural activities begin this Autumn.

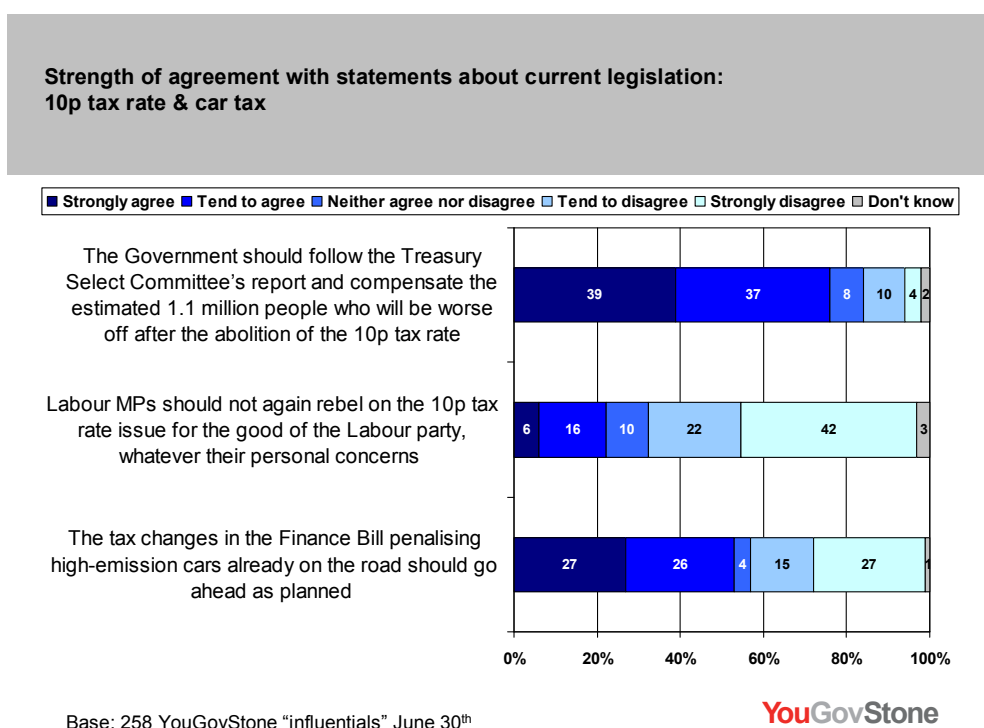
## Parliamentary Issues

Influentials were given a selection of statements on current parliamentary issues of which they were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with each.



After the heavily criticized abolition of the 10p tax rate, 76% of respondents agreed that the Government should follow the Treasury Select Committee’s report and compensate the estimated 1.1 million people who will still be worse off, with 39% agreeing strongly to this. Asked whether Labour MPs should not rebel again on the 10p tax rate issue, for the good of the Labour party, then whatever their personal concerns just under two-thirds (64%) of our influentials disagreed and thought they should rebel if they felt the need.

With regard to the tax changes in the Finance Bill penalising high-emission cars already on the road, there is mixed opinion from our ThinkTank members as to whether or not the proposed changes should go ahead as planned – 53% thought they should go ahead while 42% thought they should not.



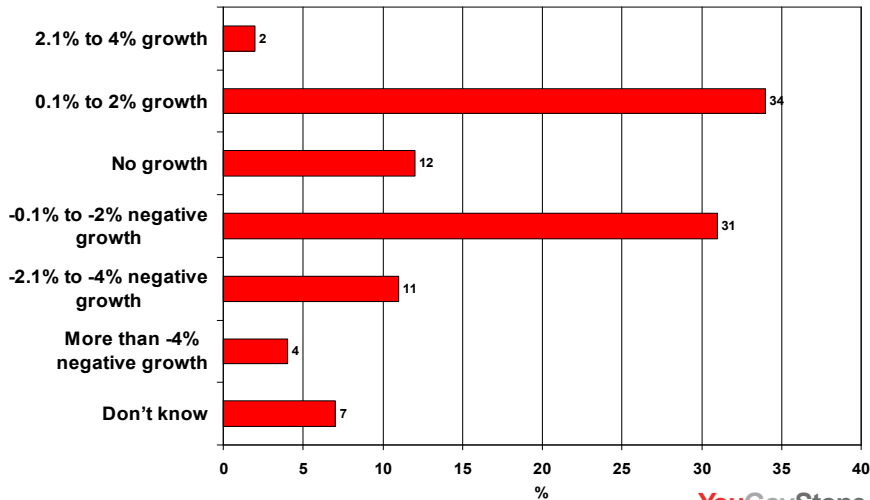
## Economy

With ongoing concern over the state of the economy, respondents were asked how much growth or contraction they expected the UK economy will be experiencing in 12 months time. 36% expect there to be positive growth in a year’s time while 46% expect negative growth.

While over one-third think that the economy is likely to grow by anything up to 2%, despite current economic problems, 31% predict a contraction of up to -2% and further still 11% think we will see negative growth of between -2.1% and -4%. 1 in 8 expect no growth or contraction at all.



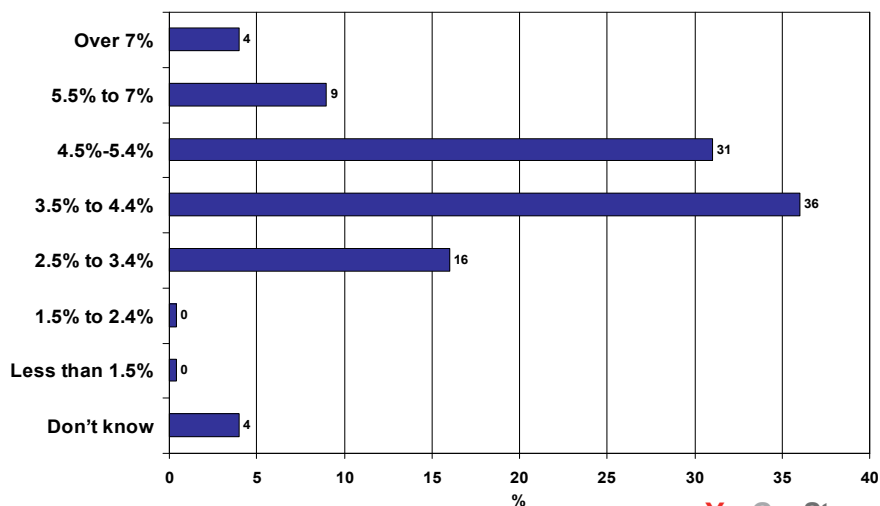
**In 12 months time how much do you expect the UK economy to be growing or contracting?**



Base: 258 YouGovStone "influentials" June 30<sup>th</sup>

Respondents were also asked what level they expect inflation (using the Government's measure of CPI) to be in 12 months time. 80% of our influentials think inflation will be higher than its May 2008 value of 3.3%, with 31% stating between 4.5%-5.4%, 9% between 5.5% to 7%, and 4% of respondents expecting inflation to be as high 7% or more.

**At what level do you expect inflation to be in 12 months time? (This refers to the Government's measure of inflation, the Consumer Prices Index, which excludes many housing costs such as council tax, mortgage interest payments and house depreciation which in May stood at 3.3%)**



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**The YouGovStone ThinkTank is a group of over 3,000 influential individuals, predominantly UK based, drawn from various sectors including politics, business, media, the arts,**

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academia, health, charity and law. The Influentials Monitor is a weekly survey completed by a representative sample of the ThinkTank.

For more details about these results or how to ask your questions to the ThinkTank, please contact Oliver Rowe, YouGovStone's Business Development Director on 020 7012 6032 or email [oliver.rowe@yougovstone.com](mailto:oliver.rowe@yougovstone.com)