

Release Date: 12th May 2008

Issued on behalf of Local Opinion



Local Opinion

Mount Offham
Offham
West Malling
Kent ME19 5PG
t: 01732 874 054 f: 0870 870 1451

e: info@localopinion.co.uk
w: www.localopinion.co.uk

KENT'S TOLERANCE OF IMMIGRATION DECREASES

Two thirds of Kent residents have changed their views on immigration in recent years and more than half say they are less tolerant, according to a survey run by independent market research company Local Opinion.

In the survey of 632 Kent residents, 62.9% said their opinion had changed regarding immigration, with 55.6% saying they had become less tolerant and just 6.4% saying they were more tolerant.

More than half, 52.8%, felt that immigration had a negative effect on the economy while only 17.8% said it had a positive effect.

Respondents were concerned about pressures on social services, schools, the NHS, housing, employment, overcrowding and crime. Many felt that Kent's position as the gateway to the Continent was a major factor with 42.7% agreeing that living in the South East had a greater influence on their views on asylum seekers and refugees.

Local Opinion research executive Sharon Greenslade said: "It seems Kent's residents are not against all immigration but are worried that the county has to bear too much of the burden of economic migration without it being balanced by significant benefits. More than 90% of respondents had something to say about this and clearly it's a subject that makes feelings run high."

Local Opinion research covers current and topical issues relevant to local residents such as local problems, shopping, eating out, local services, government, transport, parking,

education, current affairs, arts and culture . Those taking part are invited to suggest their own questions for inclusion in future surveys.

Surveys run every two to three months and can be completed online, by phone or by post.

To register:

Visit: www.localopinion.co.uk

Email: info@localopinion.co.uk

Tel: 01732 874054

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- Local Opinion complies with the highest market research standards
- Reportage of these results must include the sample size
- Respondents are free to withdraw from Local Opinion's survey pool at anytime

Press enquiries to

John Humphreys / Oliver Bisson at Edwards Harvey

Tel. 01622 604600 or email. john.humphreys@edwardsharvey.com