

Who Governs Merseyside: Results of the Public Vote

Merseyside residents were invited to vote either following our well-attended first event on 'Who governs Merseyside?', held at the Bluecoat on 6 October 2011, or on-line via www.democraticaudit.com. Each participant in the vote was asked to select up to five individuals who they felt have the most power to shape public policy on Merseyside, including the option to make their own nominations.

A total of 71 ballots were submitted, of which 21 were submitted following the first event and 50 via the on-line voting mechanism made available for one week after the event. Not all of the paper and on-line ballots included votes/nominations for five individuals. In addition, some of the votes had to be disregarded (see below). As a result, the total number of valid votes received was 289.

The 289 votes cast were split among 33 individuals. There were two very clear leaders – John Whittaker, the founder and Chair of the Peel Group (40 votes) and Cllr Joe Anderson, leader of Liverpool City Council (38 votes). These two were followed by Eric Pickles, the UK Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (24 votes); Neil Scales, the Chief Executive of Merseytravel (19 votes) and Rod Holes, the Chair of the Mersey Partnership (18 votes).

Individuals receiving 10 or more votes are listed below. The full ranking is also appended at the end of this document.

Rank	Name, role and organisation	Votes
1	Mr John Whittaker (Founder and Chair of Peel Group)	40
2	Cllr Joe Anderson (Leader, Liverpool City Council)	38
3	Mr Eric Pickles MP (UK Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)	24
4	Mr Neil Scales (Chief Executive, Merseytravel)	19
5	Mr Rod Holmes (Chair, Mersey Partnership)	18
6	Mr David Cameron (UK Prime Minister)	17
7	Mr Gerald Grosvenor (Duke of Westminster)	15
8	Prof. Phil Redmond (Chair, National Museums Liverpool and former Chair. Liverpool Culture Company)	12
9	Dr Vincent Cable MP (UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills)	10
9=	Sir Terry Leahy (former Chief Executive of Tesco)	10

We were very disappointed by the number of votes which we received. The on-line voting facility was promoted via an announcement on BBC Radio Merseyside, via an article in the Liverpool Daily Post and via email, Facebook and Twitter, by both Democratic Audit and the Bluecoat (including multiple reminders).

Having identified the people with the 'reputation' for having holding power locally, we will now invite these people to participate in a second event at the Bluecoat to discuss their own views on what power they hold, how they use it, and how they can be held to account by local people. This event will take place at the end of November 2011 (date to be confirmed).

Additional information

The on-line votes were submitted from 50 unique IP addresses with 46 different postcodes and we are as sure as we can be that they represented unique individuals.

In instances where nominations were for an organisation (e.g. Peel Group, Tesco, University of Liverpool, European Commission) we 'converted' these into votes for the most relevant individual on the ballot, i.e. the leading representative of that organisation. Some nominations had to be disregarded as the intention was unclear or it was not possible to assign them to an individual. Such instances included 'The People of Merseyside' and 'Unite – the Union'.

Attendees voting after the first event had been provided with a clear justification for each nominated individual by virtue of their participation at the event – with these nominations being made by both members of an 'expert panel' and a notably expert audience. Everyone participating in the on-line vote was provided with a full list of the 25 nominees and a short rationale for their inclusion on the list.

18 October 2011

Who governs Merseyside? The full results of the public vote

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1	Mr John Whittaker (Founder and Chair of Peel Group)	40
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9	Dr Vincent Cable MP (UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills)	10
9=	Sir Terry Leahy (former Chief Executive of Tesco)	10
11=	Mr Ged Fitzgerald (Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council)	9
11=	Mr Jon Murphy (Chief Constable, Merseyside Police)	9
11=	Prof. Sir Howard Newby (Vice Chancellor, University of Liverpool)	9
14	Lord Michael Heseltine (former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Merseyside)	8
15=	Mr Gideon Ben-Tovim (Chair, Liverpool Primary Care Trust)	6
15=	Ms Claire Dove (Chief Executive, Blackburne House)	6
17=	Ms Luciana Berger MP (Labour MP for Liverpool Wavertree)	5
17=	Mr John Flamson (Director of Strategic Partnerships and Development, University of Liverpool)	5
17=	Mr Alastair Machray (Editor, Liverpool Echo)	5
17=	Ms Teresa May MP (UK Home Secretary)	5
21	Mr Pete Price (local DJ and activist)	4
22=	Ms Lorraine Rogers (Chief Executive, The Mersey Partnership)	2
22=	Prof. Nigel Weatherill (Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Liverpool John Moores University)	2
22=	Jose Manuel Baroso (President, European Commission)	2
25=	Gill Bainbridge (0-25 Chair)	1
25=	Monique Collier (Young Persons Advisory Service)	1
25=	Ms Carole Hudson (Chief Executive, St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council)	1
25=	Mr Samih Kalakeche (Head of Integrated Commissioning, Council & NHS)	1
25=	Mr Bill Kenwright (Owner, Everton Football Club)	1
25=	David McElhinney (LDL Executive/Controller of LCC)	1
25=	Kathleen Pitt (CEO Nugent Care charity)	1
25=	Roger Phillips (Presenter, BBC Radio Merseyside)	1
25=	Cllr Marie Rimmer (Leader, St Helens MBC)	1