

64% of the British public want social enterprises to run their public services

I am writing to inform you of a recent YouGov poll which found that 64 per cent of the British public said they would choose a social enterprise to run their local services. The online poll which surveyed 2,287 adults found that social enterprise were the preferred means for delivering public services such as healthcare, rubbish collection and transport.

The Social Enterprise Coalition, who commissioned the poll, was established in 2002 as the national body for social enterprises, profit making businesses established to tackle social or environmental need. The Coalition represents a wide range of social enterprises, umbrella bodies and networks, with a combined membership reaching over 10,500 social enterprises.

Social enterprises offer particular advantages in the delivery of public services because of their ability to provide better value for money, to foster innovation in both service provision and approaches to partnership working, and their focus on customer needs and the empowerment of service users.

A number of barriers exist to greater participation of social enterprises in all areas of public service delivery, such as the pressure to move to larger aggregated contracts, which may exclude smaller suppliers. The Coalition will be working to ensure that social enterprises are able to play a greater role in providing public services so that they meet the expectations of the British public. We look forward to working with you on this agenda.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like further information on social enterprise, please contact Ceri Jones at ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk.

Best wishes

Jonathan Bland