National census of local authority councillors 2010

Local Government Group

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Local Government Group

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Contents

Foreword

Every day, councillors are in the front line, leading their places, people and partners through times of unprecedented change and challenge. It is therefore essential that they receive the best possible support to help them to serve their communities effectively. So, it is crucial that the Local Government Group (LG Group) knows who councillors are and understands what drives them, and that councils and political parties are better equipped to understand their elected colleagues.

The responsiveness and capacity of councils to provide locally-representative leadership is likely to be tested in the years to come and the LG Group needs to ensure that councils are equipped to meet the challenges ahead. This is particularly important in the changing context in which local government works, with economic and social pressures, alongside increasing levels of public expectation.

The 2010 Councillors' Census explored these issues. The findings show that councillors as individuals are dedicated people, who devote a great deal of their own time to serving their communities. The census shows that councillors are increasingly confident in their role but that further support could help them deliver more.

The Councillors' Census is commissioned to ensure the sector, including the political parties, has accurate information on councillors' age, gender and background, and how they carry out their work. Accurate data of this nature is key if councils are to continue to develop their community leadership and place-shaping roles.

The LG Group presents in this document its own perspective on the findings of the census, and will explore and develop its messages to help support our members in these challenging times. The messages aim to draw out the value, energy and experience that councillors bring to local government and how the sector can support them to reach their full potential.

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell is the chairman of the LGA.

Introduction

The LG Group has carried out the sixth Census of Local Authority Councillors in England. The Census provides a 'snapshot' of local government representation and, with previous years' data, analysis of trends over time.

Councillors are often in the front line as both community advocates and as leaders. It is therefore essential that they receive the right support to enable them to serve their community effectively in the rapidly changing context in which government works. The survey findings assist the LG Group to better understand the needs of councillors.

Given the scale of support from councillors, this survey provides the most comprehensive, timely overview of local government representation and how that has changed over time. The results will inform central and local government and political parties in the development of strategies and policies for local government.

The 2010 Census collected data over November 2010–February 2011 and updates the previous Censuses in 1997, 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2008[1].

Thanks to the support from member support officers and councillors, replies were received from 342 (97.4 per cent) of the 351 local authorities in England[2] and from 6,082 (33.4 per cent) councillors in office.

The survey results show grossed estimates (by type of authority and region) for all 18,129 councillors/seats in England. A summary of key findings by type of authority and region is shown in Annex A.

More detailed information mapping the results of the Census by type of authority, region, gender, age, ethnicity, disability and party representation is available from the following website: www.local.gov.uk.

Annex C of the report includes a profile of the wider population, taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which enables comparison to be made with local councillors.

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1   Care must be taken when comparing results with previous years due to differences in response rates.

2   Excluding the Corporation of London and Isles of Scilly.

The scope

The survey was in three sections.

Section A covered councillors' work:

- length of service

- leading positions held

- committee membership

- party representation

- membership of other councils

- responsibility allowance

- hours spent on council business

- political party

- training and development

- views on qualifications and resources

- availability and use of resources.

Section B covered councillors' views on a range of issues:

- why people wanted to become councillors

- important things that councillors do

- how much influence councillors considered themselves to have

- whether councillors view themselves as effective

- authorities' commitment to implementing arrangements for devolving power to communities.

Section C covered councillors' personal background:

- gender, gender identity and sexual orientation

- age

- ethnicity

- disability

- caring responsibilities

- employment status

- education and qualifications.

Executive summary (see also the 'Key Facts' table in Annex A)

The following are the main findings from the 2010 Councillors' Census, which was conducted in the winter of 2010/2011.

Section A – work as a councillor

Councillors had, on average, been members of their authority for 9.4 years in 2010, slightly longer than reported in 2008 (8.3 years).

- 57.4 per cent of councillors held one or more positions of leading responsibility within the council and 52.5 per cent of all councillors received a special responsibility allowance in addition to their basic allowance.

- Councillors spent, on average, 23 hours per week on council/political business, similar to 2006 and 2008.

- 91.3 per cent of councillors had been in receipt of one or more training and development opportunities in the last 12 months and 41.5 per cent would welcome the opportunity to gain a more formal qualification or recognition of their work as a councillor.

- From a list of eight resources or learning opportunities, councillors ranked IT support (21.0 per cent) and administrative support (20.5 per cent) as those that would be most beneficial to their role.

- 88.1 per cent of councillors indicated that a council email address was made available to them and 74.8 per cent used one. Just under half of those who used it felt this was one of the most useful resources available to them (49.1 per cent). A PC or laptop was available to 87.0 per cent of councillors, and 72.3 per cent used one, the majority of whom thought it one of the most useful resources (70.8 per cent). Broadband was available to 75.7 per cent of councillors, and 64.5 per cent used this, over a half of whom (56.5 per cent) indicated that it was one of the most useful resources.

Section B – issues and views of councillors

- 91.1 per cent considered themselves to be effective or very effective in their role as councillors, which was a slightly higher proportion than was the case in 2008 (88.0 per cent).

- 88.2 per cent of councillors cited a desire to serve the community as their reason for wanting to become a councillor.

- 93.8 per cent thought that listening to local views was the most important thing for councillors to do while 91.1 per cent said that supporting the local community was the most important thing for them to do.

- Around half (50.6 per cent) said that their council was fully committed to allowing people to have a say on services provided locally though consultation and feedback. Nearly two-fifths felt that their council was fully committed to enabling people and communities to have an influence locally though active programmes of engagement, to providing better support for elected members and to having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues.

- 67.3 per cent of councillors intend to stand for re-election at the end of their term in office and 83.4 per cent would recommend taking on the role to others.

Section C – personal background of councillors

- Most councillors (68.5 per cent) were male, 30.6 per cent were female in 2010. The proportion of female councillors had increased from 27.8 per cent in 1997 although the proportion is still considerably lower than the adult population (51.2 per cent).

- The average age of councillors has increased from 55.4 years in 1997 to 59.7 years in 2010. In 2010, 88.3 per cent of councillors were aged 45 and over, compared to 52.6 per cent of the adult population.

- 96.3 per cent of councillors were white and 3.7 per cent came from an ethnic minority background in 2010. A higher proportion of the adult population was from an ethnic minority background (11.1 per cent).

- The proportion of councillors who were retired has increased from 34.1 per cent in 1997 to 47.2 per cent in 2010, compared to 19.1 per cent of the adult population.

- 55.9 per cent of councillors in 2010 held a qualification equivalent to NVQ level 4 and above, compared to 31.2 per cent of the adult population.

The findings

A summary of differences by each type of authority and region for key questions is provided in Annex A. Tables 1–35 can be found in Annex B.

SECTION A: Work as a councillor

Length of service (table 1)

The average length of service for a councillor was 9.4 years. A smaller proportion of councillors had served for two years or less in 2010 (18.9 per cent) compared with 2008 (32.1 per cent).

Independent councillors and those in the Labour Party had the longest average length of service (10.4 and 10.3 years respectively). Councillors in the Green Party had the shortest average length of service (5.2 years). Those in metropolitan districts had slightly longer average lengths of service (10.7 years) than those in other types of authority.

Figure A Length of service as a councillor, England 1997–2010
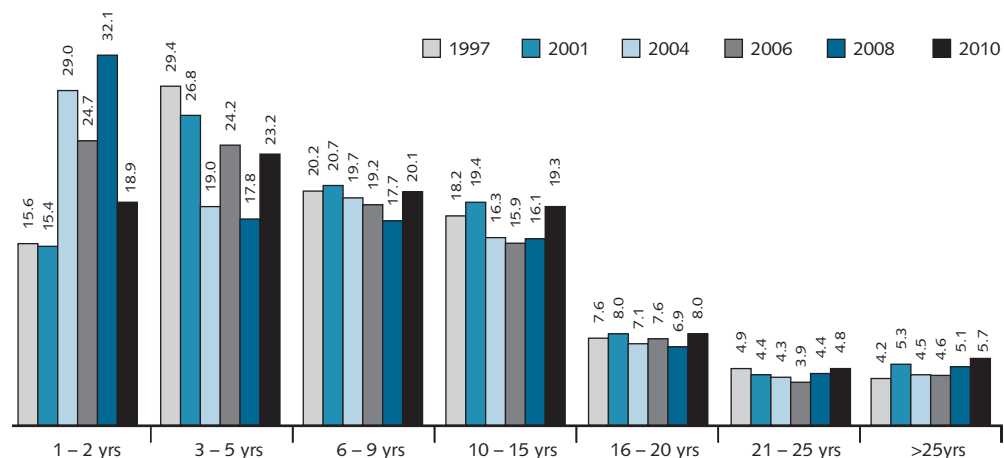
Leading council responsibilities (table 2)

More than half of the councillors (57.4 per cent) held at least one position in the authority. The most common positions held were cabinet/executive members (16.0 per cent), chair or vice chair of overview and scrutiny (12.9 per cent) and chair or vice chair of a regulatory committee (11.7 per cent). The proportions who held different positions were similar to those in 2008 and, overall, the proportion who held one or more positions remained similar to that seen in 2008 (56.4 per cent). There were differences between the main parties as a greater proportion of Conservative members reported holding one or more positions (67.0 per cent) and fewer Liberal Democrat representatives (45.2 per cent).

Membership of council committees (table 3/4)

On average, councillors were members of 3.6 committees or sub-committees which was a similar average to 2008 (3.7). Around one quarter (24.5 per cent) were members of three committees and a slightly smaller proportion (21.6 per cent) were members of two committees.

The position of party or group leader was held by 6.5 per cent of councillors, while 5.9 per cent were party or group deputy leaders. A further 13.1 per cent of councillors held other party or group official positions.

Special responsibility allowance (table 5)

Slightly more than half of the councillors (52.5 per cent) received a special responsibility allowance which is paid to those councillors who hold offices of special responsibility, as set by their authority. This proportion is similar to that in 2008 when 53.2 per cent received such allowances. The proportion of councillors receiving these allowances varied across types of authority between 58.3 per cent of councillors in metropolitan districts and 47.9 per cent in shire districts. It also varied by region from 47.1 per cent in the South West to 57.1 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber. A smaller proportion of those aged under-25 received a special responsibility allowance (21 per cent) than in any other age group.

Average number of hours per week on council and political business (table 6)

Councillors provided estimates of the average number of hours per week that they spent on council and political business for their authority. They spent an average of 23 hours which was similar to the 2008 and 2006 figures. Around one in five councillors (21.4 per cent) spent between 16 and 20 hours on such business while 8.0 per cent spent more than 40 hours.

Councillors in unitaries reported the highest average number of hours (28.1) and those in shire districts the fewest (18.2). Labour Party members spent the most hours on average (25.1) among the main political parties.

Figure B Average number of hours per week spent on council/political business, England 2004–2010
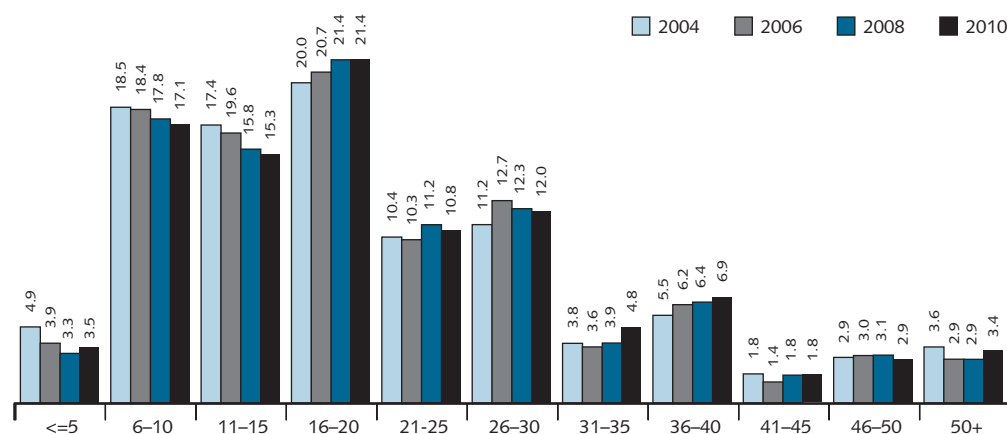
How councillors spend their time (table 7)

Councillors estimated the amount of time in a week that they spent on attending meetings or committees, engaging with constituents and on other council business, such as external meetings, training events or seminars. Not all councillors were able to provide this information and there is therefore a minor discrepancy with the total average calculated in the section above. It emerged that the greatest average amount of time was spent attending council meetings or committees (10 hours). Slightly less time, on average (8 hours) was spent engaging with constituents conducting surgeries and answering enquiries, and other activities (such as attending external meetings, training events and seminars) accounted for 6 hours of the week.

Figure C Distribution of hours per week spent on council/political business, England 2008–2010

Attendance at council meetings, committees, party meetings, etc.
- 2008: 9.8
- 2010: 10.2

Engaging with constituents, surgeries, constituent enquires, etc
- 2008: 7.2
- 2010: 7.9

Other e.g. external meetings, seminars, training, travel related to council, etc.
- 2008: 5.6
- 2010: 5.5
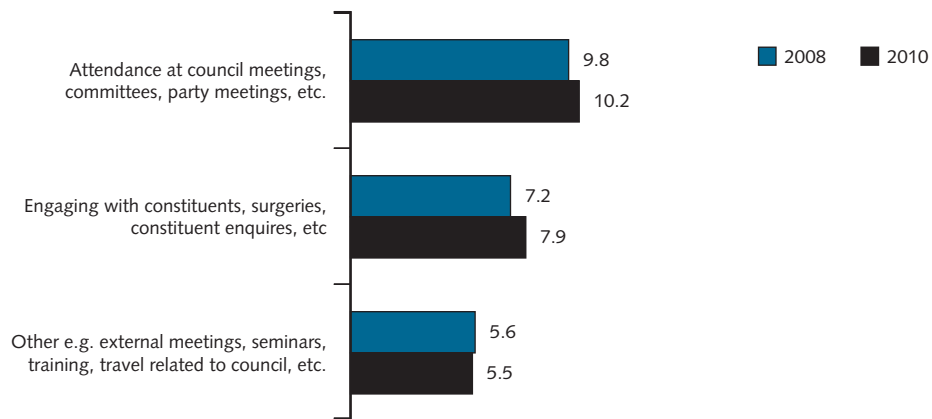
Party representation (table 8)

Based on the survey data, the majority (50.1 per cent) of councillors represented the Conservative Party while 22.0 per cent represented the Liberal Democrats and 20.8 per cent represented the Labour Party. A total of 5.4 per cent were Independent members, and 0.8 per cent represented the Green Party while 0.9 per cent represented 'other' parties. Representation of the Conservative Party was highest in shire counties (67.7 per cent) and shire districts (58.1 per cent) and lowest in metropolitan districts (25.1 per cent). Labour Party representation was lowest in shire counties (7.1 per cent) and highest in metropolitan districts (47.7 per cent) and London boroughs (45.0 per cent). Liberal Democrat representation was lower in London boroughs (14.9 per cent) than in other types of authorities.

Figure D Party representation, England 1997–2010

Conservative: 1997: 21.6, 2001: 34.3, 2004: 39.0, 2006: 42.3, 2008: 48.5, 2010: 50.1
Labour: 1997: 45.7, 2001: 35.9, 2004: 28.7, 2006: 25.1, 2008: 21.6, 2010: 20.8
Liberal Democrats: 1997: 23.7, 2001: 21.2, 2004: 23.1, 2006: 24.3, 2008: 22.2, 2010: 22.0
Green: 1997: 0.4, 2001: 0.3, 2004: 0.5, 2006: 0.7, 2008: —, 2010: 0.8
Independent: 1997: 7.3, 2001: 7.0, 2004: 7.6, 2006: 6.5, 2008: 5.9, 2010: 5.4
Other: 1997: 1.0, 2001: 0.9, 2004: 1.2, 2006: 1.3, 2008: 1.1, 2010: 0.9
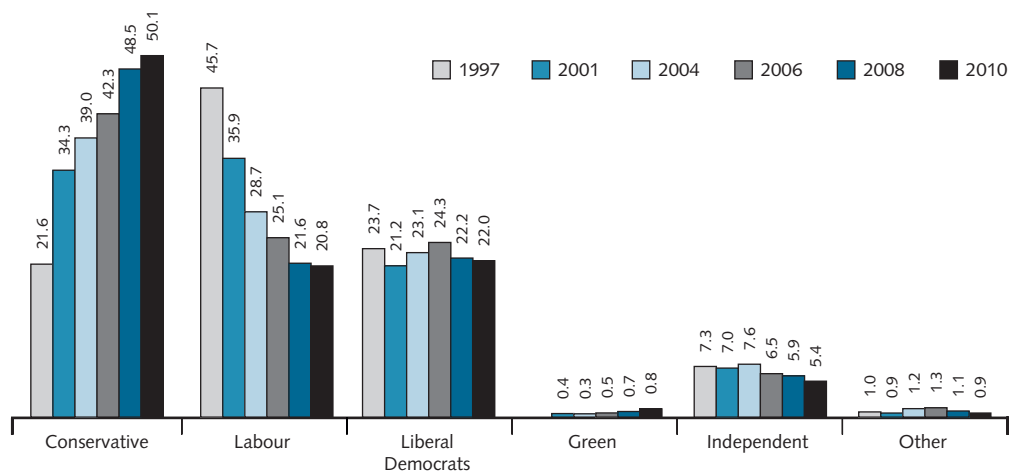
Previous council experience and membership of other councils (tables 9/10)

Over a third of councillors had previously held the role of councillor (38.3 per cent). Those representing shire counties were more likely to have been a councillor before (65.6 per cent) while those from metropolitan districts were less likely (22.6 per cent). As would be expected, the proportion of councillors who had held this position previously increased with age, with 47.4 per cent of those aged 70 and over having been a councillor before compared with 8.6 per cent of those aged 25 to 29 years.

National census of local authority councillors 2010

Just under two-fifths (39.1 per cent) of councillors were also members of other councils, such as local authorities, town councils and parish/community councils. In 2010, 15.5 per cent were parish or community council members, 12.7 per cent were members of town councils, and 11.5 per cent were members of another local authority. A minority (3.9 per cent) were fire authority members, 2.4 per cent were police authority members and 1.3 per cent were members of a national parks authority. These proportions were similar to those in 2008.

Membership of other councils appeared to be closely related to the type of authority in which a councillor was located. In particular, representatives of shire counties were notably more likely to be members of another local authority (49.4 per cent) than those in London boroughs (2.7 per cent) or metropolitan districts (2.9 per cent). Indeed, overall, members of these latter two types of council were less likely to report membership of local authorities, town councils and parish or community councils. (Note: this may simply be a reflection of the distribution of town and parish councils around the country.)

Training and development opportunities received (table 11)

The majority (91.3 per cent) of councillors had received some training and development opportunities in the previous 12 months. This proportion is slightly lower than in 2008 when 93.7 per cent reported that they had received one or more opportunities.

The most widespread training and development opportunity among councillors in 2010 was seminars and conferences (66.9 per cent) while 54.8 per cent had attended other member development programmes. Training and development opportunities were similar across all types of authorities.

Formal qualification (table 12)

Councillors were asked whether, if it were available, they would welcome the opportunity to gain a more formal qualification, or recognition, of their work as a councillor. A total of 41.5 per cent said that they would welcome this opportunity which was a smaller proportion than was the case in 2008 when 46.0 per cent of councillors said this.

Labour councillors (51.6 per cent) were more likely to want this opportunity than members of other parties; similarly people from minority ethnic groups (68.2 per cent) were also more likely to want this opportunity. Those located in the South East were less likely to request this (36.7 per cent) than those living in other regions. In addition, it appeared that the desire to receive a formal qualification declined with age as 54.9 per cent of those aged under 60 years of age would have liked this opportunity compared with 32.3 per cent of those aged over 60.

Level of qualification (table 13)

Most of those councillors who wanted the opportunity to gain a formal qualification requested a 'standalone independent qualification' (54.1 per cent). Smaller proportions requested credit towards a post-graduate/level 5 qualification (16.0 per cent), a level 3 qualification (14.8 per cent) and credit towards an undergraduate/level 4 qualification (13.1 per cent).

Resources and learning that would be beneficial (tables 14(i) and 14(ii))

When asked which resources or learning opportunities councillors would find useful in their work as a councillor, the three that were most widely reported were media training (34.8 per cent), IT support (31.1 per cent) and administrative support (26.8 per cent). These were also the three most widely mentioned in 2008. A smaller proportion of people requested each of the areas of training and support listed than was the case in 2008 (see Table 14 (i)). In 2010, around one quarter of councillors wanted political skills training (24.6 per cent), while around a fifth wanted each of the following: a case worker (21.0 per cent), better facilities to hold surgeries (20.8 per cent) and better information on the role of the councillor (18.6 per cent). Administrative support and case workers were particularly required by councillors in London boroughs (36.6 per cent and 35.1 per cent respectively). A greater proportion of councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds wanted training and support across all aspects, and in particular they wanted political skills training (56.0 per cent compared with 23.5 per cent of white councillors).

Those that identified resources or learning opportunities as being useful to them in their work as a councillor were also asked to state which of the list of eight presented they would consider to be the most important. The two items that were identified by the most respondent councillors were IT support (21.0 per cent) and administrative support (20.5 per cent). In addition, 12.6 per cent identified media training, 11.5 per cent indicated political skills training and 11.1 per cent identified better information on the role of the councillor, while for 11.0 per cent a case worker was the most important resource. Smaller proportions of councillors identified administrative support, better facilities to hold surgeries and better information on the role of councillors as most important in 2010 compared with 2008, while a greater proportion identified media training, political skills training, a case worker and IT support (see Table 14 (ii)).

Availability and usefulness of resources (table 15)

Councillors in 2010 were presented with a list of resources and asked to indicate, for each, whether it was available to them, whether they used it, and whether it was one of three most useful resources to them as councillors.

The mostly widely available resources, as reported by councillors, were a council email address (88.1 per cent), a PC or laptop (87.0 per cent), broadband (75.7 per cent) and remote log-in access to council systems (72.4 per cent). The least widely available were access to social network sites such as Facebook or Twitter (11.3 per cent), a blog (7.5 per cent) and telephone conferencing (6.6 per cent). There were few differences in the availability of resources across the different regions, parties and types of authorities. However, notably lower proportions of respondents from shire districts reported having access to a BlackBerry for council business (13.1 per cent) or a mobile phone for council business (13.2 per cent) compared with the national averages (28.2 per cent and 21.9 per cent respectively).

A similar pattern was seen with the resources that councillors used, with 74.8 per cent using a council email address, almost three quarters using a PC or laptop (72.3 per cent), 64.5 per cent using broadband and 57.7 per cent using remote log-in access to council systems. There was no difference in the use of resources by ethnicity or gender. A higher proportion of respondents from metropolitan districts used a mobile phone (34.8 per cent) than other types of councils. As with the availability of resources, smaller proportions of councillors from shire districts used a BlackBerry for council business (10.4 per cent) or a mobile phone for council business (10.6 per cent) than the national averages (21.4 per cent and 15.9 per cent respectively).

Councillors were also asked to identify up to three most useful resources that they used in their role as councillors. A PC or laptop was seen to be one of the three most useful resources by 70.8 per cent of councillors who used one (51.2 per cent of all councillors). A BlackBerry was also thought to be useful by 69.4 per cent of the councillors who used one, (14.8 per cent of all councillors). While 74.8 per cent of councillors used a council email address, only 49.1 per cent of this group reported it as being one of the three most useful resources. Online resources such as social networking sites and personal webpages were least likely to be regarded as most useful to councillors (only 14.6 per cent and 18.2 per cent of those who used these resources felt that they were among the three most useful resources available to them).

Figure E Resources available, used and most useful to councillors, England 2010

- ▢ Available to you
- ▢ Use
- ▢ Find most useful (as % of all councillors)
- ■ Find more useful (as % of those who use it)
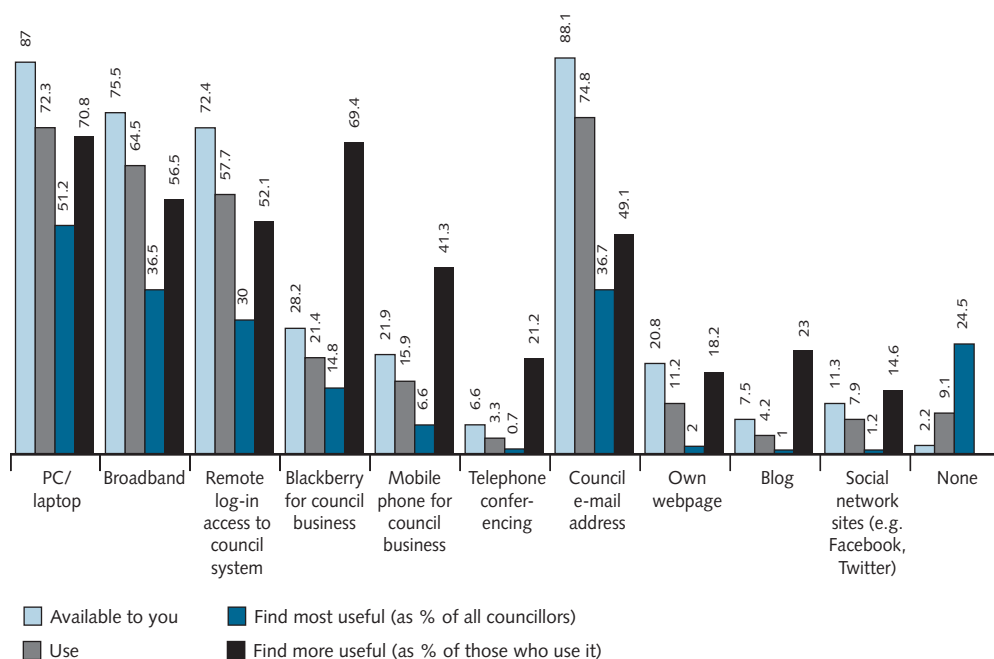
SECTION B Issues and views of councillors

Reasons for becoming a councillor (table 16)

By far the main reason councillors gave for taking up the role was 'to serve the community' (88.2 per cent). This was followed by a desire 'to change things' (52.3 per cent) and 'political beliefs' (50.2 per cent). Just over a quarter (28.2 per cent) became a councillor because they had been asked to, and 12.8 per cent became involved 'to resolve an issue'. The proportions identifying each reason were similar to those in 2006 and 2008. Labour Party representatives were notably more likely to have become a councillor because of their political beliefs (74.2 per cent) and to change things (63.7 per cent) and were less likely to have become one because they had been asked (15.9 per cent). In contrast, Conservative Party representatives and those representing the Liberal Democrat Party were more likely to have become councillors because they had been asked (31.4 per cent and 32.6 per cent respectively). As with the 2008 census, councillors from a minority ethnic background were more likely to have become involved to resolve an issue (22.3 per cent) or to change things (67.4 per cent) and were less likely to have become a councillor because they had been asked (11.7 per cent).

Most important things that councillors do (table 17)

A clear majority of councillors considered that the most important things for councillors to do were to listen to the views of local people (93.8 per cent) and to support the local community (91.1 per cent). Furthermore, many felt that it was important that councillors address issues concerning the whole area (75.9 per cent), deal with complaints (71.1 per cent), attend council meetings (67.8 per cent) and keep the public informed about councillor activities (63.2 per cent).

There was some variation in different types of authority in the proportions who considered that holding surgeries was most important. Respondents in shire counties and shire districts were less likely to report this (36.5 per cent and 38.5 per cent respectively) while those in metropolitan districts and London boroughs were more likely to do so (67.2 per cent and 60.8 per cent respectively). A greater proportion of representatives of the Labour Party reported that they thought it was important for councillors to hold surgeries (70.5 per cent), address issues concerning the whole area (81.2 per cent), plan local services (61.0 per cent) and represent local residents' view to Government (54.0 per cent) than was the case in England as a whole.

Views on influence as a councillor (table 18)

Reflecting on their influence as a councillor, 40.3 per cent of councillors said that they had more influence to change things in their area than they expected before they were elected, which was similar to the proportion in 2008 (40.5 per cent), while 34.7 per cent of 2010 respondents said that they had about as much influence as they expected, and 25.0 per cent said that they had less influence (25.4 per cent in 2008).

Among the representatives of the main parties, it appeared that a smaller proportion of Liberal Democrat councillors felt that they had more influence than expected (33.5 per cent). A greater proportion of representatives of the Green Party felt that they had less influence than expected (42.8 per cent) and conversely a smaller proportion felt that they had more influence than expected (15.9 per cent) compared with the national averages. A greater proportion of those from minority ethnic backgrounds indicated that they had more influence than expected (51.3 per cent).

Effectiveness as a councillor (table 19)

Around nine out of ten councillors considered that they were effective (62.9 per cent) or very effective (28.2 per cent). Very few felt that they were not effective (1.9 per cent) or not very effective (2.5 per cent) while a further 4.5 per cent said that they did not know or it was too early to say.

When councillors would talk about their work (table 20)

Councillors were asked about the situations in which they would talk about their work as councillors. They were offered a list of seven different situations and asked to indicate for each whether this was a situation in which they would 'never', 'sometimes' or 'often' talk about their work as a councillor. There was also a 'not applicable' option. Their responses revealed that:

The situations in which most councillors reported that they would 'often' talk about their work as a councillor were within community groups such as tenants associations (59.3 per cent), at community events (36.9 per cent) and with their family (37.8 per cent). Councillors from metropolitan districts and London boroughs were more likely than other groups to indicate that this was the case.

The situation in which most councillors indicated that they would 'sometimes' talk about their work as a councillor was at social gatherings with friends (62.7 per cent), followed by community socialising (e.g. in the local pub) (57.1 per cent) and with family (55.1 per cent).

The situation in which most councillors reported that they would 'never' talk about their work as a councillor was at work with external colleagues (e.g. clients, business contacts) (21.9 per cent).

Figure F: In which situations councillors talk about their work, England 2010

Legend: Never, Sometimes, Often, Not applicable
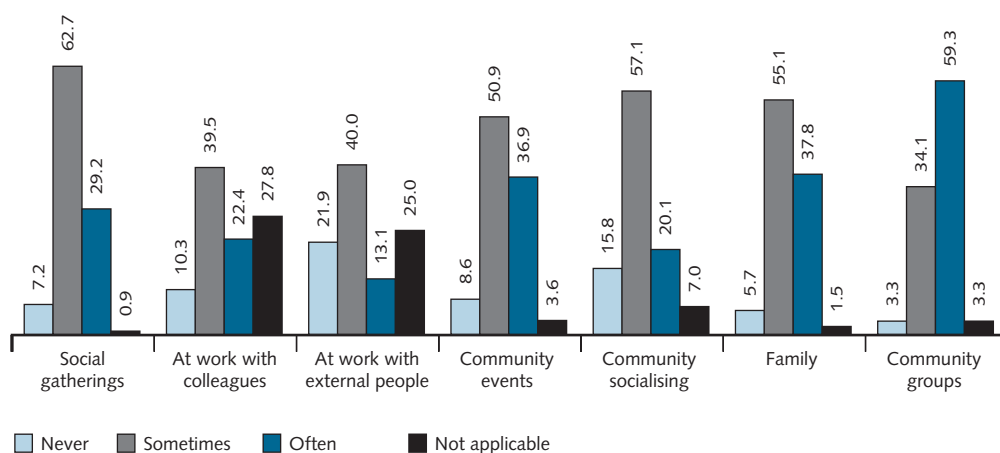
Would councillors recommend the role to others (table 21)?

More than four-fifths of councillors (83.4 per cent) said that they would recommend being a councillor to others, compared with 81.8 per cent in 2008 and 76.4 per cent in 2006. Only 6.4 per cent of 2010 respondents said that they would not recommend their role, compared with 7.4 per cent in 2008. The proportions who would recommend becoming a councillor or not were not generally notably different across types of authority, political parties, gender and ethnicity. However, 14.3 per cent of Green Party councillors would not recommend becoming a councillor, which is higher than all other parties and the national average.

When do councillors' current terms of office end (table 22)?

Just under half of councillors' current terms in office would be ending in 2011 (48.8 per cent). Around an eighth of councillors each reported that their terms of office would end in 2012 and 2013 (12.4 per cent and 12.5 per cent respectively). Just over one fifth would be completing their term in office in 2014 (21.5 per cent).

Intention to stand for re-election (table 23)

Around two thirds of councillors (67.3 per cent) said that they intended to stand for re-election as councillor at the end of their term in office, and 13.5 per cent said that they did not. A further 18.2 per cent indicated that they did not know. In 2008 a smaller proportion said that they would stand for re-election (54.5 per cent) and a greater proportion said that they would not (15.8 per cent). A notably lower proportion of councillors in London boroughs (51.3 per cent) said that they did intend to stand again while this was the case for a greater proportion of councillors in shire districts (70.4 per cent) and unitaries (70.8 per cent). Among the main political parties, Liberal Democrat representatives were less likely to plan to stand again (18.0 per cent said that they would not).

How committed councillors think their authorities are to a range of activities (table 24)

Councillors indicated the level of commitment that they felt their authority had to a range of activities. Their responses were similar to those of councillors in 2008 and revealed that the activity to which the largest proportion of respondents felt that their authority was fully committed was allowing people to have a say on services provided locally through consultation and feedback (50.6 per cent)

Similar proportions of councillors considered that their authority was fully committed to enabling people and communities to have an influence locally though active programmes of engagement (38.3 per cent), having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues (36.9 per cent) and providing better practical support for elected members so that they can act more effectively as local leaders (35.5 per cent).

The activity which the largest proportion of councillors felt that their authority was not committed to was allowing people to have a role in allocating resources through participatory budgeting (27.5 per cent).

Comparisons between responses revealed that Conservative Party representatives were more likely to report that their authority was either fully or partially committed to each of the activities, while Liberal Democrat Party representatives were more likely to state that their authority was not committed. Female representatives were more likely to report that their authority was committed to all areas, while male respondents were more likely to state that their authority was not committed. The exception was 'providing better practical support for elected members so they can act more effectively as local leaders', for which there was very little difference in responses. In general, responses were similar across different types of council. However, a lower proportion of respondents from London boroughs than was the case in England as a whole indicated that their authority was fully committed to 'allowing people to have a role in allocating resources through participatory budgeting' (16.7 per cent) and to 'providing better practical support for elected members' (28.7 per cent).

Figure G How committed councillors think their authorities are to a range of priorities: England 2010

Fully · Partially · Not committed · Don't know
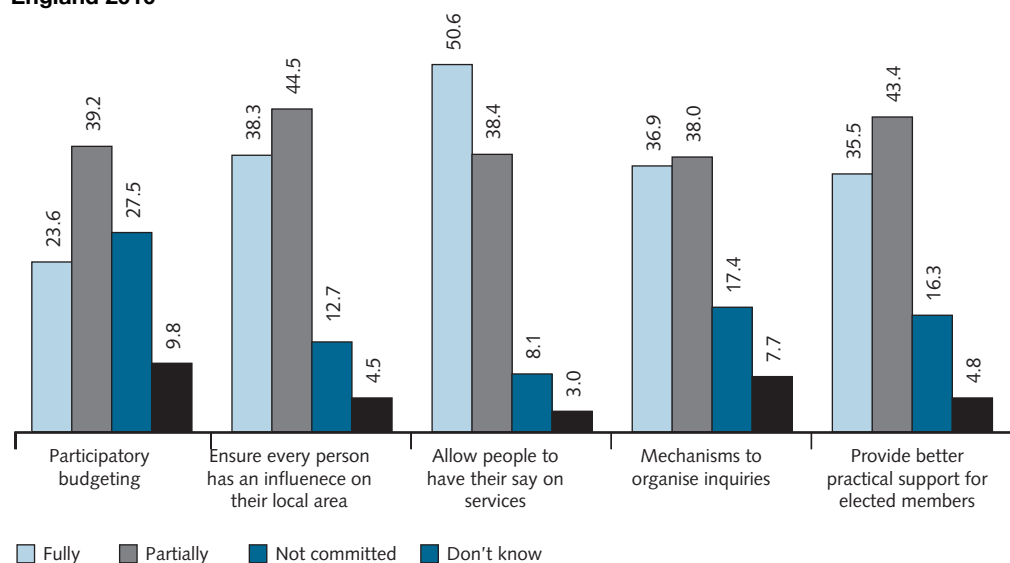
SECTION C Personal background of councillors

Gender (table 25i)

In 2010, the majority of councillors (68.5 per cent) were male while 30.6 per cent were female and the remaining 1.0 per cent did not provide details of their gender. The proportion of female councillors was similar to the proportion in 2008 when 30.8 per cent were female. Prior to 2010, the proportion of female councillors had been climbing slightly each year since 1997 when it stood at 27.8 per cent.

The proportion of female councillors was greatest in London boroughs (36.4 per cent) and metropolitan districts (32.8 per cent) and lowest in shire counties (24.6 per cent). This reflects a similar pattern to the gender profile in different types of council in 2008.

By region, London had the highest proportion of female councillors (36.4 per cent) followed by Yorkshire and the Humber (33.8 per cent), while the North East (31.4 per cent), North West (30.8 per cent), South West (30.7 per cent), East of England (30.6 per cent) and South East (30.0 per cent) had similar proportions of female councillors. The region with the smallest proportion was the East Midlands (25.6 per cent). Among each of the main parties, the Green Party had the highest proportion of female councillors (39.6 per cent) while independent parties had the smallest proportion (24.2 per cent).

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Spring 2010 showed that 51.2 per cent of the population aged over 18 were female and 48.8 per cent were male compared with 30.6 per cent and 68.5 per cent of councillors respectively.

Gender identity (table 25ii)

In 2010, councillors were asked whether their gender identity was the same as the gender they were assigned as birth. The majority of councillors (94.3 per cent) reported that their gender identity was the same as they were assigned as birth while 0.1 per cent of councillors reported that it was not. A minority of councillors answered 'prefer not to say' (1.7 per cent) or gave no response (3.9 per cent).

Sexual orientation (table 25iii)

The majority of councillors reported their sexual orientation as heterosexual (84.2 per cent), 2.4 per cent were gay or lesbian, 0.9 per cent were bisexual and 0.3 per cent reported their sexual orientation as being 'other'. Around one in eight either responded 'prefer not to say' (5.9 per cent) or gave no response (6.3 per cent).

Age (table 26)

The average age of councillors was slightly higher in 2010 (59.7 years old) than in 2008 (58.8 years old). Generally, councillors in shire districts and shire counties were slightly older (61.3 and 61.1 years old on average respectively) while those in London boroughs were slightly younger (54.3 years old). Councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds had a slightly younger age on average (52.9 years old) than other councillors (60.0 years old).

Comparison with LFS data from Spring 2010 shows that the adult population was younger than councillors. Specifically, for each age group below 50 years old, the proportion of councillors is smaller than the overall population. The converse is true of the age groups of 50 years and older. In

these groups the proportion of councillors in each age group is larger than in the population as a whole.

Ethnicity (table 27)

In 2010, 96.3 per cent of councillors were white while 3.6 per cent were from a minority ethnic background. These proportions were similar to those found in previous years when 96.6 per cent of councillors were white and 3.4 per cent came from an ethnic minority background in 2008 and 4.1 per cent and 3.5 per cent were from minority ethnic backgrounds respectively in the 2006 and 2004 Councillors' Censuses. A greater proportion of councillors were white than LFS data shows was the case in the adult population as a whole in Spring 2010 (88.9 per cent).

A greater proportion of councillors in London boroughs were from minority ethnic backgrounds (15.4 per cent) than was the case in England as a whole. The ethnic background of councillors representing each of the main parties differed. The Conservative Party had the smallest proportion of councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds (1.6 per cent) of the three main political parties and the Labour Party had the largest representation of councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds (10.7 per cent).

Disability/long-term illness (table 28)

A total of 14.1 per cent of councillors in the 2010 census indicated that they had a long-term illness, health problem or disability that limited the daily activities or work they could do. This was slightly higher than in previous censuses when it has varied between 10.5 per cent and 13.3 per cent.

The proportion of councillors with a long-term illness, health problem or disability was highest in metropolitan districts (17.6 per cent) and lowest in shire counties (11.8 per cent). The proportions of councillors with a long-term illness or disability varied across the parties. Among Labour Party representatives, 19.1 per cent reported that this was the case, and 16.7 per cent of independent councillors did. Among Conservative and Green Party members, fewer reported that they had a long-term illness or disability (11.8 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively). The regions with the greatest proportions of councillors with a long-term illness or disability were the North East (20.3 per cent), the North West (16.8 per cent), the East Midlands (16.6 per cent) and the West Midlands (16.0 per cent).

Compared with the adult population, 10.4 per cent of whom had a health problem that affected the work or activities that they could do (LFS, Spring 2010), a greater proportion of councillors experienced a health problem (14.1 per cent). Figure H presents the personal characteristics of councillors.

Figure H Gender, age, ethnic origin, disability, England 1997–2010

Legend: 1997, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010

Categories and values:

Male: 72.1, 70.7, 70.3, 69.3, 68.4, 68.6
Female: 27.8, 28.5, 29.1, 29.3, 30.8, 30.6
Under 45: 18.4, 14.4, 13.1, 13.5, 13.1, 11.8
Over 45: 81.6, 85.6, 86.9, 86.5, 86.8, 88.2
White: 96.8, 97.3, 96.5, 95.9, 96.6, 96.3
Other ethnic background: 3.4, 2.7, 3.5, 4.1, 3.4, 3.6
Disabled: 10.5, 12.9, 12.4, 10.9, 13.3, 14.1
Non disabled: 89.5, 87.1, 87.6, 89.1, 86.7, 85.9
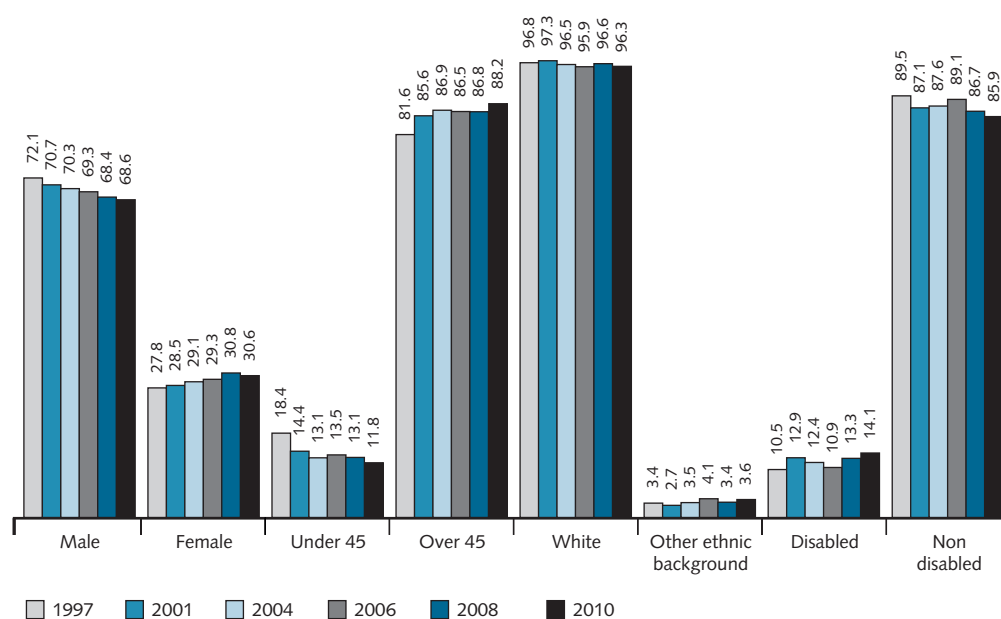
Caring responsibilities (table 29)

Just under one quarter of councillors (24.2 per cent) in 2010 had one or more caring responsibilities. This is similar to the proportions in previous years of the survey (between 24.2 per cent in 2006 and 27.6 per cent in 2001). The most widely reported caring responsibility (by 12.4 per cent of councillors) was for children while 7.9 per cent were caring for a partner and 6.4 per cent for a relative.

Councillors who represented the Labour Party and the Green Party were more likely to have a caring responsibility (27.3 per cent and 28.6 per cent respectively). In addition, a greater proportion of female councillors had caring responsibilities (29.5 per cent) than males (22.0 per cent), and a greater proportion of councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds had caring responsibilities (30.5 per cent) than those who were white (24.3 per cent).

Main employment status (table 30)

Just under half of councillors were retired (47.2 per cent), and this proportion has increased slightly each year since 1997 when it stood at 34.1 per cent. In other respects, the employment status of councillors was similar to previous years with 21.0 per cent in full-time paid employment (which has correspondingly fallen each census since 1997), 14.6 per cent self-employed and 9.5 per cent in part-time paid employment.

There were notable differences in the employment status of councillors in different types of authority. The proportion of councillors in shire counties who were retired or self-employed was greater than in other types of authority (52.1 per cent and 17.0 per cent respectively) and, conversely, shire counties had the smallest proportion of councillors who were in full-time paid employment (11.2 per cent). The greatest proportion of councillors who were in full-time paid employment were in London boroughs (33.9 per cent). Councillors representing the Conservative Party were more likely to be self-employed (18.1 per cent) than those representing the Labour Party (7.4 per cent) and the Liberal Democrats (12.1 per cent). Conservative councillors were also more likely to be retired (50.5 per cent) than those who represented the Labour Party (38.6 per cent) or

the Liberal Democrats (46.3 per cent). Members of minority ethnic groups were less likely to be retired (25.1 per cent) than other councillors (48.0 per cent) and more likely to be in full-time paid employment (36.1 per cent compared with 20.4 per cent).

Comparison with LFS data reveals that the proportion of councillors who were retired is greater than was the case among the adult population (19.1 per cent). While a smaller proportion of councillors were in full-time employment than was the case in the wider population (40.3 per cent), a greater proportion were self-employed compared with all adults (7.6 per cent). See figure I.

Figure I Main employment status, England 1997–2010

	FT/PT	Self-employed	Unemployed	Retired	Other not working
1997	38.6	15.3	3.5	34.1	8.6
2001	36.8	15.9	2.1	36.8	8.5
2004	35.5	16.4	2.1	38.7	7.4
2006	33.9	16.0	1.9	40.9	7.3
2008	31.9	16.2	1.3	43.5	7.1
2010	30.5	14.6	1.7	47.2	6.0
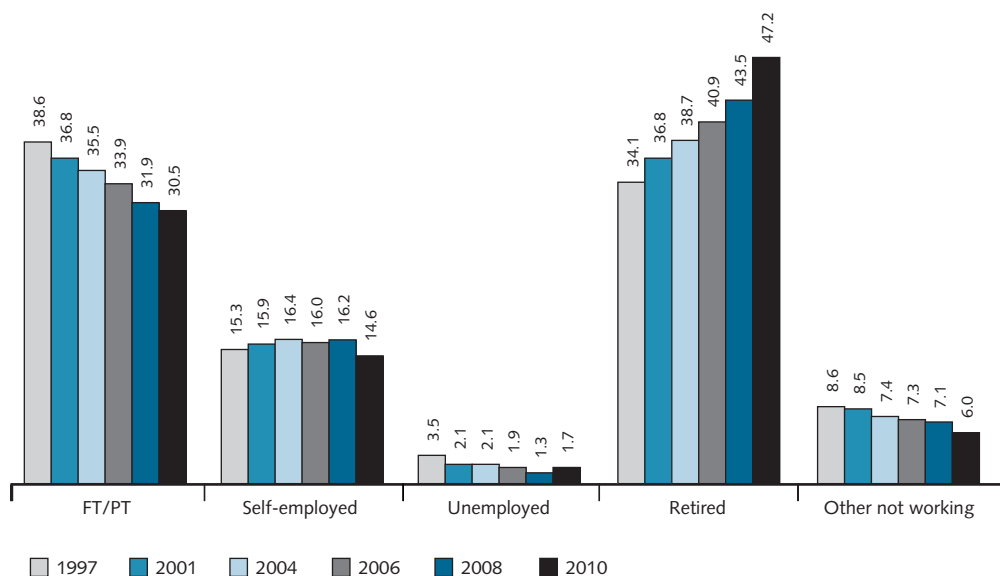
Current occupation (table 31)

More than one third (36.9 per cent) of councillors who were in employment or self-employed were in managerial or executive positions and this was the same proportion as seen in 2008. The proportion in professional and technical occupations (32.6 per cent) was also the same as in 2008.

The proportions of councillors who were in managerial or executive positions were greatest in shire counties (46.4 per cent) and London boroughs (40.5 per cent). There were variations in the occupations of councillors representing the main parties. More specifically, those who were Conservative were more likely to be in managerial or executive roles (43.4 per cent) and less likely to be working as a lecturer, teacher or researcher (5.6 per cent). Labour and Liberal Democrat Party representatives were less likely to be in managerial or executive roles (30.7 per cent and 30.0 per cent) and more likely than Conservative members to be lecturers, teachers or researchers (11.0 per cent and 12.9 per cent). A smaller proportion of female councillors were in managerial or executive positions (30.2 per cent) and professional and technical occupations (28.3 per cent) compared with males (39.5 per cent and 34.3 per cent respectively). Moreover, a smaller proportion of female councillors were in manual or craft occupations (4.5 per cent) compared with males (10.8 per cent). Greater proportions of females were lecturers, teachers or researchers (13.5 per cent) and administration/clerical/secretarial or sales roles (23.5 per cent) compared with males (7.1 per cent and 8.2 per cent). See figure J.

Figure J Current occupation, England 1997–2010

Legend: 1997 | 2001 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010

Category	1997	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
Manual or craft	13.6	11.1	12.2	9.9	9.4	9.2
Admin, clerical secretarial, sales	13.5	14.7	13.8	10.8	12.1	12.4
Lecturer, teacher or researcher	12.2	9.8	9.2	8.8	8.9	8.8
Professional or technical	28.1	28.2	28.1	30.4	32.6	32.6
Managerial or executive	32.5	36.3	36.7	40.0	36.9	36.9
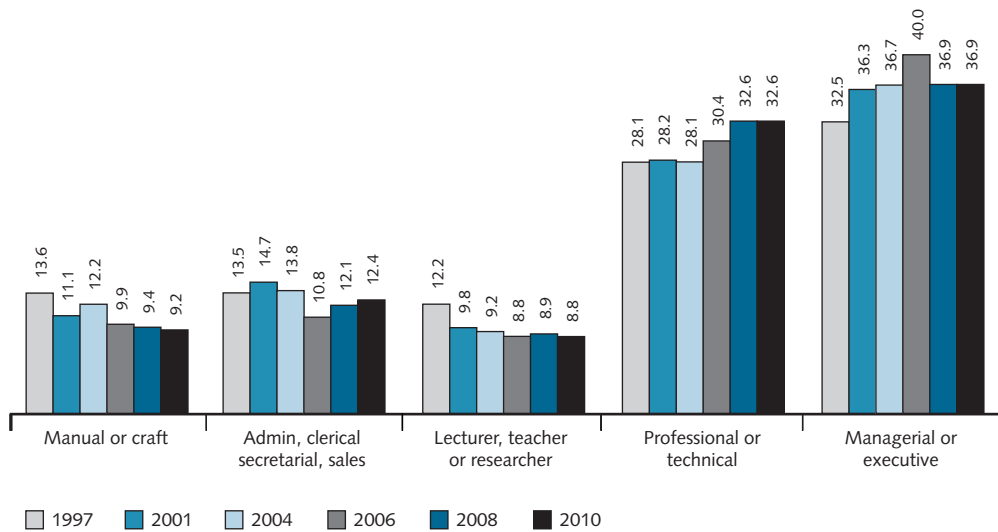
Main sector of employment (table 32)

As was the case in previous years, the majority of councillors who were employed or self-employed worked in the private sector (68.5 per cent). This compares with 69.3 per cent in 2008. Overall, in 2010 around a quarter (24.5 per cent) were employed in the public sector, and 7.0 per cent in the voluntary sector.

A greater proportion of councillors in shire counties and shire districts were employed in the private sector (76.9 per cent and 73.0 per cent respectively) and the smallest proportion of councillors in this sector were located in metropolitan districts (55.4 per cent). Councillors in metropolitan districts (7.4 per cent) were more likely to work in central government than was the case overall.

Comparison with LFS data for the wider adult population shows that the sectors in which councillors worked were similar to the population as a whole: 69.8 per cent of adults worked in the private sector, 27.5 per cent worked in the public sector and 2.8 per cent worked in the voluntary sector.

Figure K Main sector of employment, England 1997–2010

Legend: 1997 | 2001 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010

Category	1997	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010
Local government	10.9	11.5	9.0	10.6	7.7	7.7
Central government	4.3	4.7	3.6	4.4	4.3	4.1
NHS	4.6	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.4
Other public sector	14.3	11.1	11.2	10.3	10.0	9.3
Private sector	59.8	61.3	66.1	64.7	69.	68.3
Voluntary sector	6.1	6.2	5.1	5.5	5.0	7.0
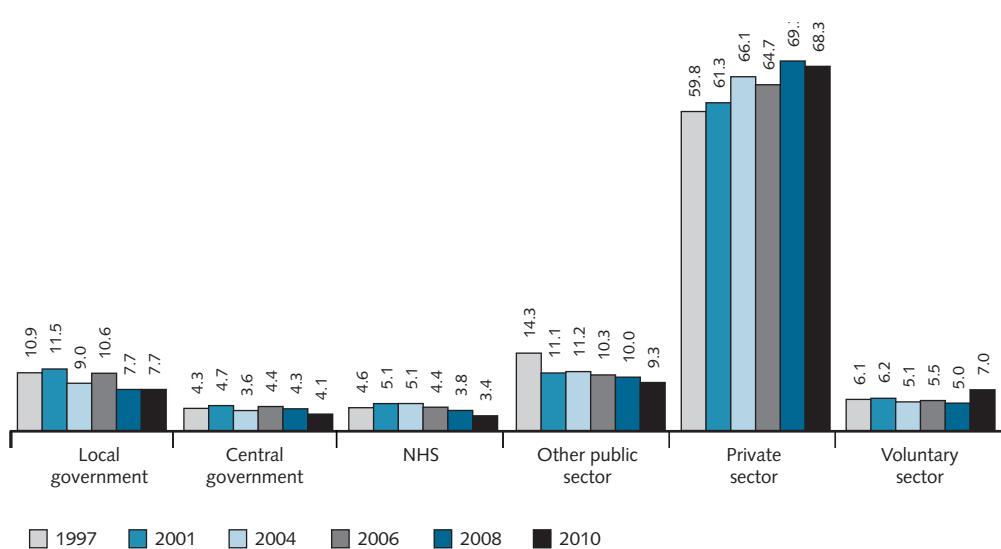
Employers' support of work as a councillor (table 33)

Overall, councillors in employment reported that their employers supported their work as councillors. Two-fifths (40.6 per cent) said that their employers 'wholeheartedly' supported their work as a councillor and 44.5 per cent said that they supported it 'to a certain extent'. A minority of councillors (5.9 per cent) said that their employer was not aware that they had this role. In addition, 7.0 per cent of councillors reported that their employers were 'slightly against' their role while 2.0 per cent were said to be 'completely against' it. The proportions who reported employers' support or otherwise were similar in 2010 to 2008.

Across the types of authority, a greater proportion of councillors in shire county councils (52.6 per cent) reported that their employers wholeheartedly supported them while smaller proportions of those in London boroughs (34.1 per cent) indicated that this was the case. A greater proportion of councillors in the South West (48.1 per cent) and Yorkshire and the Humber (43.9 per cent) said that their employers supported them 'wholeheartedly'.

Additional work activities (table 34)

Four out of five councillors (79.5 per cent) undertook work activities in addition to their role as a councillor. Just over half (56 per cent) participated in unpaid voluntary work, compared with 51.4 per cent in 2008, while under half (41.9 per cent) were school governors and 28.3 per cent were on public boards. In addition, 6.2 per cent worked for national or regional agencies. The proportions participating in each of these activities has increased since 2008.

Councillors' participation varied across the types of authority. A greater proportion of those in metropolitan districts and London boroughs were school governors (73.0 per cent and 66.5 per cent) than was the case nationally. Councillors in shire district councils were least likely to be school governors (39.6 per cent).

Across the parties, it emerged that councillors who represented the Labour Party were more likely to be school governors (70.3 per cent) than Conservative members (48.7 per cent) and Liberal Democrats (48.6 per cent). Labour Party members were also more likely to be members of public boards and joint committees (41.3 per cent) than those of the other two main parties (35.9 per cent of Conservatives and 31.7 per cent of Liberal Democrats).

Figure L Additional work activities, England 1997–2010

National census of local authority councillors 2010
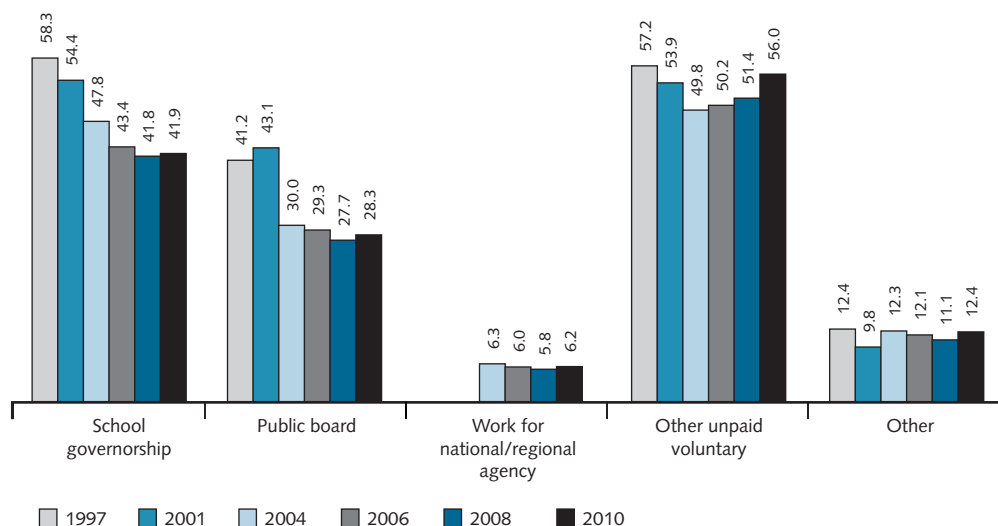
Education and qualifications (table 35)

Over half of councillors (55.9 per cent) were educated to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 4 or equivalent (degree or professional qualification). Around one in seven (13.6 per cent) had attained NVQ Level 3 or equivalent (GCE 'A' level or National Certificate/Diploma) and 12.0 per cent had achieved GCSE level or Level 2 as their highest qualification. A total of 9.0 per cent had not achieved any of the qualifications listed and this proportion was smaller in 2010 than was the case in 2008 when 18.0 per cent indicated this.

The highest qualifications achieved by councillors were generally similar across all types of authority although a greater proportion of councillors in London boroughs had achieved Level 4 or higher (71.0 per cent). The qualifications achieved were also similar across the main parties although a greater proportion of Liberal Democrat councillors had achieved level 4 or above (66.4 per cent).

Compared with the adult population, a greater proportion of councillors had achieved qualifications at Level 4 NVQ or above (31.2 per cent of the adult population). The proportion of councillors who had not achieved any of the qualifications listed was broadly similar to that of the adult population (11.5 per cent).

Figure M Education and qualifications (NVQ equivalent), England 2004–2010

	NVQ level 4 and above	NVQ level 3	Trade apprenticeship	NVQ level 2	Below NVQ level 2	Other	None of these
2004	51.3	12.3	5.3	12.3	1.0	4.7	13.1
2006	49.8	11.6	4.9	12.6	1.2	5.0	14.9
2008	51.1	11.5	3.3	10.6	1.1	4.5	18.0
2010	55.9	13.6	4.2	12.0	1.2	4.1	9.0
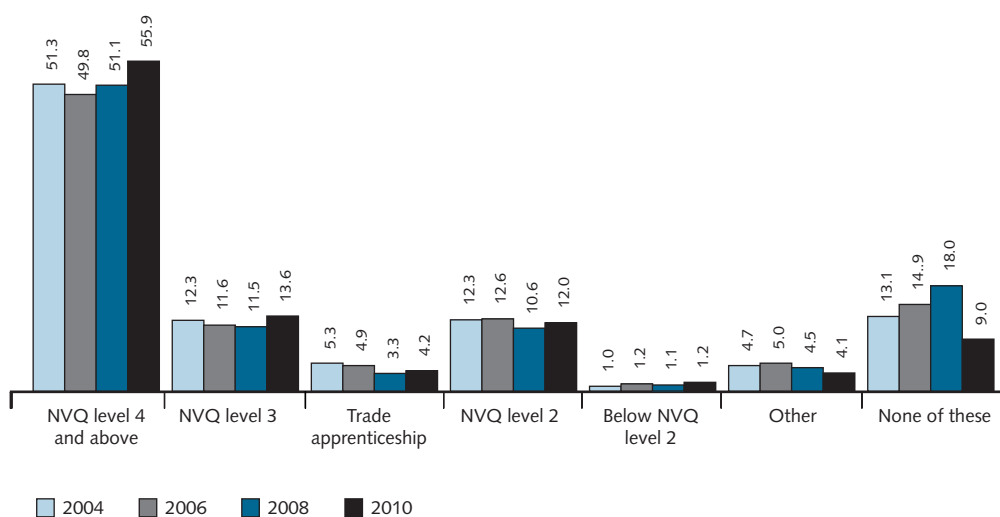
Annex A

Key facts summary table, England 1997–2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
average length of service as a councillor (years)		8.8		9.2		8.3		8.3		8.3		9.4
average number of council committees/ sub-committees		5.7		3.8		3.7		3.8		3.7		3.6
senior positions held												
one or more positions					10528	53.6	10573	53.7	11059	56.4	10404	57.4
no senior positions					9128	46.4	9116	46.3	8558	43.6	7725	42.6
receives special responsibility allowance					9192	46.8	9742	49.5	10435	53.2	9512	52.5
average no. hours/week how time spent (decimalised)								22		22		23
attendance at council meetings, committees								10.0		10.0		10.0
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquiries								7.0		8.0		8.0
Other								6.0		6.0		6.0
political party												
Conservative	4349	21.6	6832	34.3	7593	39.0	7719	42.3	9436	48.5	9031	50.1
Liberal Democrat	4776	23.7	4208	21.2	4497	23.1	4427	24.3	4315	22.2	3958	22.0
Labour	9212	45.7	7140	35.9	5586	28.7	4585	25.1	4201	21.6	3748	20.8
Independent	1472	7.3	1385	7.0	1483	7.6	1178	6.5	1143	5.9	964	5.4
Green	n/a	n/a	71	0.4	58	0.3	97	0.5	144	0.7	141	0.8
Other	211	1.0	187	0.9	240	1.2	246	1.3	207	1.1	167	0.9
previously been a councillor					6163	31.4	6604	33.5	8033	40.9	6935	38.3
One or more training opportunities received							17369	88.2	18382	93.7	16555	91.3

National census of local authority councillors 2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
would like to have the chance to attain/acquire a more formal qualification/ recognition of the work of a councillor? resources/ learning that would be most beneficial to role							8213	41.7	9021	46.0	7516	41.5
IT support							1567	18.7	2509	20.4	1876	21.0
Administrative support							2066	24.7	2822	23.0	1828	20.5
Media training							928	11.1	1438	11.7	1121	12.6
Political skills training							847	10.1	1111	9.1	1029	11.5
Better information on role							986	11.8	1592	13.0	991	11.1
Case worker							947	11.3	1225	10.0	981	11.0
Better facilities							572	6.8	1024	8.3	644	7.2
Other resources or learning							449	5.4	552	4.5	443	5.0
Resources available to councillors:*												
Council e-mail address											15963	88.1
PC/laptop											15764	87.0
Broadband											13717	75.7
Remote log-in access to council system											13124	72.4
BlackBerry for council business											5105	28.2
Mobile phone for council business											3979	21.9
Own webpage											3731	20.6
Social network sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)											2051	11.3
Blog											1361	7.5
Telephone conferencing											1201	6.6

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Resources used by councillors:*												
Council e-mail address											13560	74.8
PC/laptop											13108	72.3
Broadband											11693	64.5
Remote log-in access to council system											10464	57.7
BlackBerry for council business											3871	21.4
Mobile phone for council business											2878	15.9
Own webpage											2022	11.2
Social network sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)											1434	7.9
Blog											760	4.2
Telephone conferencing											599	3.3
Most useful resource* (as per cent of those who use it):												
PC/laptop											9278	70.8
BlackBerry for council business											2688	69.4
Broadband											6608	56.5
Remote log-in access to council system											5447	52.1
Council e-mail address											6655	49.1
Mobile phone for council business											1189	41.3
Blog 175 23.0 conferencing												
Telephone											127	21.2
Own webpage											367	18.2
Social network sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)											210	14.6

National census of local authority councillors 2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Why did you want to become a councillor?												
Serve community					16176	83.1	16654	86.9	17228	88.4	15905	88.2
To change things					8921	45.8	10020	52.3	10471	53.7	9428	52.3
Political beliefs					9633	49.5	9866	51.5	10032	51.5	9064	50.2
Because I was asked to					5603	28.8	5631	29.4	5909	30.3	5079	28.2
To resolve an issue					1558	8.0	2183	11.4	2436	12.5	2317	12.8
Member allowances					189	1.0	312	1.6	384	2.0	388	2.2
Other					463	2.4	635	3.3	522	2.7	338	1.9
What are the most important things that councillors do?												
Listen to the views of local people							18035	93.5	18344	94.1	16920	93.8
Support the local community							16432	85.2	17807	91.4	16433	91.1
Address issues							14214	73.7	15184	77.9	13689	75.9
Deal with complaints							14020	72.7	14060	72.1	12831	71.1
Council meetings							13474	69.9	13333	68.4	12235	67.8
Keep the public informed							11020	57.2	12223	62.7	11400	63.2
Plan services							8745	45.4	10424	53.5	9613	53.3
Represent local residents							8363	43.4	9713	49.8	8504	47.1
Hold surgeries							8876	46.0	9559	49.1	8314	46.1
Effective in your role:												
Very effective					3795	19.3	4290	23.5	4723	24.3	5077	28.2
Effective					13135	68.6	12513	68.6	12366	63.7	11303	62.9
Not effective					883	4.6	635	3.5	414	2.1	349	1.9
Not very effective					1436	7.5	798	4.4	539	2.8	442	2.5

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Perceptions of whether authorities are fully committed to specific activities												
Allowing people to have their say on services provided locally through con-sultation and feedback									10038	51.2	9168	50.6
Enabling people and communities to have an influence locally through active programmes of engagement									7506	38.3	6943	38.3
Having mec-hanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues									7075	36.1	6686	36.9
Providing better practical support for elected members so that they can act more effectively as local leaders									7510	38.3	6439	35.5
Allowing people to have a role in allocating resources through participatory budgeting									612	18.4	4272	23.6
Would you recommend becoming a councillor?												
Yes							15045	76.4	16050	81.8	15118	83.4
No							1224	6.2	1447	7.4	1167	6.4
Don't know							1802	9.2	1820	9.3	1548	8.5
Intend to stand for re-election?												
Yes							10611	54.0	12076	61.3	10694	54.5	12203	67.3
No							2490	12.7	2250	11.4	3108	15.8	2455	13.5
Councillors												
Total number of councillors	20226		19998		19657		19689		19617		18129	

National census of local authority councillors 2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Gender												
Male	14591	72.1	14137	70.7	13825	70.3	13645	69.3	13417	68.4	12411	68.5
Female	5614	27.8	5703	28.5	5711	29.1	5774	29.3	6038	30.8	5545	30.6
Not answered	21	0.1	158	0.8	121	0.6	271	1.4	162	0.8	173	1.0
Gender identity the same as assigned at birth?												
Yes											17096	94.3
No											23	0.1
Prefer not to say											302	1.7
Not answered											708	3.9
Sexual orientation												
Heterosexual or straight											15260	84.2
Gay or lesbian											440	2.4
Bisexual											154	0.9
Other											49	0.3
Prefer not to say											1075	5.9
Not answered											1151	6.3
Age												
Average age (years)		55.4		56.9		57.8		58.3	58.8		59.7		
Proportion under 45	3655	18.4	2773	14.4	2410	13.1	2453	13.5	2486	13.1	1839	11.7
Ethnic origin												
White	19521	96.8	19355	97.3	18765	96.5	17855	95.9	18176	96.6	16823	96.3
Other ethnic background	653	3.4	531	2.7	674	3.5	764	4.1	633	3.4	640	3.7
Have long term illness, health problem or disability												
	2125	10.5	2587	12.9	2443	12.4	2138	10.9	2602	13.3	2563	14.1
Caring responsibilities												
one or more caring responsibilities	6896	34.2	5492	27.6	4916	25.0	4757	24.2	5099	26.0	4396	24.2
no caring responsibilities	13330	65.8	14506	72.4	14741	75.0	14932	75.8	14518	74.0	13733	75.8

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employment status												
In full-time paid employment	6072	30.2	5358	27.2	4793	24.7	4346	23.5	4133	22.0	3586	21.0
In part-time paid employment	1697	8.4	1886	9.6	2089	10.8	1924	10.4	1862	9.9	1620	9.5
Self-employed	3071	15.3	3125	15.9	3181	16.4	2948	16.0	3047	16.2	2493	14.6
Retired	6862	34.1	7240	36.8	7512	38.7	7548	40.9	8193	43.5	8082	47.2
Other not working**	2427	12.1	2068	10.6	1851	9.5	1709	9.2	1579	8.4	1029	7.8
Additional work activities												
School governorship	10959	58.3	10874	54.4	9405	47.8	8546	43.4	8196	41.8	7602	41.9
Public board	7748	41.2	8626	43.1	5905	30.0	5773	29.3	5425	27.7	5124	28.3
Work for national/ regional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1232	6.3	1172	6.0	1143	5.8	1126	6.2
Other unpaid voluntary	10766	57.2	10776	53.9	9790	49.8	9886	50.2	10088	51.4	10152	56.0
Other	2332	12.4	1956	9.8	2425	12.3	2382	12.1	2168	11.1	2253	12.4
Employer supports your work as a councillor:												
wholeheartedly					2476	40.7	2297	40.9	2260	40.1	2217	40.6
to a certain extent					2694	44.2	2583	46.0	2533	44.9	2430	44.5
employer is not aware I am a councillor					371	6.1	292	5.2	323	5.7	323	5.9
slightly against					414	6.8	356	6.3	405	7.2	381	7.0
completely against it					134	2.2	83	1.5	117	2.1	110	2.0
Education/ qualifications held (NVQ equivalent)*												
NVQ level 4 and above					9862	50.2	9806	49.8	10018	51.1	10129	55.9
NVQ level 3					2310	11.8	2278	11.6	2256	11.5	2467	13.6
Trade apprenticeship					1131	5.8	961	4.9	641	3.3	759	4.2
NVQ level 2					2488	12.7	2478	12.6	2077	10.6	2178	12.0
Below NVQ level 2					325	1.7	244	1.2	209	1.1	211	1.2
Other					790	4.0	986	5.0	878	4.5	749	4.1
None of these					2751	14.0	2936	14.9	3538	18.0	1636	9.0

Not all questions were answered by all respondents, see Annex B for details.

* *New question in 2010*

** *Other not working = unemployed, permanently sick or disabled, not in paid work – looking after home, in FT education, not working for other reason.*

National census of local authority councillors 2010

Summary by type of authority and English region

	Response rate % of councillors		Gender (%) male female		Average age (years)	Ethnic origin (%) white other ethnic group	
Type of authority							
Shire counties	36.1	(662)	74.5	24.6	61.1	98.3	1.7
Shire districts	35.9	(3190)	68.4	30.5	61.3	98.6	1.4
Metropolitan districts	28.9	(704)	66.3	32.8	57.8	95.4	4.6
London boroughs	30.0	(558)	62.9	36.4	54.3	84.6	15.4
Unitaries	31.2	(968)	70.1	29.1	59.0	96.3	3.7
Region							
East Midlands	33.1	(663)	72.9	25.6	61.5	96.8	3.2
East of England	35,3	(902)	68.2	30.6	60.3	97.7	2.3
North East	32.6	(257)	67.9	31.4	60.3	98.8	1.2
North West	28.4	(674)	67.9	30.8	60.2	98.1	1.9
South East	38.1	(1362)	68.9	30.0	60.0	98.0	2.0
South West	35.0	(708)	68.6	30.7	61.9	99.1	0.9
West Midlands	35.7	(547)	71.3	28.1	59.5	96.2	3.8
Yorks. & the Humber	31.6	(411)	66.2	33.8	58.8	96.4	3.6
London	32.8	(558)	62.9	36.4	54.3	84.6	15.4
All England	**33.4**	**(6082)**	**68.5**	**30.6**	**59.7**	**96.3**	**3.7**

Note: figures in brackets show number of responses.
Analysis to different questions may be based on different groups of respondents.
The figures may not total 100 per cent as a result of rounding.

	% Long term illness/health problem/disability	% One or more caring responsibilities	Employment status (%) full-time employment	part-time employment	self-employed	retired
Type of authority						
Shire counties	11.8	22.2	11.2	9.7	17.0	52.1
Shire districts	14.3	23.4	20.4	8.2	14.8	50.9
Metropolitan districts	17.6	24.2	23.4	11.8	9.9	45.1
London boroughs	12.0	25.8	33.9	13.0	15.6	29.2
Unitaries	13.8	27.0	18.6	9.0	15.5	46.6
Region						
East Midlands	16.6	20.1	16.6	9.4	14.1	51.6
East of England	13.1	25.5	20.1	8.2	16.6	48.4
North East	20.3	23.3	19.1	7.8	10.0	53.2
North West	16.8	24.8	22.8	8.0	11.7	52.0
South East	11.0	23.8	20.9	9.3	14.0	47.4
South West	14.5	23.9	16.3	7.5	17.8	51.7
West Midlands	16.0	26.6	21.1	10.3	15.2	46.6
Yorkshire & the Humber	12.5	24.1	15.2	12.6	13.6	45.8
London	12.0	25.8	33.9	13.0	15.6	29.2
All England	**14.1**	**24.2**	**21.0**	**9.5**	**14.6**	**47.2**

	average length of service (years)	% holding one or more position of leading resp.	% receives special resp. allowance	% previously been a councillor	average no. hours/week (decimalised)	% stand for re-election? yes	no
Type of authority							
Shire counties	8.8	57.6	57.9	65.6	26.2	60.9	11.5
Shire districts	9.6	56.0	47.9	32.6	18.2	70.4	15.2
Metropolitan districts	10.7	58.2	58.3	22.6	24.8	68.5	11.0
London boroughs	8.9	56.8	55.4	43.0	24.3	51.3	11.5
Unitaries	8.3	60.8	56.1	47.8	28.1	70.8	13.3
Region							
East Midlands	10.3	59.7	56.6	38.8	20.9	75.8	12.7
East of England	9.1	54.6	50.5	41.2	19.6	68.3	15.1
North East	9.4	56.4	56.5	39.4	27.7	63.3	14.5
North West	9.4	59.1	52.4	32.1	24.1	72.5	11.8
South East	9.0	56.0	49.8	36.7	21.0	66.9	14.1
South West	9.1	57.4	47.1	45.6	22.7	66.2	15.1
West Midlands	9.7	58.3	53.9	34.5	22.8	70.1	13.3
Yorkshire & the Humber	9.8	60.2	57.1	33.0	28.3	67.5	13.8
London	8.9	56.8	55.4	43.0	24.3	51.3	11.5
All England	**9.4**	**57.4**	**52.5**	**38.3**	**22.7**	**67.3**	**13.5**

Councils and their constitutions in England*

	2008 No.	%
Councils which have chosen the Mayor and Cabinet model	11	3.1
Councils which have chosen the Leader and Cabinet model	297	84.6
Councils who have chosen alternative arrangements	43	12.2

*Excludes Corporation of London and Isles of Scilly.
Numbers of councillors from: http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/uklocalgov/makeup.htm
(last updated @26/03/2011).

	Number of authorities
Type of authority	
Shire counties	27
Shire districts	201
Metropolitan districts	36
London boroughs	32
Unitaries	55
Region	
East Midlands	45
East of England	52
North East	12
North West	41
South East	74
South West	40
West Midlands	33
Yorkshire & the Humber	22
London	32
All England	**351**

Excludes Corporation of London and Isles of Scilly.

Frequency of local elections

The table below illustrates the election cycles for different types of authority between 2007 and 2013.

Type of Authority	Electoral cycle and warding arrangements	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
27 counties and 6 single tier (unitary) councils	All councillors elected once every four years (whole council elections)			FC				FC
32 London boroughs	All councillors elected once every four years (whole council elections).				FC			
36 metropolitan districts	Elected for a four year term by thirds. Elections are held every year except the county council year	1/3	1/3		1/3	1/3	1/3	
68 shire districts (two-tier areas) and 19 unitaries	Elected for a four year term by thirds. Elections are held every year except the county council year	1/3	1/3		1/3	1/3	1/3	
126 shire districts (two-tier areas) and 30 unitaries	Full council elections. Almost all wards have 1-3 members.	FC				FC		
7 shire districts	Councillors elected for a four year term biennially (at each election a half of the council is elected)		1/2		1/2		1/2	

Annex B

Breakdown of survey data, England 1997–2010

All tables in Annex B show grossed results; i.e. estimates for all councillors derived from the response.

The base varies between tables; where the base is shown as 'Base (population)', the results have been calculated on all 18,129 councillors.

Where the base is shown as 'Base (respondents)', this is the 'Base (population)' less the estimate for non respondents and non applicable answers; e.g. 8066 were employed and indicated a current occupation (table 30).

This procedure has been adopted in order to remove distortions from the distribution caused by non response.

Table 1 Length of service as a councillor, England 1997 - 2010

years	1997 No.	1997 %	2001 No.	2001 %	2004 No.	2004 %	2006 No.	2006 %	2008 No.	2008 %	2010 No.	2010 %
1–2	3125	15.6	3047	15.4	5503	29.0	4857	24.7	6292	32.1	3337	18.9
3–5	5882	29.4	5298	26.8	3592	19.0	4757	24.2	3495	17.8	4104	23.2
6–9	4051	20.2	4083	20.7	3727	19.7	3772	19.2	3469	17.7	3550	20.1
10–15	3644	18.2	3831	19.4	3090	16.3	3133	15.9	3157	16.1	3399	19.3
16–20	1527	7.6	1578	8.0	1341	7.1	1494	7.6	1351	6.9	1409	8.0
21– 25	981	4.9	877	4.4	823	4.3	776	3.9	854	4.4	852	4.8
>25	834	4.2	1057	5.3	855	4.5	901	4.6	1000	5.1	1001	5.7
Base (respondents)	20043	99.1	19771	98.9	18931	96.3	19689	100	19617		17652**	97.4
Average	8.8		9.2		8.3		8.3		8.3		9.4	

Councillors elected in 2010 occur in the category 1-2 years.

**The fall in numbers from previous years is due to local authority reorganisation in 2009.

National census of local authority councillors 2010

Table 2 Leading responsibilities held, England 2004–2010

	2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Directly Elected Mayor	6	0.0	6	0.0	5	0.0	86	0.5
Deputy Mayor	279	1.4	314	1.6	338	1.7	261	1.4
Leader/Deputy leader of the authority	938	4.8	885	4.5	1020	5.2	924	5.1
Chair/Vice-Chair of Council/Civic Mayor	878	4.5	876	4.5	963	4.9	805	4.4
Cabinet/Executive members	2863	14.6	2969	15.1	3214	16.4	2900	16.0
Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	2633	13.4	2476	12.6	2532	12.9	2341	12.9
Chair/Vice-Chair of Area Forum/Committee	1297	6.6	2084	10.6	1473	7.5	1505	8.3
Chair/Vice-Chair of Regulatory committee	2037	10.4	1238	6.3	2152	11.0	2118	11.7
Chair/Vice-Chair of Standards committee	307	1.6	312	1.6	288	1.5	211	1.2
Chair/Vice-Chair of Main Policy	439	2.2	416	2.1	555	2.8	481	2.7
Chair/Vice-Chair of Other Major	859	4.4	1000	5.1	1292	6.6	1393	7.7
Chair/Vice-Chair of Board	236	1.2	230	1.2	358	1.8	367	2.0
Member of Board	731	3.7	913	4.6	1318	6.7	1307	7.2
Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic group	n/a		261	1.3	370	1.9	355	2.0
Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Sub group	n/a		261	1.3	375	1.9	369	2.0
One or more positions	10528	53.6	10573	53.7	11059	56.4	10404	57.4
No positions	9129	46.4	9116	46.3	8558	43.6	7725	42.6
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129	

More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 3 Number of council committees/sub-committees, England 1997–2010

years	1997 No.	%	2001 No.	%	2004 No.	%	2006 No.	%	2008 No.	%	2010 No.	%
None	12	0.1	5	0.0	38	0.2	54	0.3	205	1.1	351	2.1
1	300	1.6	1838	10.3	2004	11.0	1761	10.0	1856	10.3	1830	10.7
2	1565	8.2	3842	21.4	4212	23.1	3815	21.6	3907	21.6	3671	21.6
3	3012	15.8	4075	22.7	4171	22.8	4120	23.3	4374	24.2	4180	24.5
4	3430	18.0	3154	17.6	3231	17.7	3243	18.4	3221	17.8	2931	17.2
5	2828	14.9	1865	10.4	1737	9.5	1944	11.0	1693	9.4	1597	9.4
6–10	6417	33.7	2799	15.6	2506	13.7	2392	13.6	2542	14.1	2209	13.0
11–15	1102	5.8	250	1.4	278	1.5	252	1.4	201	1.1	200	1.2
16–20	231	1.2	60	0.3	53	0.3	34	0.2	28	0.2	44	0.3
20+	123	0.6	26	0.1	41	0.2	34	0.2	39	0.2	18	0.1
Base (respondents)	19020	94.0	17913	89.7	18271	92.9	17649	89.6	18065	92.1	17031	93.9
Average	5.7		3.8		3.7		3.8		3.7		3.6	

Table 4 Party positions held, England 2001–2010

	2001 No.	%	2004 No.	%	2006 No.	%	2008 No.	%	2010 No.	%
Party/Group Leader	1367	6.8	1392	7.1	1414	7.2	1448	7.4	1180	6.5
Party/Group Deputy Leader	1189	5.9	1125	5.7	1109	5.6	1160	5.9	1076	5.9
Other Party/ Group Official	3296	16.5	2667	13.6	2646	13.4	2719	13.9	2374	13.1
Base (population)	19998		19657		19689		19617		18129	

Table 5 Receives special responsibility allowance, England 2004–2010

	2004 No.	%	2006 No.	%	2008 No.	%	2010 No.	%
Receives special responsibility allowance	9192	46.8	9742	49.5	10435	53.2	9512	52.5
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129	

Table 6 No. hours/week spent on council and political business (decimalised hours), England 2004–2010

	2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<=5	921	4.9	720	3.9	618	3.3	622	3.5
06-10	3460	18.5	3424	18.4	3354	17.8	3013	17.1
11-15	3245	17.4	3141	16.9	2982	15.8	2691	15.3
16-20	3731	20.0	3852	20.7	4025	21.4	3769	21.4
21-25	1937	10.4	1909	10.3	2117	11.2	1906	10.8
26-30	2093	11.2	2356	12.7	2326	12.3	2113	12.0
31-35	704	3.8	675	3.6	742	3.9	842	4.8
36-40	1032	5.5	1147	6.2	1203	6.4	1211	6.9
41-45	336	1.8	263	1.4	342	1.8	313	1.8
46-50	543	2.9	563	3.0	586	3.1	509	2.9
50+	676	3.6	546	2.9	556	2.9	590	3.4
Average no. of hours	22		22		22		23	
Base (respondents)	18678	95.0	18596	94.4	18850	96.1	17579	97.0

Table 7 Distribution of hours/week of how time spent (decimalised hours), England 2006–2010

Fewer councillors were able to accurately provide this detailed information and there is, therefore, a minor discrepancy with the total average calculated.

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Attendance at council meetings, committees	10		10		10	
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquires	7		8		8	
Other, external meetings, seminars, training	6		6		6	
Average	22		22		23	
Base (respondents)	16837	85.5	18143	92.5	17040	94.0

Table 8 Political party profile, England 1997–2010

	1997 No.	1997 %	2001 No.	2001 %	2004 No.	2004 %	2006 No.	2006 %	2008 No.	2008 %	2010 No.	2010 %
Conservative Party	4349	21.6	6832	34.3	7593	39.0	7719	42.3	9436	48.5	9031	50.1
Labour Party	9212	45.7	7140	35.9	5586	28.7	4585	25.1	4201	21.6	3748	20.8
Liberal Democrat Party	4776	23.7	4208	21.2	4497	23.1	4427	24.3	4315	22.2	3958	22.0
Green Party	n/a	n/a	71	0.4	58	0.3	97	0.5	144	0.7	141	0.8
Independent	1472	7.3	1385	7.0	1483	7.6	1178	6.5	1143	5.9	964	5.4
Other	211	1.0	187	0.9	240	1.2	246	1.3	207	1.1	167	0.9
Base (respondents)	20137	99.6	19825	99.1	19457	99.0	18252	92.7	19445	99.1	18008	99.3

Table 9 Previous council experience, England 2004–2010

	2004 No.	2004 %	2006 No.	2006 %	2008 No.	2008 %	2010 No.	2010 %
Has previously been a councillor	6163	31.4	6604	33.5	8033	40.9	6935	38.3
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129	

Table 10 Membership of other public bodies, England 2004–2010

	2004 No.	2004 %	2006 No.	2006 %	2008 No.	2008 %	2010 No.	2010 %
Local authority councils	1632	8.3	1888	9.6	2265	11.5	2090	11.5
Town councils	2192	11.2	2161	11.0	2422	12.3	2305	12.7
Parish/Community councils	2951	15.0	3102	15.8	3081	15.7	2815	15.5
Police authority	474	2.4	558	2.8	525	2.7	432	2.4
Fire authority	703	3.6	717	3.6	798	4.1	704	3.9
National Parks authority	172	0.9	200	1.0	187	1.0	238	1.3
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129	

More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 11 Training and development opportunities received, England 2006–2010

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Induction	4958	25.2	7171	36.6	5059	27.9
Personal development plan	3794	19.3	5213	26.6	5164	28.5
Training needs questionnaire	6940	35.2	8535	43.5	7121	39.3
Seminars/conferences	13120	66.6	13961	71.2	12127	66.9
Attended IDeA Leadership Academy	N/A		1439	7.3	1231	6.8
Mentoring coaching	2404	12.2	3538	18.0	2793	15.4
Attended other member development programmes	10896	55.3	11197	57.1	9936	54.8
Skills training	7274	36.9	8024	40.9	6788	37.4
Other	1940	9.9	1541	7.9	1087	6.0
One or more opportunities	17369	88.2	18382	93.7	16555	91.3
No opportunities	2320	11.8	1235	6.3	1574	8.7
Base (population)	19689		19617		18129	

More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 12 Would like the chance to acquire a more formal qualification as a councillor, England 2006–2010

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Would like this chance	8213	41.7	9021	46.0	7516	41.5
Base (respondents)	19689		19617		18129	

Table 13 If available, what level qualification would be appropriate, England 2010

	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Credit towards A level/NVQ 3 equivalent	1147	14.5	1080	12.9	1038	14.8
Credit towards undergraduate degree/NVQ 4	1150	14.6	1002	12.0	921	13.1
Credit towards post-graduate degree/NVQ 5	1430	18.1	1297	14.8	1127	16.0
Standalone independent qualification	4853	61.5	4785	57.1	3807	54.1
Other	341	4.3	278	3.3	142	2.0
Base (respondents)	7890	96.1	8382	92.9	7035	93.6

Table 14 (i) Which resources or learning would be beneficial for the work of councillors, England 2006–2010

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Media training	6711	34.1	7366	37.5	6317	34.8
Administrative support	5373	27.3	6318	32.2	4854	26.8
Case worker	3961	20.1	4322	22.0	3812	21.0
Political skills training	4518	22.9	4940	25.2	4457	24.6
Better facilities to hold surgeries	4238	21.5	4599	23.4	3773	20.8
IT support	5928	30.1	7067	36.0	5639	31.1
Better information on role of ward/ division councillor	3926	19.9	4541	23.1	3369	18.6
Other resources or learning	1251	6.4	1125	5.7	749	4.1
Base (population)	19689		19617		18129	

More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 14 (ii) Which of these resources or learning is the most important for the work of councillors, England 2006–2010

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Media training	928	11.1	1438	11.7	1121	12.6
Administrative support	2066	24.7	2822	23.0	1828	20.5
Case worker	947	11.3	1225	10.0	981	11.0
Political skills training	847	10.1	1111	9.1	1029	11.5
Better facilities	572	6.8	1024	8.3	644	7.2
IT support	1567	18.7	2509	20.4	1876	21.0
Better information on role	986	11.8	1592	13.0	991	11.1
Other resources or learning	449	5.4	552	4.5	443	5.0
Base (respondents)	8362	42.5	12272	62.6	8915	49.2

National census of local authority councillors 2010

Table 15 Which of these resources are available to you, which do you use, and which do you find the most useful in your role as a councillor*, England 2010

	Available		Use		Most useful (as % of all councillors)*		Most useful (as per cent of those who use it)*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
PC/laptop	15764	87.0	13108	72.3	9278	51.2	9278	70.8
Broadband	13717	75.7	11693	64.5	6608	36.5	6608	56.5
Remote log-in access to council system	13124	72.4	10464	57.7	5447	30.0	5447	52.1
BlackBerry for council business	5105	28.2	3871	21.4	2688	14.8	2688	69.4
Mobile phone for council business	3979	21.9	2878	15.9	1189	6.6	1189	41.3
Telephone conferencing	1201	6.6	599	3.3	127	0.7	127	21.2
Council e-mail address	15963	88.1	13560	74.8	6655	36.7	6655	49.1
Own webpage	3731	20.6	2022	11.2	367	2.0	367	18.2
Blog	1361	7.5	760	4.2	175	1.0	175	23.0
Social network sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	2051	11.3	1434	7.9	210	1.2	210	14.6
Base (population)	18129							

Question used for the first time in 2010 – no previous years' data available.
More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.
* Councillors could indicate up to three items.

Table 16 Reasons for becoming a councillor, England 2004–2010

	2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Serve community	16176	83.1	16654	86.9	17228	88.4	15905	88.2
Resolve an issue	1558	8.0	2183	11.4	2436	12.5	2317	12.8
Political beliefs	9633	49.5	9866	51.5	10032	51.5	9064	50.2
To change things	8921	45.8	10020	52.3	10471	53.7	9428	52.3
Because I was asked to	5603	28.8	5631	29.4	5909	30.3	5079	28.2
Member allowances	189	1.0	312	1.6	384	2.0	388	2.2
Other	463	2.4	635	3.3	522	2.7	338	1.9
Base (respondents)	19475	99.1	19153	97.3	19496	99.4	18041	99.5

More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 17 Which are the most important things that councillors do, England 2006–2010

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Listen to views of local people	18035	93.5	18344	94.1	16920	93.8
Support local community	16432	85.2	17807	91.4	16433	91.1
Hold surgeries	8876	46.0	9559	49.1	8314	46.1
Address issues	14214	73.7	15184	77.9	13689	75.9
Council meetings	13474	69.9	13333	68.4	12235	67.8
Plan services	8745	45.4	10424	53.5	9613	53.3
Deal with complaints	14020	72.7	14060	72.1	12831	71.1
Keep the public informed	11020	57.2	12223	62.7	11400	63.2
Represent local residents	8363	43.4	9713	49.8	8504	47.1
Base (respondents)	19278	97.9	19487	99.3	18046	99.5

#more than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 18 Views on influence as a councillor, England 2006–2010

	2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
More influence to change things than expected	6717	35.6	7806	40.5	7213	40.3
Less influence to change things than expected	5526	29.3	4908	25.4	4465	25.0
As much influence as expected	6637	35.1	6575	34.1	6206	34.7
Base (respondents)	18880	95.9	19289	98.3	17885	98.7

Table 19 How effective councillors are in their role, England 2004–2010

	2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very effective	3705	19.3	4290	23.5	4723	24.3	5077	28.2
Effective	13135	68.6	12513	68.6	12366	63.7	11303	62.9
Not effective	883	4.6	635	3.5	414	2.1	349	1.9
Not very effective	1436	7.5	798	4.4	539	2.8	442	2.5
Don't know / too early to say*					1364	7.0	804	4.5
Base (respondents)	19159	97.5	18236	92.6	19405	98.9	17975	99.2

*Don't know response option added in 2008, this should be taken into account when making comparisons with previous years.

Table 20 In which situations councillors talk about their work, England 2008–2010

| | 2008 | | | | | | 2010 | | | | | | | |
| | Never | | Sometimes | | Often | | Never | | Sometimes | | Often | | n/a* | |
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Social	1671	8.8	1244	65.7	4834	25.5	1241	7.2	10875	62.7	5068	29.2	161	0.9
At work with colleagues	3807	23.6	8710	54.0	3626	22.5	1665	10.3	6385	39.5	3612	22.4	4488	27.8
At work with external people	6294	38.5	7969	48.7	2086	12.8	3482	21.9	6373	40.0	2084	13.1	3974	25.0
Community events	2356	12.9	10694	58.4	5261	28.7	1445	8.6	8527	50.9	6192	36.9	604	3.6
Community socialising	4447	24.8	10312	57.5	3162	17.6	2603	15.8	9402	57.1	3307	20.1	1153	7.0
Family	1332	7.3	10640	58.1	6353	34.7	967	5.7	9392	55.1	6441	37.8	255	1.5
Community groups	922	4.9	7626	40.7	10178	54.4	563	3.3	5877	34.1	10214	59.3	576	3.3
Base respondents	18726	95.5					17230	100						

In 2010 a 'not applicable' option was added to the survey.

Table 21 Would councillors recommend the role to others, England 2006–2010

| | 2006 | | 2008 | | 2010 | |
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	15045	76.4	16050	81.8	15118	83.4
No	1224	6.2	1447	7.4	1167	6.4
Don't know	1802	9.2	1820	9.3	1548	8.5
Not known	1618	8.2	300	1.5	296	1.6
Base (population)	19689		19617		18129	

Table 22 When current term in office ends, England 2010

| | 2010 | |
	No.	%
2011	8853	48.8
2012	2252	12.4
2013	2259	12.5
2014	3899	21.5
Not known	866	4.8
Base (population)	18129	

Table 23 Do councillors intend to stand for re-election, England 2004–2010

| | 2004 | | 2006 | | 2008 | | 2010 | |
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	10611	54.0	12076	61.3	10694	54.5	12203	67.3
No	2490	12.7	2250	11.4	3108	15.8	2455	13.5
Don't know	6050	30.8	3948	20.0	5616	28.6	3305	18.2
Not answered	506	2.6	1415	7.2	200	1.0	166	0.9
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129	

Table 24 How committed councillors think their authorities are to specific activities, England 2010

| | 2010 | | | | | | | |
| | Fully | | Partially | | Not committed | | Not known* | |
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Allowing people to have a role in allocating resources through participatory budgeting	4272	23.6	7101	39.2	4988	27.5	1768	9.8
Enabling people and communities to have an influence locally through active programmes of engagement	6943	38.3	8065	44.5	2302	12.7	818	4.5
Allowing people to have their say on services provided locally though consultation and feedback	9168	50.6	6962	38.4	1465	8.1	535	3.0
Having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues	6686	36.9	6880	38.0	3161	17.4	1402	7.7
Providing better practical support for elected members so that they can act more effectively as local leaders	6439	35.5	7865	43.4	2963	16.3	863	4.8
Base (respondents)	18129							

In 2008, 51.2 per cent said that their authority was fully committed to allowing people to have a say, 37.1 per cent said that they were partially committed and 8.4 per cent said that they were not committed. In 2008, 38.3 per cent said that their authority was fully committed to providing practical support, 42.1 per cent said that they were partially committed and 16.0 per cent said that they were not committed.

*In 2010 an option of 'don't know' was added to the questionnaire. These responses are included in the 'not known' category.

Table 25(i) Gender profile, England 1997–2010

| | 1997 | | 2001 | | 2004 | | 2006 | | 2008 | | 2010 | |
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	14591	72.1	14137	70.7	13825	70.3	13645	69.3	13417	68.4	12411	68.5
Female	5614	27.8	5703	28.5	5711	29.1	5774	29.3	6038	30.8	5545	30.6
Not known	21	0.1	158	0.8	121	0.6	271	1.4	162	0.8	173	1.0
Base (population)	20226		19998		19657		19689		19617		18129	

Table 25(ii) Gender identity the same as assigned as birth*, England 2010

| | 2010 | |
	No.	%
Yes	17096	94.3
No	23	0.1
Prefer not to say	302	1.7
No response	708	3.9
Base (population)	18129	

Question used for the first time in 2010 – no previous years' data available.

Table 25(iii) Sexual orientation*, England 2010

| | 2010 | |
	No.	%
Heterosexual or straight	15260	84.2
Gay or lesbian	440	2.4
Bisexual	154	0.9
Other	49	0.3
Prefer not to say	1075	5.9
No response	1151	6.3
Base (population)	18129	

Question used for the first time in 2010 – no previous years' data available.

Table 26 Age profile, England 1997–2010

	1997*		2001*		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 25					62	0.3	58	0.3	110	0.6	124	0.8
25–29					222	1.2	273	1.5	308	1.6	221	1.4
30–34					423	2.3	430	2.4	403	2.1	378	2.4
35–39					626	3.4	656	3.6	643	3.4	454	2.9
40–44					1077	5.9	1036	5.7	1022	5.4	662	4.2
45–49					1494	8.2	1368	7.5	1378	7.3	1068	6.8
50–54					2148	11.8	1877	10.3	1746	9.3	1494	9.5
55–59					3312	18.2	2992	16.4	2638	14.0	1944	12.4
60–64					3465	19.0	3730	20.5	4119	21.9	3086	19.7
65–69					2846	15.6	3009	16.5	3275	17.4	3232	20.6
70+					2520	13.8	2778	15.3	3175	16.9	2997	19.1
Base (respondents)	19919	98.5	19205	96.0	18195	92.6	18207	92.5	18819	95.9	15660	86.4
Average	55.4		56.9		57.8		58.3		58.8		59.7	
Proportion under 45	3655	18.4	2773	14.4	2410	13.1	2453	13.5	2486	13.1	1839	11.7

Age groups were changed in 2004 therefore no comparisons can be made with previous years.

Table 27 Ethnic origin profile, England 1997–2010

	1997*		2001*		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White:			19355	97.3	18765	96.5	17855	95.9	18716	96.6	16823	96.3
British					4077	21.0	4871	26.2	5678	30.2	10262	58.8
English					13193	67.9	11703	62.8	11430	60.8	5624	32.2
Scottish					423	2.2	340	1.8	278	1.5	246	1.4
Welsh					383	2.0	335	1.8	307	1.6	247	1.4
Other British					284	1.5	198	1.1	149	0.8	168	1.0
Irish					260	1.3	281	1.5	198	1.1	209	1.2
Any other White background					145	0.7	128	0.7	136	0.7	67	0.4
Mixed:			62	0.3	114	0.6	127	0.7	82	0.4	106	0.6
White & Black Caribbean					30	0.2	32	0.2	16	0.1	18	0.1
White & Black African					12	0.1	12	0.1	9	0.0	13	0.1
White & Asian					36	0.2	36	0.2	38	0.2	42	0.2
Any other Mixed background					36	0.2	47	0.2	20	0.1	33	0.2
Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish, or Asian Welsh:			356	1.8	455	2.3	519	2.8	423	2.2	407	2.3
Indian					198	1.0	236	1.3	206	1.1	213	1.2
Pakistani					128	0.7	143	0.8	120	0.6	118	0.7
Bangladeshi					60	0.3	55	0.3	44	0.2	32	0.2
Any other Asian background					69	0.4	85	0.5	53	0.3	45	0.3
Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish, or Black Welsh:			94	0.5	91	0.5	93	0.5	97	0.5	118	0.7
Caribbean					57	0.3	42	0.2	53	0.3	76	0.4
African					26	0.1	43	0.2	30	0.2	42	0.2
Any other Black background					8	0.0	7	0	14	0.1	0	0.0
Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese Scottish, Chinese Welsh, or other ethnic group:			18	0.1	14	0.1	25	0.1	31	0.2	9	0.0
Chinese					2	0.0	5	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0
Any other background					12	0.1	20	0.1	26	0.1	9	0.0
Base (respondents)					19439	98.9	18618	94.6	18808	95.9	17463	96.3
Ethnicity summary												
White	19521	96.8	19355	97.3	18765	96.5	17855	95.9	18176	96.6	16823	96.3
Other ethnic background	653	3.4	531	2.7	674	3.5	764	4.1	633	3.4	640	3.7
Base (respondents)	20174	99.7	19886	99.4	19439	98.9	18618	94.6	18808	95.9	17463	96.3

*Ethnic groups were changed in 2004 therefore only limited comparisons can be made with previous years.

Table 28 Disability profile, England 1997–2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Long term illness, health problem or disability	2125	10.5	2587	12.9	2443	12.4	2138	10.9	2602	13.3	2563	14.1
Base (population)	20226		19998		19657		19689		19617		18129	

Table 29 Caring responsibilities, England 1997–2010

	1997*		2001*		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Child/children					2743	14	2737	13.9	2641	13.5	2251	12.4
Partner					1603	8.2	1521	7.7	1825	9.3	1432	7.9
Relative					1138	5.8	994	5.0	1374	7.0	1163	6.4
Other					219	1.1	207	1.1	322	1.6	238	1.3
One or more caring responsibilities	6896	34.2	5492	27.6	4916	25.0	4757	24.2	5099	26	4396	24.2
No caring responsibilities	13330	65.8	14506	72.4	14741	75.0	14932	75.8	14518	74.0	13733	75.8
Base (population)	20226		19998		19657		19689		19617		18129	

*Caring groups were changed in 2004, therefore no comparisons can be made with previous years.
More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 30 Employment status, England 1997–2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In full-time paid employment	6072	30.2	5358	27.2	4793	24.7	4346	23.5	4133	22.0	3586	21.0
In part-time paid employment	1697	8.4	1886	9.6	2089	10.8	1924	10.4	1862	9.9	1620	9.5
Self-employed	3071	15.3	3125	15.9	3181	16.4	2948	16.0	3047	16.2	2493	14.6
Unemployed	696	3.5	411	2.1	403	2.1	360	1.9	242	1.3	297	1.7
Retired	6862	34.1	7240	36.8	7512	38.7	7548	40.9	8193	43.5	8082	47.2
Permanently sick or disabled	534	2.7	470	2.4	339	1.7	247	1.3	183	1.0	117	0.7
looking after home/family	801	4.0	685	3.5	602	3.1	601	3.3	645	3.4	472	2.8
In full-time education	85	0.4	36	0.2	60	0.3	36	0.2	69	0.4	59	0.3
Not working for other reason	311	1.5	466	2.4	447	2.3	465	2.5	440	2.3	381	2.2
Base (respondents)	20130	99.5	19676	98.4	19426	98.8	18475	93.8	18813	95.9	17107	94.4

Table 31 Current occupation, England 1997–2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Managerial or executive	3443	32.5	3691	36.3	3528	36.7	3329	40.0	3070	36.9	2977	36.9
Professional or technical	2979	28.1	2874	28.2	2702	28.1	2523	30.4	2713	32.6	2633	32.6
Lecturer, teacher or researcher	1297	12.2	996	9.8	886	9.2	734	8.8	744	8.9	708	8.8
Admin/ clerical/ secretarial/ sales	1428	13.5	1491	14.7	1322	13.8	898	10.8	1010	12.1	1004	12.4
Manual or craft	1445	13.6	1128	11.1	1172	12.2	827	9.9	781	9.4	744	9.2
Base (respondents)*	10592	97.7	10177	50.9	9610	95.5	8310	90.1	8319	92.0	8066	44.5

Only councillors in employment or self-employed.

Table 32 Employment sector, England 1997–2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local govt.	1158	10.9	1171	11.5	892	9.0	944	10.6	681	7.7	640	7.7
Central govt.	459	4.3	481	4.7	356	3.6	390	4.4	382	4.3	340	4.1
NHS	491	4.6	521	5.1	506	5.1	390	4.4	332	3.8	287	3.4
Other public sector	1511	4.3	1125	11.1	1115	11.2	916	10.3	879	10.0	771	9.3
Private sector	6338	59.8	6232	61.3	6585	66.1	5750	64.7	6110	69.3	5706	68.5
Voluntary	646	6.1	630	6.2	509	5.1	493	5.5	437	5.0	586	7.0
Base (respondents)*	10605	97.8	10162	50.8	9963	99.0	8883	96.4	8821	97.6	8330	45.9

Only councillors in employment or self-employed.

Table 33 Does employer support work as a councillor, England 2004–2010

	2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Wholeheartedly	2476	40.7	2297	40.9	2260	40.1	2217	40.6
To a certain extent	2694	44.2	2583	46.0	2533	44.9	2430	44.5
Employer is not aware I am a councillor	371	6.1	292	5.2	323	5.7	323	5.9
Slightly against it	414	6.8	356	6.3	405	7.2	381	7.0
Completely against it	134	2.2	83	1.5	117	2.1	110	2.0
Base (respondents)*	6089	88.5	5611	89.5	5637	94.0	5462	30.1

Only councillors in employment.

Table 34 Additional work activities, England 1997–2010

	1997		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
School governorship	10959	58.3	10874	54.4	9405	47.8	8546	43.4	8196	41.8	7602	41.9
Public board	7748	41.2	8626	43.1	5905	30.0	5773	29.3	5425	27.7	5124	28.3
Work for National/ Regional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1232	6.3	1172	6.0	1143	5.8	1126	6.2
Other Unpaid Voluntary	10766	57.2	10776	53.9	9790	49.8	9886	50.2	10088	51.4	10152	56.0
Other	2332	12.4	1956	9.8	2425	12.3	2382	12.1	2168	11.1	2253	12.4
Did any additional activity									6857	77.1	14411	79.5
Base (population)	20226		19998		19657		19689		19617		18129	

More than one response could be given so % do not sum to 100.

Table 35 Highest qualification held (NVQ equivalents), England 2004–2010

	2004		2006		2008		2010	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
NVQ 4 and above: Degree/higher degree/ Professional qual./NVQ 4 or 5/Higher National Certificate/ Diploma	9862	50.2	9806	49.8	10018	51.1	10129	55.9
NVQ 3: GCE 'A' level/ Scottish/Irish/Higher Grade/NVQ 3 / Ordinary National Cert./ Diploma	2310	11.8	2278	11.6	2256	11.5	2467	13.6
Trade Apprenticeship	1131	5.8	961	4.9	641	3.3	759	4.2
NVQ 2: GCSE/2 GCE O level/School Certificate/NVQ	2488	12.7	2478	12.6	2077	10.6	2178	12.0
Below NVQ level 2: CSE (other than grade 1)/ NVQ 1	325	1.7	244	1.2	209	1.1	211	1.2
Other	790	4.0	986	5.0	878	4.5	749	4.1
None of these	2751	14.0	2936	14.9	3538	18.0	1636	9.0
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129	

Annex C
Comparison with LFS data

	England		East Midlands		East of England		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorks & Humberside		Greater London	
	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %
Sex																				
Male	48.8	68.5	49.2	72.9	48.9	68.2	48.5	67.9	48.8	67.9	48.4	68.9	48.7	68.6	49.0	71.3	48.7	66.2	49.3	62.9
Female	51.2	30.6	50.8	25.6	51.1	30.6	51.5	31.4	51.2	30.8	51.6	30.0	51.3	30.7	51.0	28.1	51.3	33.8	50.7	36.4
Total	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	
Age																				
18-25	12.1	0.8	12.3	0.3	10.9	0.9	13.0	0.9	12.8	0.7	11.3	0.9	11.2	0.3	12.3	0.8	13.5	1.2	12.2	1.0
25-29	8.8	1.4	8.1	0.7	8.1	1.5	8.4	0.5	8.5	1.0	7.8	1.4	7.4	0.7	8.5	0.8	9.1	1.4	12.5	4.4
30-34	8.1	2.4	7.2	2.7	7.8	2.1	6.9	0.9	7.2	1.6	7.6	2.1	6.7	1.3	7.3	2.3	7.4	1.4	12.5	6.7
35-39	8.8	2.9	8.5	1.9	8.7	2.4	7.8	1.8	8.4	3.2	8.7	3.6	7.9	1.8	8.5	3.1	8.3	2.3	10.7	4.6
40-44	9.6	4.2	9.7	3.1	9.7	3.8	9.1	4.7	9.4	3.8	9.8	4.6	9.1	3.2	9.5	4.7	9.2	3.4	10.2	6.7
45-49	9.3	6.8	9.5	5.3	9.4	7.7	9.5	8.1	9.5	5.8	9.7	6.3	9.2	5.8	9.2	6.6	9.2	8.4	8.9	9.4
50-54	8.1	9.5	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.7	8.6	8.3	9.9	8.4	8.8	8.2	7.9	8.1	10.8	8.1	12.0	7.2	13.3
55-59	7.3	12.4	7.6	13.2	7.5	12.2	7.8	10.4	7.5	14.3	7.4	10.7	7.8	12.6	7.5	12.7	7.3	14.6	5.7	11.9
60-64	7.7	19.7	8.2	19.7	8.2	17.2	8.0	24.3	7.9	21.2	8.0	19.6	8.7	20.7	7.8	18.5	7.7	23.6	5.4	17.3
65-69	5.9	20.6	6.3	24.8	6.2	22.2	6.0	22.9	6.1	19.0	6.1	20.0	6.9	22.6	6.4	22.9	5.9	17.6	4.1	14.3
70+	14.3	19.1	14.4	20.1	15.3	21.9	14.8	16.8	14.3	19.4	15.1	22.0	16.8	23.1	14.8	16.8	14.2	14.3	10.5	10.6
Total	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	
Ethnicity																				
White	88.9	96.3	92.3	96.8	93.2	97.7	96.8	98.8	93	98.1	93.1	98	97.4	99.1	87.3	96.2	92.9	96.4	65.9	84.6
Mixed	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.9	1.7
Asian	5.5	2.3	4.6	2.4	3.5	1.2	1.8	0.4	4.1	1.8	3.3	1.2	1.1	0.5	7.8	2.8	4.3	2.1	14.5	9.3
Black	2.6	0.7	1.3	0.2	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	2.7	0.6	1.1	0.5	10.6	4.4
Chinese or other	2.2	0.0	1.2	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.8	0	1.2	0.0	1.8	0.1	0.8	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.3	0.3	7.1	0.0
Total	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	
Health problem																				
Yes	10.4	14.1	11.4	16.6	9.6	13.1	13.0	20.3	11.8	16.8	8.5	11.0	10.0	14.5	10.7	16.0	11.4	12.5	10.0	12.0

	England Pop %	England Clr %	East Midlands Pop %	East Midlands Clr %	East of England Pop %	East of England Clr %	North East Pop %	North East Clr %	North West Pop %	North West Clr %	South East Pop %	South East Clr %	South West Pop %	South West Clr %	West Midlands Pop %	West Midlands Clr %	Yorks & Humberside Pop %	Yorks & Humberside Clr %	Greater London Pop %	Greater London Clr %
Employment status																				
Full-time	40.3	21.0	40.0	16.6	41.1	20.1	38.9	19.1	40.0	22.8	41.2	20.9	38.4	16.3	39.3	21.1	39.3	15.2	42.3	33.9
Part-time	14.5	9.5	14.9	9.4	14.6	8.2	13.8	7.8	14.0	8.0	15.4	9.3	16.2	7.5	14.0	10.3	14.6	12.6	12.8	13.0
Self-employed	7.6	14.6	6.6	14.1	8.0	16.6	5.2	10.0	6.6	11.7	8.4	14.0	8.1	17.8	6.8	15.2	7.0	13.6	9.0	15.6
Un-employed	4.3	1.7	4.1	1.6	3.9	1.6	5.2	2.5	4.2	1.4	3.3	1.8	3.4	0.9	4.6	0.8	5.2	4.1	5.4	2.3
Retired	19.1	47.2	20	51.6	20.3	48.4	21.4	53.2	19.7	52	19.3	47.4	22.2	51.7	20.4	46.6	19.6	45.8	13.3	29.2
Sickness/disability	4.7	0.7	4.8	1.5	3.7	0.3	6.5	2.1	6.6	0.8	3.3	0.6	4.1	0.7	4.9	0.6	5.2	0.3	4.3	0.0
Not in paid work	4.8	2.8	4.4	2.7	4.5	2.6	4.9	2.9	4.6	1.8	4.5	3.1	3.9	2.8	5.3	2.8	4.7	3.7	6.0	2.8
In full-time education	3.1	0.3	3.4	0.0	2.4	0.7	2.9	0.0	2.8	0.5	2.7	0.3	2.3	0.0	3.0	0.4	3.0	0.3	4.6	60.0
Not working other	1.7	2.2	1.8	2.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	2.5	1.6	1.1	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.4	4.4	2.4	2.6
Total	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	
Employment sector																				
Local govt. or council	12.7	7.7	13.5	8.6	12.6	6.7	16.4	10.7	14.5	7.2	11.3	6.8	12.7	6.5	13.3	7.1	12.9	6.4	10.6	10.8
Central govt. civil service	2.7	4.1	2.0	2.4	1.9	3.1	4.4	5.9	2.9	6.5	3.0	4.4	2.7	4.5	2.2	3.3	2.3	2.9	3.1	4.1
Health authority or NHS trust	6.2	3.4	6.1	4.4	5.1	2.7	7.0	3.9	7.2	4.4	5.6	2.8	6.0	1.7	6.3	3.5	7.8	4.0	5.4	4.7
Other public sector	5.9	9.3	4.7	7.4	7.2	7.4	4.4	14.6	5.1	12.4	6.5	8.2	6.5	8.6	4.9	8.2	5.3	8.4	6.7	11.4
Private firm or business or Ltd.	69.8	68.5	71.6	73.4	70.9	74.9	64.5	52.1	68.2	60.1	70.7	73.1	68.2	71	70.8	71.1	69.2	68.8	70.5	59.4
Charity, voluntary	2.8	7.0	2.2	3.6	2.3	5.2	3.4	12.8	2.0	9.3	3.0	4.7	3.9	7.7	2.5	6.9	2.5	9.4	3.6	9.6
Total	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	

	England		East Midlands		East of England		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorks & Humberside		Greater London	
	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %	Pop %	Clr %
Highest qualification																				
NVQ Level 4 and above	31.2	55.9	27.8	47.9	29.4	54.5	26.4	50.6	29.0	53.9	34.0	6.0	31.5	53.7	25.8	50.0	26.3	55.6	41.2	71.0
NVQ Level 3	16.0	13.6	17.2	13.8	15.3	14.0	18.0	14.0	16.6	10.9	16.5	15.5	17.0	14.0	16.4	15.3	17.4	13.1	12.5	10.9
Trade Apprenticeships	4.4	4.2	4.9	6.7	4.8	3.9	5.7	4.7	5.4	5.3	4.4	3.2	5.4	3.7	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.9	2.0	2.0
NVQ Level 2	14.8	12.0	15.2	14.1	15.8	13.8	15.9	9.4	15.1	13.9	15.3	10	16.9	13.4	15.5	14.2	15.3	10.2	10.5	7.7
Below NVQ Level 2	12.8	1.2	13.2	1.2	14.5	0.9	13.4	1.2	13.5	1.5	12.7	1.0	13.0	1.3	14.6	1.5	14.8	1.8	8.4	0.5
Other qualifications	9.3	4.1	9.0	4.8	8.9	4.2	6.9	7.8	7.7	4.1	8.3	3.1	7.6	5.1	8.4	4.5	9.0	4.6	14.6	2.2
No qualifications	11.5	9.0	12.6	11.5	11.4	8.7	13.6	12.4	12.8	10.4	8.8	7.2	8.6	8.7	14.9	10.1	12.4	9.7	10.8	5.7
Total	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	

Annex D

Copy of questionnaire

NATIONAL CENSUS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCILLORS 2010

Local authority name

We would be grateful if you could contribute to the Local Government Group's understanding of the work of Councillors by completing this questionnaire. It should take about ten minutes to complete. You can complete it online if you prefer at www.nfer.ac.uk/LGUX. When prompted, please simply enter your unique log-in id which is on the top right hand corner of this questionnaire. All responses are confidential and anonymous and the id number is simply to monitor response, so that you are not sent any reminder letters. No individual will be identified. Please complete the survey in black ink.

Should you have any queries, please contact Asiah Shafique on 01753 637312 or LGUX@nfer.ac.uk who will be happy to help.

Section A – About Your Work as a Councillor

A1   How long have you been a Councillor in this authority?   (in years)
    (If less than one year, please enter 1)

LGUX   National Foundation for Educational Research, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berks. SL1 2DQ   **40007**

1

A2 **In this authority do you hold any of the following positions or their equivalents?** *(please tick all relevant)*

Directly Elected Mayor ☐ 1   Chair/Vice-Chair of Standards cttee ☐ 9

Deputy Mayor ☐ 2   Chair/Vice-Chair of Main Policy cttee* ☐ 10

Leader/Deputy Leader of the authority ☐ 3

Chair/Vice-Chair Other Major cttee* ☐ 11

Chair/Vice-Chair of council/Civic Mayor ☐ 4   Chair/Vice-Chair of Board* ☐ 12

Cabinet/Executive member ☐ 5   Member of Board * ☐ 13

Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny ☐ 6   Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Partnership Main group ☐ 14

Chair/Vice-Chair of Area forum/cttee ☐ 7

Chair/Vice-Chair of Regulatory cttee ☐ 8
e.g. licensing, planning etc.   Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Partnership Sub group ☐ 15

only applicable for small authorities

A3 **How many Council committees/sub-committees of this authority are you a member of? (incl. Chair/Vice-Chair role)** ☐

A4 **In this authority do you hold any of the following positions?**
(please tick all relevant)

Party/Group Leader   Party/Group Deputy Leader   Other Party/Group Official
☐   ☐   ☐

A5 **Do you receive a special responsibility allowance?** *(please tick one)*

Yes ☐   No ☐   Don't Know ☐

A6 **Please indicate the average number of hours per week you spend on council and political business for this authority:**
(round to the nearest hour)   ☐ Hrs

A7 **If you are able, please estimate how much of the time specified in A6 was spent on the following:** *(this should total the hours in A6)*

Attendance at council meetings, committees, party meetings, etc. (incl. prep) ☐ Hrs

Engaging with constituents, surgeries, constituent enquires, etc. (incl. prep) ☐ Hrs

Other e.g. external meetings, seminars, training, travel related to council, etc. ☐ Hrs

A8 **When last elected, for which political party did you stand as a candidate?**
(please tick one)

Conservative Party ☐ 1   Green Party ☐ 4

Labour Party ☐ 2   An Independent ☐ 5

Liberal Democrats ☐ 3   Other, please write in ☐ 6

☐

2

A9 **Have you previously been a Councillor in this authority or any other local authority (excluding parish/town councils)?** *(please tick one)*

Yes ☐   No ☐   Don't Know ☐

A10 **Are you a member of any other council?** *(please tick all relevant)*

Local authority council ☐ 1   Police authority ☐ 4

Town council ☐ 2   Fire authority ☐ 5

Parish/community council ☐ 3   National Parks authority ☐ 6

A11 **Please indicate which of the following training and development opportunities you have had in the last 12 months:** *(please tick all relevant)*

Received an induction ☐ 1   Received mentoring/coaching ☐ 6

Received a personal development plan ☐ 2   Attended other member development programmes ☐ 7

Completed a training needs questionnaire ☐ 3   Received skills training e.g. IT, chairing skills, speed reading, etc. ☐ 8

Attended seminars/conferences ☐ 4   Other learning, please write in ☐ 9

Attended IDeA Leadership Academy ☐ 5   [_____]

A12 **If it were available, would you like to have the chance to attain/acquire a more formal (qualification) recognition of the work you undertake as a Councillor?** *(please tick one)*

Yes ☐   No ☐   Don't Know ☐

A13 **If you answered 'yes' in A12, at what level would you like the qualification to be pitched?** *(please tick one)*

A credit towards an `A' level/NVQ 3 equivalent ☐ 1

A credit towards an undergraduate degree/NVQ 4 ☐ 2

A credit towards a post-graduate degree (Masters)/NVQ 5 ☐ 3

'Stand alone' independent qualification ☐ 4

Other ☐ 5

A14 **Please indicate which of these resources or learning you would find beneficial to your work as a Councillor:** *(please tick all relevant)*

Media training ☐ 1   Better facilities to hold surgeries ☐ 5

Administrative support e.g. dedicated PA ☐ 2   IT support e.g. PC, laptop, etc. ☐ 6

Case worker ☐ 3   Better information on the role of ward/division councillor e.g. job description ☐ 7

Political skills training ☐ 4   Other resources or learning, please write in ☐ 8

[_____]

If you ticked any of these: Which of the resources or learning is the most important (1-8)? [____]

3

A15 **Please indicate which of the following are available to you, which you use, and which you find most useful (up to 3) in your work as councillor:** *(please tick as appropriate)*

	Available a	Use b	TICK 3 Most Useful c
PC/laptop	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Broadband	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
Remote log-in/access to council system	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
Blackberry for council business	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
Mobile phone for council business	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
Telephone conferencing	☐ 6	☐ 6	☐ 6
Council e-mail address	☐ 7	☐ 7	☐ 7
Own webpage	☐ 8	☐ 8	☐ 8
Blog	☐ 9	☐ 9	☐ 9
Social network sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	☐ 10	☐ 10	☐ 10

Section B – Your views as a Councillor

B1 **Why did you want to become a Councillor?** *(please tick all relevant)*

To serve the community	☐ 1	Because I was asked to	☐ 5
To resolve an issue	☐ 2	Member allowances	☐ 6
For political beliefs and values	☐ 3	Other, please write in	☐ 7
To change things	☐ 4		

B2 **Please indicate which of the following, in your opinion, are the most important things for Councillors to do:** *(please tick all relevant)*

Listen to the views of local people	☐ 1	Plan local services	☐ 6
Support the local community	☐ 2	Deal with complaints	☐ 7
Hold surgeries for people with problems	☐ 3	Keep the public informed about Councillor activities	☐ 8
Address issues concerning the whole area	☐ 4		
Attend Council meetings	☐ 5	Represent local residents' views to Government	☐ 9

B3 **Which statement best describes your view of your influence as a councillor:** *(please tick one)*

I feel that I have more influence to change things in my area than I expected before I was elected ☐

I feel that I have less influence to change things in my area than I expected before I was elected ☐

I feel as that I have about as much influence to change things in my area as I expected before I was elected ☐

4

B4   To what extent do you think you have been effective in your role as a Councillor in this authority? *(please tick one)*

Very effective ☐ 1   Not effective ☐ 3

Effective ☐ 2   Not very effective ☐ 4

Don't know/too early to say ☐ 5

B5   Please indicate in which of the following situations you would talk about your work as a Councillor: *(please tick one box for each line)*

	Never 1	Sometimes 2	Often 3	Not applicable 4
Social gatherings with friends	☐	☐	☐	☐
At work with colleagues	☐	☐	☐	☐
At work with external people e.g. clients, business contacts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community events such as street parties or school fetes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community socialising e.g. in the local pub	☐	☐	☐	☐
With family	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community groups e.g. tenants associations	☐	☐	☐	☐

B6   Would you recommend becoming a Councillor if you were asked? *(please tick one)*

Yes ☐   No ☐   Don't Know ☐

B7   When does your current term in office end? *(please enter year)* ☐☐☐☐

B8   Do you intend to stand for re-election at the end of your term in office? *(please tick one)*

Yes ☐   No ☐   Don't Know ☐

B9   How committed is your council to the following activities? *(please tick one box for each line)*

	Fully committed 1	Partially committed 2	Not committed 3	Don't know 4
Allowing people to have a role in allocating resources through participatory budgeting	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enabling people and communities to have an influence locally through active progammes of engagement	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allowing people to have a say on services provided locally through consultation and feedback	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing better practical support for elected members so they can act more effectively as local leaders	☐	☐	☐	☐

5

Section C – About yourself

In order that we can better understand the backgrounds of councillors, this section asks some questions about you. They are optional, so do not complete any particular question if you are uncomfortable giving the information requested.

C1 **Please tick the box that best describes your current employment status, excluding work as a Councillor.** *(please tick the main one)*

In full-time paid employment
(normally more than 30 hours per week) ☐ 1

In part-time employment
(normally less than 30 hours per week) ☐ 2

Self-employed ☐ 3

Unemployed ☐ 4

Retired ☐ 5

Permanently sick or disabled and unable to work ☐ 6

Not in paid work – looking after home/family ☐ 7

In full-time education ☐ 8

Not working for some other reason ☐ 9

C2 **If you are employed or self-employed, tick the box that best describes your current main occupation.** *(please tick one)*

Managerial or executive ☐ 1

Professional or technical ☐ 2

Lecturer, teacher or researcher ☐ 3

Administrative, clerical, secretarial or sales ☐ 4

Manual or craft ☐ 5

Please write in your occupation [ ]

C3 **If you are employed, or self employed, please indicate the sector of your main employment status.** *(please tick one)*

Public - local government ☐ 1

Public - central government ☐ 2

Public - NHS ☐ 3

Public - other public sector ☐ 4

Private sector ☐ 5

Voluntary sector ☐ 6

6

National census of local authority councillors 2010

C4 **If you are an employee, to what extent does your employer support your work as a Councillor?** *(please tick one)*

Whole-heartedly	☐ 1
To a certain extent	☐ 2
Employer is not aware I am a councillor	☐ 3
Slightly against	☐ 4
Completely against it	☐ 5

C5 **Do you undertake any activities additional to your main employment status and work as a Councillor?** *(please tick all relevant)*

School governorship	☐ 1
Public board, joint committee etc membership	☐ 2
National/regional agency work	☐ 3
Other unpaid voluntary and charity work	☐ 4
Other	☐ 5

C6 **Please tick the box that is closest to the highest qualification you have.**
(please tick one)

Degree/higher degree/Professional qual./NVQ 4 or 5 /Higher National Certificate/Diploma	☐ 1
GCE 'A' level/Scottish/Irish/Higher Grade/NVQ 3 /Ordinary National Cert./Diploma	☐ 2
Trade apprenticeship	☐ 3
GCSE/GCE O level/School Certificate/NVQ 2	☐ 4
CSE (other than grade 1)/NVQ 1	☐ 5
Other qualifications	☐ 6
None of these	☐ 7

C7 **Please indicate whether you are male or female:**
(please tick one)

Male ☐   Female ☐

C8 **Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?**
(please tick one)

Yes ☐   No ☐   Prefer not to say ☐

C9 **Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**
(please tick one)

Heterosexual or straight ☐ 1	Bisexual ☐ 3	Prefer not to say ☐ 5
Gay or lesbian ☐ 2	Other ☐ 4	

7

C10 Please enter your age in years: [____,__]

C11 **Which of the following ethnic groups would you describe yourself as belonging to? (choose ONE section from A to E, then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background)**
(Commission for Racial Equality categories)

A. White

British ☐ 1

English ☐ 2

Scottish ☐ 3

Welsh ☐ 4

Other, please write in ☐ 5

[_____]

Irish ☐ 6

Any other White ☐ 7
background, please write in

[_____]

B. Mixed

White and Black Caribbean ☐ 8

White and Black African ☐ 9

White and Asian ☐ 10

Any other Mixed ☐ 11
background, please write in

[_____]

C. Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish, or Asian Welsh

Indian ☐ 12

Pakistani ☐ 13

Bangladeshi ☐ 14

Any other Asian ☐ 15
background, please
write in

[_____]

D. Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish, or Black Welsh

Caribbean ☐ 16

African ☐ 17

Any other Black ☐ 18
background, please write in

[_____]

E. Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish, Chinese Welsh, or other ethnic group

Chinese ☐ 19

Any other background, ☐ 20
please write in

[_____]

C12 **Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do?** *(please tick if you have)* ☐

C13 **Do you have caring responsibility for:** *(please tick all relevant)*

Child/Children ☐ 1

Partner ☐ 2

Relative ☐ 3

Other ☐ 4

Thank you for completing this survey

Please return this form to NFER in the envelope provided