nfer

Local Government Association

Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013

Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013

Kelly Kettlewell
Liz Phillips

Contents

Foreword

While the world of local government is ever changing, what remains at its heart is the group of strong and dedicated leaders who put themselves forward to help improve quality of life locally, influence government and stand up for their communities.

Up against severe financial pressures and an ever-growing reliability on services, ensuring local authorities remain at the core of change is paramount. Encouraging people to think about becoming a councillor and becoming part of the challenge of reshaping service delivery is crucial if we are to continue with the momentum.

Local government is a vibrant sector in which to be involved. By having councillors who are passionate, energetic and committed, and who listen to residents, we are not only fully dedicated to the local people we serve, but residents understand our work, gain interest in what we do and why we are doing it.

The LGA's shared vision for local government supports this. Our members are bold and ambitious leaders faced with daily challenges that can make a real difference to somebody's life. Reinvigorating local governance and ensuring that we have strong democratic accountability and a reputation that can be trusted provides the platform to encourage people from all walks of life to get involved. Indeed, a recent survey carried out on behalf of the LGA indicates three in four people trust their local councillor, rather than their MP, to make decisions about their local area.

This Census has been commissioned by the LGA to ensure local government has an accurate picture of its representation. Recording a councillor's age, gender, background and how they carry out their work is key to ensuring community leadership is nurtured and represents our diverse society.

Effective political leadership means effective democracy and the LGA is committed to supporting and developing councillors. Our 'Highlighting Leadership' development programmes provide a range of opportunities to support members in their changing roles throughout their careers. From those at the beginning of their political careers to the most experienced leaders, the LGA is able to help build leadership capacity both on an individual basis and on behalf of the wider sector. We hope councillors will continue to take advantage of LGA programmes and support to develop, so that they can continue to represent residents and communities now and in the future.

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell
Chairman of the Local Government Association

Introduction

The Local Government Association (LGA) has carried out the seventh 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. The 2013 census collected data between September and October 2013 and updates previous censuses conducted in 1997, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010[1].

This survey provides the most comprehensive, timely overview of local government representation and how that has changed over time. The results will help to inform central and local government and political parties in the development of strategies and policies for local government.

The LGA commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake the census of councillors in 2013. NFER sent paper surveys to all councillors via member support officers and councillors also had the opportunity to complete the survey online. Thanks to the support from member support officers and councillors, 6,902 of the 18,111 (38.1 per cent) councillors in office responded to the survey across 349 (99.4 per cent) of the 351 local authorities in England[2].

The survey results show grossed estimates (by type of authority and region) for all 18,111 councillors in England.

This report covers England. A summary of key findings by type of authority and English regions are shown in Annex A and comparison of key findings with the Labour Force Survey data is found in Annex C.

More detailed information mapping the results of the census by type of authority, region, gender, age, ethnicity and party representation is available from the following website: http://www.local.gov.uk/research-pay-and-workforce.

---

1 Care must be taken when comparing results with previous years due to differences in response rates and some slight changes to the wording of certain questions.
2 Excluding the Corporation of London and Isles of Scilly.

The scope

The survey for the 2013 Census of Local Authority Councillors covered three areas: councillors' work, councillors' views on a range of areas and councillors' personal background. The areas of the survey are outlined below.

Section A covered councillors' work:

- length of service
- leading positions held
- membership of committees and local partnership groups/boards
- hours spent on council business
- party representation
- membership of other councils
- training and development
- availability and use of resources.

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

- why people wanted to become councillors
- important things that councillors do
- the benefits available to councillors
- how much influence councillors consider themselves to have
- whether councillors view themselves as effective
- situations in which councillors talk about their work
- whether councillors would recommend their role to others
- intention to stand for re-election
- how committed authorities are to implementing arrangements for devolving power to communities.

Section C covered councillors' personal background:

- gender
- age
- ethnicity
- disability
- caring responsibilities
- employment status
- education and qualifications.

Executive summary

Key findings

The key findings from the 2013 Census of Local Authority Councillors undertaken in the autumn of 2013 by the National Foundation for Educational Research are presented below.

Section A – work as a councillor

- The average length of service of councillors in their current council in 2013 was 9.5 years, similar to that seen in 2010 (9.4 years). This is approximately one year longer than the average service length reported between 2004 and 2008 (8.3 years), showing a small but sustained increase in the average length of service.

- In 2013, just over half of councillors (53 per cent) held at least one position in the authority.

- On average, councillors were members of 3.3 committees or sub-committees, again showing a slight decrease in the proportion seen since 2001 (ranging from 3.8 to 3.6).

- Around a third of councillors (35.9 per cent) were members of local partnership groups or boards, most commonly a Health and Wellbeing Board (9.3 per cent).

- In 2013, councillors reported spending an average of 25.1 hours per week on council and group/party business (compared to between 22.0 hours and 22.7 hours in 2004–2010). When broken down, it can be seen that councillors spent the majority of this time on council business (20.8 hours on average) and a much smaller proportion of time on group/party business (4.3 hours on average).

- Over a third of councillors (39.4 per cent) were members of other public bodies such as parish or town councils.

- The proportion of councillors that have received one or more training opportunities peaked in 2008 at 93.7 per cent but has since fallen to 85.0 per cent in 2013.

- In 2013, the majority of councillors had access to resources such as a council email address, a PC, laptop or tablet, and a tool to enable remote log-in or access to their council's computer system. Fewer councillors had access to a Smartphone or mobile phone, access to telephone conferencing, a Blog, a Twitter account, Facebook page or YouTube. Councillors rated a PC, laptop or tablet, a council email address and a Smartphone as the most useful resources.

Section B – issues and views of councillors

- Between 2004 and 2013, councillors responded very similarly in terms of their reasons for seeking this role. In 2013, 90 per cent became councillors in order to 'serve the community', 58.7 per cent did so 'to change things' and 54.4 per cent were motivated by their 'political beliefs'.

- Overall 69.8 per cent of councillors believed the most important thing they do is listening to the views of local people. A similar proportion (64.8 per cent) believed that representing local residents' views to the council was the most important thing that they do as a councillor.

- In 2013, most councillors (81.5 per cent) anticipated that they would be able to continue their role at least to some extent without their current benefits package, although 18.9 per cent would only be able to do so to a small extent and 14.8 per cent would not at all.

- Overall, 41.4 per cent of councillors thought they had more influence to change their local area than they expected prior to being elected, while 35.7 per cent had about as much influence as they expected.

- Four-fifths of councillors (82.4 per cent) would recommend the role of councillor to others if asked.

- Councillors' intention to stand for re-election has strengthened. In 2004 and 2008, around half stated that they would stand for re-election, whereas around two-thirds did so in 2008 and 2013.

Section C – personal background of councillors

- Councillors' gender profile, ethnic origin, disability status and caring responsibilities have changed very little between 2001 and 2013. In 2013, 67.3 per cent of councillors were male (70.7 per cent in 2001) 96 per cent were of white ethnic origin (97.3 per cent), 13.2 per cent had a long-term health problem or disability and 27.9 per cent had one or more caring responsibilities.

- Councillors had an average age of 60.2 in 2013, similar to 59.7 recorded in 2010, and up a little from 57.8 in 2004. Around one in eight (12.0 per cent) were aged under-45, a proportion which has changed little since 2004. The proportion aged 70 or over has increased from 13.8 per cent to 22.2 per cent over this period.

- The proportions of retired councillors have increased slightly year-on-year from 36.8 per cent in 2001 to 46.6 per cent in 2013. At the same time, the proportion of councillors in full-time employment has decreased steadily from 27.2 per cent in 2001 to 19.2 per cent this year, whereas there has been very little variation in the proportions of councillors who are self-employed or work part-time between 2001 and 2013.

- Two-thirds of councillors (66.6 per cent) held other voluntary or unpaid positions such as school governorships (37.2 per cent).

- The proportion of councillors whose highest qualification is degree level or equivalent rose from 50.2 per cent in 2004 to 58.8 per cent in 2013. Conversely, the proportion of councillors with no qualifications has steadily fallen since 2004 (from 14.0 per cent to 5.2 per cent).

The findings

This chapter presents the survey findings with explanatory text. A summary of differences by each type of authority and region for key questions is provided in Annex A. Tables 1–33 show the breakdown of survey data and can be found in Annex B.

SECTION A: Work as a councillor

Length of service (table 1)

Councillors had an average length of service in their current authority of 9.5 years. A larger proportion of councillors had a shorter length of service (two years or less) in 2013 (24.4 per cent) compared with 2010 (18.9 per cent). See Figure A.

Liberal Democrats and Independent/Residents' Association councillors typically had a longer length of service (10.5 and 10.3 years respectively) compared to other parties. Councillors in the UK Independence Party tended to have the shortest length of service (2.6 years). Those in London boroughs had slightly longer average lengths of service (10.8 years) than those in other authority types.

Figure A Length of service as a councillor, England 2001–2013
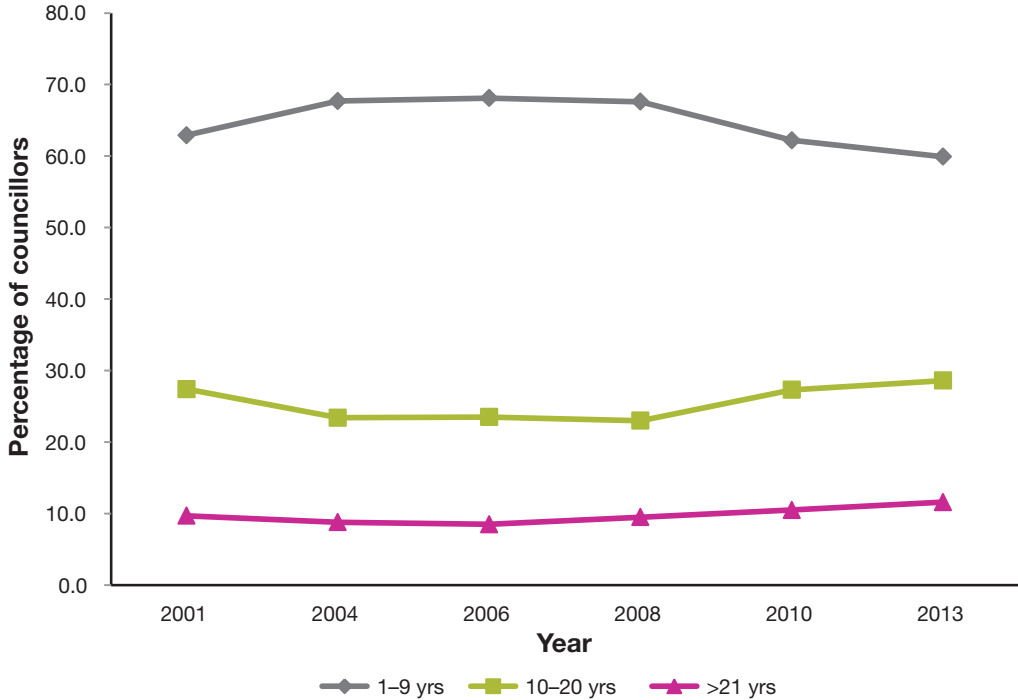
Leading council responsibilities (table 2)

Just over half of the respondents (53.0 per cent) held at least one position in the authority. This is lower than the proportion that held positions in 2010 (57.4 per cent). The most frequently held positions were:

- cabinet/executive member (15.5 per cent)

- chair or vice-chair of overview and scrutiny (10.7 per cent)

- chair or vice-chair of a regulatory committee (9.8 per cent).

Some differences were observed between the main parties; more Conservative members reported holding one or more positions (60 per cent) relative to all of the other political parties.

Membership of council committees (tables 3 and 4)

On average, councillors were members of 3.3 committees or sub-committees. This is similar to 2010 (3.6). Proportions were very similar across regions, ranging from 3.1 to 3.5, with the exception of the North East, which was higher at 4.3. Overall, around one quarter (24.4 per cent) were members of three committees and similar proportion (24.6 per cent) were members of two committees. These proportions were similar in 2010.

Under one-tenth of councillors held the position of party/group leader (7.6 per cent) which is an increase from the proportion seen in 2010 (6.5 per cent). A further 6.0 per cent of councillors were party/group deputy leaders in 2013 (the comparative figure in 2010 was 5.9 per cent).

Membership of local partnership groups/boards (table 5)

Councillors were asked to state whether they were a member of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Board, a Health and Wellbeing Board, a Local Enterprise Partnership, a Community Safety Board, or another group or board. Around a third of councillors (35.9 per cent) indicated membership of at least one such board. In total 9.3 per cent were members of a Health and Wellbeing Board, 5.2 per cent were members of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, 5.1 per cent were members of a Community Safety Board, 3.3 per cent were members of a Local Enterprise Partnership, and 23.3 per cent selected the 'other' option. The three most frequently recorded 'other' local partnership groups/boards related to housing, transport and local strategic partnership. This was a new question for 2013.

Average number of hours per week on council, political and group/party business (tables 6(i) and 6(ii))

Between 2004 and 2010 councillors provided estimates of the average number of hours per week that they spent on council and political business for their authority. This figure included the time they spent on group/party business. In 2013, councillors were asked to specify the average number of hours per week that they spent on council and political business and on group/party business separately.

In 2010, councillors spent an average of 22.7 hours per week on council and political business and on group/party business. This was similar to the 2008 and 2006 figures. In 2013, they spent an average of 25.1 hours per week on council and political business and group/party business combined (20.8 hours on council and political business, and 4.3 hours on group/party business).

The largest proportion of councillors (21.5 per cent) spent between 16 and 20 hours per week on council and political business while 6.2 per cent spent more than 40 hours. These figures are very similar to those reported in 2010. The majority (80.2 per cent) of councillors spent less than or equal to five hours per week on group/party business.

Councillors in metropolitan districts reported the highest average number of hours on council and political business and on group/party business (30.9) and those in shire districts the fewest (20.6). Labour Party members spent the most hours on average (28.5) among the main political parties. These patterns are very similar to those observed in 2010.

When council and political business and group/party business are examined separately, it is evident that councillors in the East of England spend slightly less time on the former activity (18.4 per cent) relative to those in the North East (25.3 per cent). It is also notable that 5.2 per cent of councillors in the North East reported that they spend 50 or more hours per week on council and political business, whereas only 1.4 per cent (East of England) to 3 per cent (North West) of those in the remaining regions spend this amount of time.

Little difference was observed between the regions in the time spent on group/party business. However, councillors from the Green Party and the Labour Party spent slightly more time on this activity (6.0 and 5.5 hours per week on average, respectively), relative to Independents/Residents' Association and Conservative Party representatives (2.3 and 3.6 hours per week on average, respectively).

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, working with community groups and on other council business, such as external meetings, training events or seminars. 'Working with community groups' is a new answer option added to the 2013 survey; it was not included in the 2008 and 2010 surveys. It should be noted that there was a discrepancy between the estimated total number of hours spent on council business and the estimated breakdown of these hours by activity, meaning that the sum of the activities is slightly higher than the estimated overall time.

The greatest average amount of time was spent attending council meetings or committees (8.0 hours). Slightly less time, on average 6.0 hours, was spent engaging with constituents, conducting surgeries and answering enquiries. Working with community groups took up 4.5 hours of councillors' time. Other activities (such as attending external meetings, training events and seminars) accounted for 4.1 hours of the week. Due to the addition of the new answer option in 2013 ('working with community groups'), these proportions of responses are not directly comparable to those observed in 2008 and 2010.

Party representation (tables 8 and 9)

When they were last elected, the majority (46.1 per cent) of councillors represented the Conservative Party while 31.8 per cent represented the Labour Party and 14.7 per cent represented the Liberal Democrats. In 2010, the majority of councillors also represented the Conservative Party (50.1 per cent). The proportion of Labour councillors (20.8 per cent) was then lower relative to Liberal Democrats (22.0 per cent). Figure B shows the party representation when elected between 2001 and 2013.

When elected, a total of 4.9 per cent were Independent/Residents' Association members and a further 1.0 per cent respectively represented the UK Independence Party and the Green Party while 0.6 per cent represented 'other' parties. The Conservative Party had greater representation in the shire districts (57.3 per cent) and shire counties (52.8 per cent) compared with metropolitan districts (17.5 per cent). Labour Party representation was lowest in shire counties (18.7 per cent) and shire districts (19.2 per cent) and highest in metropolitan districts (68.8 per cent) and London boroughs (42.9 per cent). Liberal Democrat representation was similar across the different types of authorities, ranging from 11.1 per cent in metropolitan districts to 15.6 per cent in shire counties. Similar patterns of data were obtained in 2010.

Figure B Party representation when elected, England 2001–2013
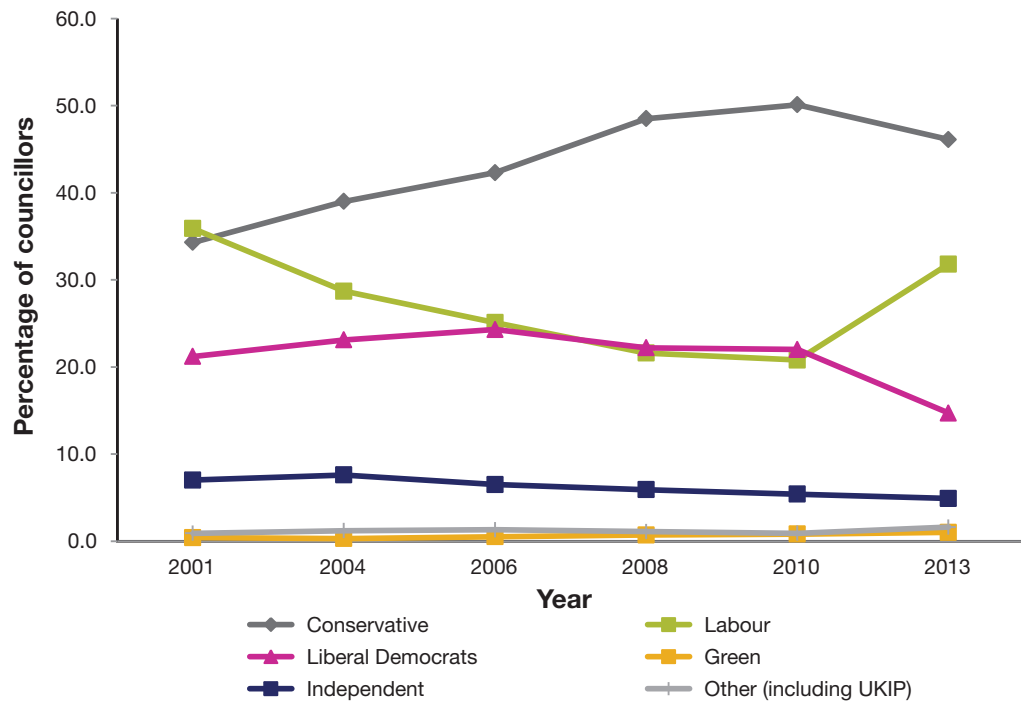
In 2013, councillors were also asked if they had changed political party since they were last elected, and if so, to indicate their current party. This question was not asked in previous years' surveys. Overall, just 1.8 per cent of councillors had changed party. Results for the main parties were similar, with 1.1 per cent of those who were elected as a Labour councillor, 1.4 per cent of those elected as a Conservative councillor, and 2.8 per cent of those elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor having changed party since the last election. However, 12 per cent of councillors from 'other' political parties indicated that they had moved to a different party since the previous election. Results were slightly higher than average for Independent councillors (4.7 per cent), and for those who had represented the UK Independence Party (4.1 per cent) at the last election.

Membership of other public bodies (table 10)

Overall, 39.4 per cent of councillors were also members of other public bodies. In 2013, 14.1 per cent were parish or community council members, 13.4 per cent were members of town councils, and 13.2 per cent were members of another local authority. Smaller proportions of councillors reported being members of a fire authority (3.7 per cent), a police and crime panel (1.3 per cent) or a national park authority (1.1 per cent). These proportions were similar to those in 2010.

Training and development opportunities received (table 11)

Over four-fifths of councillors (85.0 per cent) had received some form of training and development in the previous 12 months. This continues a downward trend in the proportion receiving training and development opportunities since 2008 with 93.7 per cent receiving opportunities in 2008 and 91.3 per cent in 2010. Over two-thirds (68.3 per cent) of councillors in London boroughs had received such opportunities compared to between 85.2 per cent and 92.1 per cent in other authority types.

The most widespread training and development opportunity among councillors in 2013 was seminars and conferences (49.9 per cent), while 41.7 per cent had attended other member development programmes. These figures are lower than in 2010 (66.9 per cent and 54.8 per cent respectively).

Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013

Training and development opportunities were similar across all political parties, although a relatively greater proportion of councillors from the UK Independence Party (95.8 per cent) reported having undertaken one or more training and development opportunities. 84.7 per cent of UK Independence Party councillors had attended an induction, whereas between 17.1 per cent and 27.5 per cent of those from the remaining parties had done so. This may reflect the finding that those representing the UK Independence Party tended to have a lower average service length compared to other parties.

Resources and learning that would be beneficial (tables 12(i) and 12(ii))

Councillors were most likely to report that social media and online tools (32.9 per cent), administrative support (28.7 per cent) and media training (28.5 per cent) would be beneficial to their work as a councillor. This pattern of responses was evident in all regions other than London and Yorkshire and the Humber, in which administrative support was cited the most frequently over social media and online tools.

Social media and online tools was a new option for 2013. Media training was the most popular option in 2010 (34.8 per cent), with administrative support in third place (26.8 per cent).

Older councillors were less likely than younger councillors to express a need for all types of resource and learning opportunities apart from social media and online tools. For example, 46.0 per cent of those aged under 25 compared to 24.6 per cent of those aged 70+ stated that they would like media training; similarly, 51.0 per cent of under 25s requested administrative support, whereas just 25.5 per cent of over 70s did so.

In 2013, around one quarter (24.2 per cent) of councillors wanted better information on community engagement and development. This answer option did not feature in the 2010 survey, so no comparison is available. A further fifth wanted political skills training (19.6 per cent) and better facilities to hold surgeries (18.3 per cent). Respectively, these proportions compare with 24.6 per cent and 20.8 per cent in 2010.

Representatives of the UK Independence Party were more likely to request all types of resource and learning opportunity than representatives from the other political parties. The only exceptions to this were administrative support and social media and online tools. Over half (59.2 per cent) of the Green Party councillors requested administrative support, compared to between 24 per cent and 34.1 per cent of councillors from the other main parties (figures from the Conservative Party and the UK Independence Party respectively). Nearly one-fifth (23.4 per cent) of councillors from the UK Independence Party selected social media and online tools, whereas responses from the other main parties ranged from 25 per cent (Green Party) to 36.5 per cent (Labour Party).

Those respondents who identified resources or learning opportunities as being useful to them in their work as a councillor were also asked to state which from the list of eight presented they would consider to be the most important.

Administrative support (24.1 per cent) and social media and online tools (18.8 per cent) were identified by the greatest number of councillors. Better information on community engagement and development was selected by 15.6 per cent, a further 12.2 per cent cited media training, and political skills was identified by 9.4 per cent. Although this question on the 2013 survey is not directly comparable to the 2010 data, due to the inclusion of some different answer options, where the same or very similar options were included, similar response patterns were observed.

Availability, use and usefulness of resources (table 13(i))

Councillors in 2010 and 2013 were asked about the resources and online tools they had access to as part of their work as a councillor. Although the relationships between the data from both surveys are discussed as far as possible, the 2010 and 2013 responses are not directly comparable, due to slight changes in the structure of these questions.

In 2013, 90.3 per cent had access to a council email address, compared to 88.1 per cent in 2010. A similar proportion of councillors had access to a PC, laptop or tablet in 2013 compared to 2010 (86.6 in 2013 per cent compared to 87.0 per cent in 2010). The third most frequently cited resource accessible to councillors was a remote log-in access to council system (73.7 per cent of respondents in 2013 selected this option compared with 72.4 per cent in 2010[4]), followed by broadband (68.9 per cent). The availability of telephone conferencing/Skype had risen to 10.4 per cent in 2013 from 6.6 per cent in 2010.

Similar patterns were seen with the resources that councillors used: 80.6 per cent of councillors used a council email address, 74.2 per cent used a PC, laptop or tablet, 61.8 per cent used a remote log-in access to council systems, and 59.7 per cent used broadband. There was no difference in the use of resources by gender, although as with accessibility to resources, councillors from non-white backgrounds used a remote log-in access to council system (49.6 per cent) and broadband (54 per cent) less than the national average.

Few differences were observed between regions in the use of resources, although councillors in the North East were more likely to use a Smartphone than those in other regions (53.2 per cent compared to a national average of 33.2 per cent).

Representatives of the Green Party typically used telephone conferencing/Skype more than representatives of the other main parties. Overall, 14.4 per cent of the Green Party respondents reported that they did this relative to 4.4 per cent of Labour and 6.5 per cent of Conservative members.

The resources which councillors found most useful were:

- PC, laptop or tablet (55.3 per cent of all councillors or 74.5 per cent of those that used this resource)

- council email address (47.0 per cent of all councillors or 58.3 per cent of those that use this resource)

- remote log-in access to council system (33.7 per cent of all councillors or 54.6 per cent of those that use this resource)

- broadband (33.2 per cent of all councillors or 55.6 per cent of those that use this resource)

- Smartphone (20.5 per cent of all councillors or 61.6 per cent of those that use this resource).

---

4 Tablet was not included in the option in 2010 and was added to the question in 2013. Caution must be taken when comparing the responses to this item.

Availability, use and usefulness of online tools (table 13(ii))

Overall, 66.3 per cent of councillors had their own webpage in 2013 (councillors were not explicitly asked about this in 2010). In 2013, 35.9 per cent had access to Facebook (11.3 per cent in 2010), 45.0 per cent to Twitter (11.3 per cent), and 41.1 per cent a Blog (7.5 per cent). Male and female councillors responded similarly regarding the online tools available to them.

The online tools which councillors used the most were:

- own webpage (60.6 per cent)

- a blog (36.8 per cent)

- their own Facebook page (29.7 per cent).

Very small proportions of councillors responded to the survey item about which online tools they found the most useful. Of those who did respond, 56.0 per cent of the councillors who had a Twitter account thought it was the most useful online resource (9.5 per cent of all councillors), 20.8 per cent of those who used a Facebook page found this the most useful resource (6.8 per cent of all councillors), while 16.6 per cent of those who had their own webpage thought this was the most useful resource (11.0 per cent of all councillors). Older councillors were less likely to report having used all types of online tools relative to younger councillors. In addition, fewer councillors from the older age groups reported finding each type of online tool the most useful.

SECTION B: Issues and views of councillors

Reasons for becoming a councillor (table 14)

Most councillors (90.0 per cent) had sought this role in order to 'serve the community'. The other most popular reasons chosen were 'to change things' (58.7 per cent), 'political beliefs' (54.4 per cent), being 'asked to' (27.4 per cent), and 'to resolve an issue' (14.6 per cent). Similar proportions identified each reason in the 2006, 2008 and 2010 surveys.

Male and female councillors responded to this question similarly. Councillors from non-white backgrounds were more likely to have taken on this role in order to serve the community (93.4 per cent), to change things (77.5 per cent) or to resolve an issue (33.7 per cent). They were less likely to have been asked (13.6 per cent in 2013). This pattern of responses was similar to those obtained in 2008 and 2010, although the proportions of each response were higher in this years' survey relative to both of the previous years.

There were few differences in councillors' responses when analysed by region or authority type, although greater proportions of those from metropolitan districts (72.2 per cent) and from the North East (69.3 per cent) tended to have become councillors because of their political beliefs compared to the national average (54.4 per cent). Green Party councillors had been motivated to take on this role because of their political beliefs (97.2 per cent) and to change things (81.7 per cent) to a greater extent than other parties. The figures for other parties ranged from 12.4 per cent (Independent/ Residents' Association) to 75.5 per cent (Labour Party) for 'political beliefs', and from 50.3 per cent (Conservative Party) to 70.4 per cent (Labour Party) 'to change things'.

Most important things that councillors do (table 15)

In 2013, most councillors felt that it was most important to listen to the views of local people. Over two-thirds (69.8 per cent) of councillors agreed with this statement in 2013 compared to 93.8 per

cent in 2010. A majority also considered that the most important things for councillors to do were to represent local residents' views to the council (64.8 per cent in 2013; 47.1 per cent in 2010), and support the local community (61.6 per cent in 2013, 91.1 per cent in 2010). In addition, many felt that it was important that councillors address issues concerning the whole area (40.4 per cent in 2013, 75.9 per cent in 2010), attend council meetings (31.6 per cent in 2013, 67.8 per cent in 2010), deal with complaints (25.4 per cent in 2013, 71.1 per cent in 2010), and keep the public informed about council activities (21.1 per cent in 2013, 63.2 per cent in 2010). (Councillors were limited to identifying three items.)

Councillors from the different regions responded similarly to this question. The only exception to this was that those in the North East (25.3 per cent) were around twice as likely to state that it was most important to hold surgeries compared to the national average (12.7 per cent).

The importance placed on holding surgeries, in particular, seemed to vary between different types of authorities. For example, councillors in shire counties and shire districts were less likely to report this (7.2 per cent and 9.0 per cent respectively) while those in London boroughs and metropolitan districts were more likely to do so (21.0 per cent and 20.4 per cent respectively). Furthermore, no under 25s prioritised holding surgeries above other things councillors do, relative to 14.4 per cent of those aged 65–69 and 15.2 per cent of those aged 70 or over who did so.

The proportions of councillors who felt that dealing with complaints was the most important thing for them to do was seen to increase with age. Just 7.5 per cent of respondents aged under 25 stated this was the most important thing that councillors do, rising in each age group to 37.4 per cent for those aged 70 or over.

Benefits as a councillor (table 16)

Respondents were asked about the extent to which they would be able to continue to fulfil their role as a councillor without the current package of benefits available to them. Nearly two-fifths of councillors (38.2 per cent) stated that they would be able to fulfil their role 'to some extent' without their current package of benefits, while around one-quarter (24.4 per cent) said that they would be able to fulfil their role 'fully/to a great extent'. Almost one fifth (18.9 per cent) stated that they would be able to fulfil their role 'to a small extent' and 14.8 per cent said that they would not be able to fulfil their role at all without their current benefits package.

Councillors of different genders and ethnicities responded very similarly, as did those from across the different regions and types of authorities. There were some notable differences between the political parties which responded. A smaller proportion of councillors from the Green Party (13.5 per cent) stated that they would be able to continue to fulfil their role as a councillor without the current benefits package 'fully/to a great extent' compared to the other main parties. The corresponding response patterns from councillors of the UK Independence Party, Independent/ Residents' Associations, and the Conservative Party were 30.4 per cent, 29.3 per cent and 28.6 per cent respectively. Green Party councillors were more likely to be able to continue their duties 'to a small extent' (24.3 per cent) or 'not at all' (26.2 per cent) than the other main parties. This was a new question for 2013, so no comparisons with previous years are available.

Views on influence as a councillor (table 17)

Overall, 41.4 per cent of councillors perceived themselves to have had more influence to change things in their area than they expected before they were elected, while 22.9 per cent felt that they had less influence than they expected, and 35.7 per cent said that they had about as much influence

as they expected. These response patterns have varied little from those observed in 2006, 2008 and 2010. In 2010, the corresponding proportions were 40.3 per cent, 25.0 per cent and 34.7 per cent.

Councillors across regions and authority types responded very similarly to this question, as did male and female councillors. Typically, younger councillors perceived themselves to have had less influence than they had expected prior to election, relative to their older counterparts: 31.0 per cent of those aged under 25 and 29.6 per cent of those aged 25–29 reported this relative to 19.4 per cent of those aged 70 or over and 21.3 per cent of those in the 65–69 age group. Similar trends were observed in 2010. A greater proportion of those from minority ethnic backgrounds (60 per cent) indicated that they had more influence than expected compared to the national average. This figure was higher than in 2010 (51.3 per cent).

Among the representatives of the main parties, a smaller proportion of Liberal Democrat (32.4 per cent) and Green Party (21.9 per cent) councillors felt that they had more influence than expected relative to the national average. While the corresponding figure from the 2010 survey was similar for Liberal Democrat councillors (33.5 per cent), it had since risen from 15.9 per cent for Green Party councillors.

Effectiveness as a councillor (table 18)

Just under two-thirds of councillors considered that they were effective (62.4 per cent) in their role, and 27.6 per cent felt that they were very effective. Councillors responded similarly in 2010, when around nine out of ten considered that they were effective (62.9 per cent) or very effective (28.2 per cent).

Very few councillors felt that they were not effective (6.3 per cent), not very effective (0.7 per cent), or that they did not know or it was too early to say (3 per cent). In 2010, 1.9 per cent stated that they were not effective, 2.5 per cent not very effective, and 4.5 per cent did not know or felt that it was too early to say.

When councillors would talk about their work (table 19)

Councillors were asked about the situations in which they would talk about their work as councillors. The number of situations councillors were asked about in this question was reduced from seven in the 2010 survey to four in the 2013 survey. Although the answer options remained the same ('never', 'sometimes', 'often' or 'not applicable'), the situations listed were slightly different. Due to these changes, the responses from the 2010 and 2013 surveys cannot be accurately compared.

Overall, councillors' 2013 responses revealed that the situation in which most reported that they would 'often' talk about their work as a councillor was at community events (60.5 per cent) and with their family (40.5 per cent). The situation in which most councillors indicated that they would 'sometimes' talk about their work as a councillor was at social gatherings (56.8 per cent), followed by with family (52.6 per cent) and at community events (36.2 per cent). Finally, the situation in which most councillors reported that they would 'never' talk about their work as a councillor was at work (10.7 per cent). Very few differences were observed between response patterns by region, authority type, gender, ethnicity or age.

Figure C In which situations councillors talk about their work, England 2013

Legend: ■ Never ■ Sometimes □ Often ■ Not applicable

Social gatherings: Never 6.4%, Sometimes 56.8%, Often 35.7%, Not applicable 1.1%

At work: Never 10.7%, Sometimes 34.2%, Often 21.1%, Not applicable 34.0%

Community events: Never 2.8%, Sometimes 36.2%, Often 60.5%, Not applicable 0.5%

Family: Never 5.3%, Sometimes 52.6%, Often 40.5%, Not applicable 1.6%
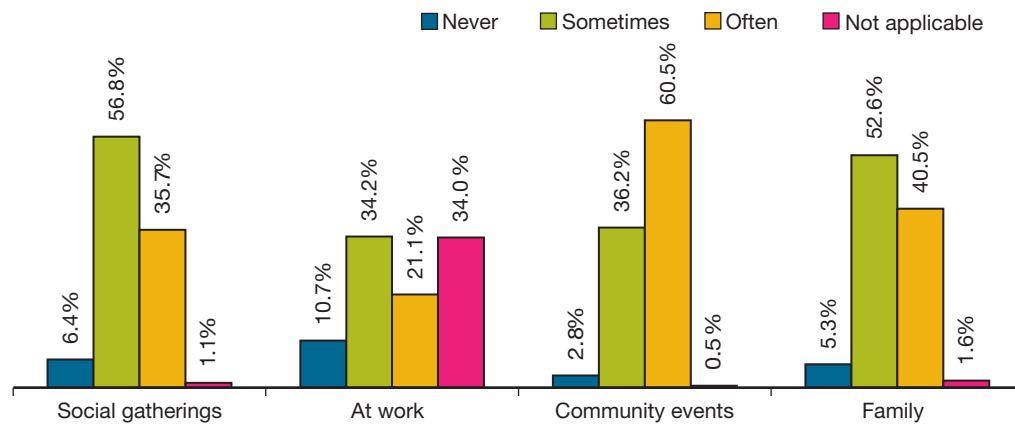
Would councillors recommend the role to others? (table 20)

A large majority of councillors (82.4 per cent) would recommend the role of councillor to others if asked. This figure is similar to those reported in 2010 (83.4 per cent), 2008 (81.8 per cent) and 2006 (76.4 per cent). Just 7.1 per cent of respondents said that they would not recommend becoming a councillor to others. Again, this proportion is similar to those reported in 2010 and 2008 (6.4 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively).

No notable differences in the proportions that would recommend becoming a councillor or not were observed across the types of authorities or the political parties and by gender or ethnicity.

Intention to stand for re-election (table 21)

Around two-thirds of respondents (65.3 per cent) said that they intended to stand for re-election as councillor when their current term came to an end and 15.0 per cent said that they did not. A further 19.0 per cent stated that they did not know. Broadly similar patterns of results were obtained in 2010 (67.3 per cent, 13.5 per cent and 18.2 per cent respectively).

Interestingly, some of the response patterns observed across the authority types in 2010 appeared to have reversed in 2013. In 2010, a 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). In 2013, however, London borough councillors were more likely to say that they would stand again (77.2 per cent) relative to those in shire counties (56.9 per cent) and shire districts (61.8 per cent).

Also of note were the responses of councillors from non-white backgrounds. The majority (81.6 per cent) of these councillors stated that they would stand for re-election; just 6.9 per cent confirmed that they would not, and 9.8 per cent did not know.

How committed councillors think their authorities are to a range of activities (table 22)

Councillors indicated the level of commitment that they felt their authority had to a range of activities. Overall, their response patterns were similar to those of councillors in 2010 and 2008, although the proportions of responses were typically higher in 2013 than in previous years.

The largest proportion of respondents felt that their authority was fully committed to inviting people to have a say on services provided locally through consultation and feedback (63.0 per cent in 2013, 50.6 per cent in 2010).

Slightly smaller 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 (46.6 per cent in 2013, 38.3 per cent in 2010), encouraging people to be more engaged with democratic processes e.g. voting, council meetings and scrutiny (44.2 per cent in 2013, not included in 2010), providing better practical support for elected members so that they can act more effectively as local leaders (43.3 per cent in 2013 and 35.5 per cent in 2010), and having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues (37.0 per cent in 2013, 36.9 per cent in 2010).

The activity which the largest proportion of councillors felt that their authority was not committed to was inviting people to have a role in allocating resources within their neighbourhood or community (26.1 per cent). This question was worded slightly differently in the 2010 survey (it featured as 'allowing people to have a role in allocating resources through participatory budgeting'), yet councillors' responses were similar (27.5 per cent).

In general, responses were similar between male and female councillors and across different types of council. However, younger councillors were less likely to report that their councils were fully committed across all of the activities compared to those in older age groups. For example, 18.5 per cent of councillors aged under 25 reported that their council was fully committed to having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues, compared to 40.6 per cent of councillors aged 70 and over.

Figure D How committed councillors think their authorities are to a range of priorities, England 2013
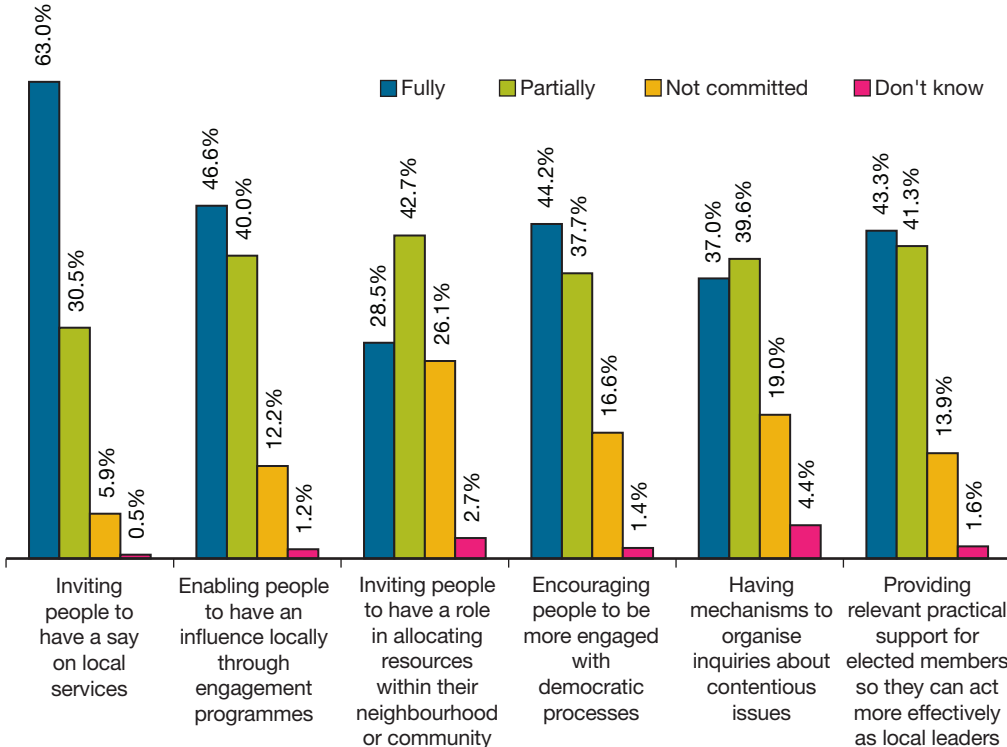
SECTION C: Personal background of councillors

Current circumstances (table 23)

Retired councillors formed the largest respondent sub-group (46.6 per cent). This proportion is similar to the figure seen in 2010 (47.2 per cent).

The employment status of councillors was similar to previous years. Overall, 44.7 per cent of councillors were in work, with 19.2 per cent in full-time paid employment (21.0 per cent in 2010), 16 per cent self-employed (14.6 per cent in 2010), and 9.5 per cent in part-time paid employment (the same as in 2010).

There were notable differences in the employment status of councillors in different types of authority. Councillors in shire counties were less likely to be in full-time employment than in other authority types (10.0 per cent). However, the proportion which was retired was similar to the national average (47.7 per cent), and was lower than in 2010 (52.1 per cent). The greatest proportion of councillors who were in full-time paid employment was in London boroughs (27.3 per cent).

Councillors representing the Green Party were less likely to be retired (14.9 per cent), more likely to be in part-time paid employment (31.4 per cent), and more likely to not be in paid work due to home or family responsibilities (6.2 per cent) than those from other parties. Greater proportions of councillors from the Green Party (26.8 per cent) and the UK Independence Party (23.5 per cent) were self-employed relative to those from other parties.

Independent/Resident's Association councillors were more likely to be retired (52.7 per cent) than those who represented the Conservative Party (50.3 per cent), the UK Independence Party (48.8 per cent), the Liberal Democrats (45.2 per cent), and the Labour Party (41.4 per cent). In 2010, broadly similar proportions of retired councillors were found in the Conservative Party (50.5 per cent), the Liberal Democrats (46.3 per cent) and the Labour Party (38.6 per cent).

Members of minority ethnic groups were less likely to be retired (29.5 per cent) than other councillors (46.6 per cent) and more likely to be in full-time paid employment (28.8 per cent compared with 19.2 per cent). These proportions differed slightly from 2010, when fewer councillors from minority ethnic groups were retired (25.1 per cent) and more (36.1 per cent) were in full-time paid employment.

Figure E Main employment status, England 2001–2013
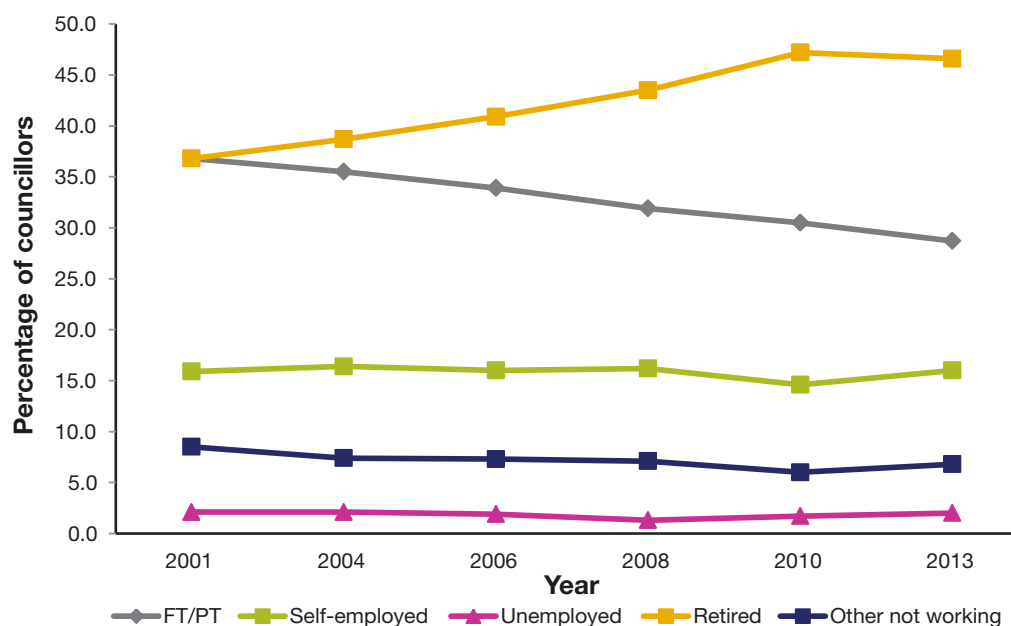
Current main occupation (table 24)

Of the councillors who were employed or self-employed, 39.2 per cent were in managerial or executive positions. A further third (32.5 per cent) were in professional or technical roles, 12.6 per cent in administrative, secretarial or sales roles, 8.1 per cent in manual or craft professions, and 7.5 per cent working as lecturers, teachers or researchers. These proportions were similar to those found in 2008 and 2010, although slightly fewer councillors worked in managerial or executive roles (36.9 per cent in 2008 and in 2010), and slightly more worked as lecturers, teachers or researchers (8.9 per cent in 2008, 8.8 per cent in 2010) and in manual or craft positions (9.4 per cent in 2008, 9.2 per cent in 2010).

The proportions of councillors who were in managerial or executive positions were greatest in the shire counties (46 per cent) and London boroughs (44.1 per cent). Similar outcomes were observed in 2010.

There were variations in the occupations of councillors representing the main parties. Those who were Conservative were more likely to be in managerial or executive roles (46.6 per cent) and less likely to be working as a lecturer, teacher or researcher (4.2 per cent). Labour and Liberal Democrat Party representatives were less likely to be in managerial or executive roles (33.3 per cent and 34.1 per cent) and more likely than Conservative Party members to be lecturers, teachers or researchers (11.3 per cent and 10.3 per cent). The proportion of Conservative Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party members working in professional or technical roles was (31.6 per cent, 31.9 per cent and 34.4 per cent respectively). Representatives of the UK Independence Party and the Green Party were more likely to be in professional or technical occupations (46.8 per cent and 56.2 per cent) than those in any other party.

Figure F Current main occupation, England 2001–2013
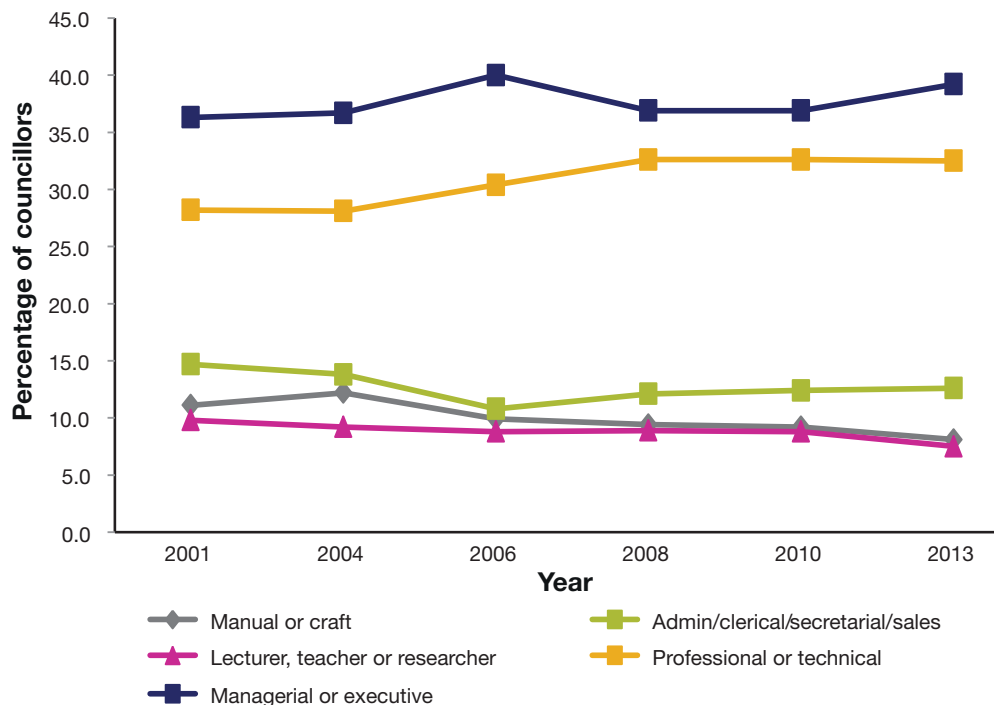
Councillors were also asked to specify their occupation. The top three most frequently listed occupations were manager (10.4 per cent), director or chief executive (9.1 per cent), and management or other (non-medical) consultant (7.9 per cent).

Main sector of employment (table 25)

Most of the councillors who were employed or self-employed worked in the private sector (65.4 per cent). This proportion has fallen slightly relative to 2008 (69.3 per cent) and 2010 (68.5 per cent). Overall, around a quarter (26.9 per cent) were employed in the public sector (6.7 per cent in local government, 5.4 per cent in central government, 3.3 per cent in the NHS, and 11.5 per cent other), and 7.6 per cent in the voluntary sector. These proportions are slightly higher than those reported in 2010 (24.5 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively).

A greater proportion of councillors in shire counties and shire districts were employed in the private sector (74.3 per cent and 69.7 per cent respectively), as was the case in 2010. These authority types also had the smallest proportions of councillors working in the voluntary sector (6.1 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively), and in central government (4.0 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively), in comparison to the national average and all other authority types. Councillors in metropolitan districts (12.8 per cent) were more likely to work in central government than was the case overall. This was also found in 2010, although the proportion was higher in 2013 (7.4 per cent in 2010). Conversely, a lower than average proportion of metropolitan district councillors worked in the private sector (49.3 per cent).

Figure G Main sector of employment, England 2001–2013
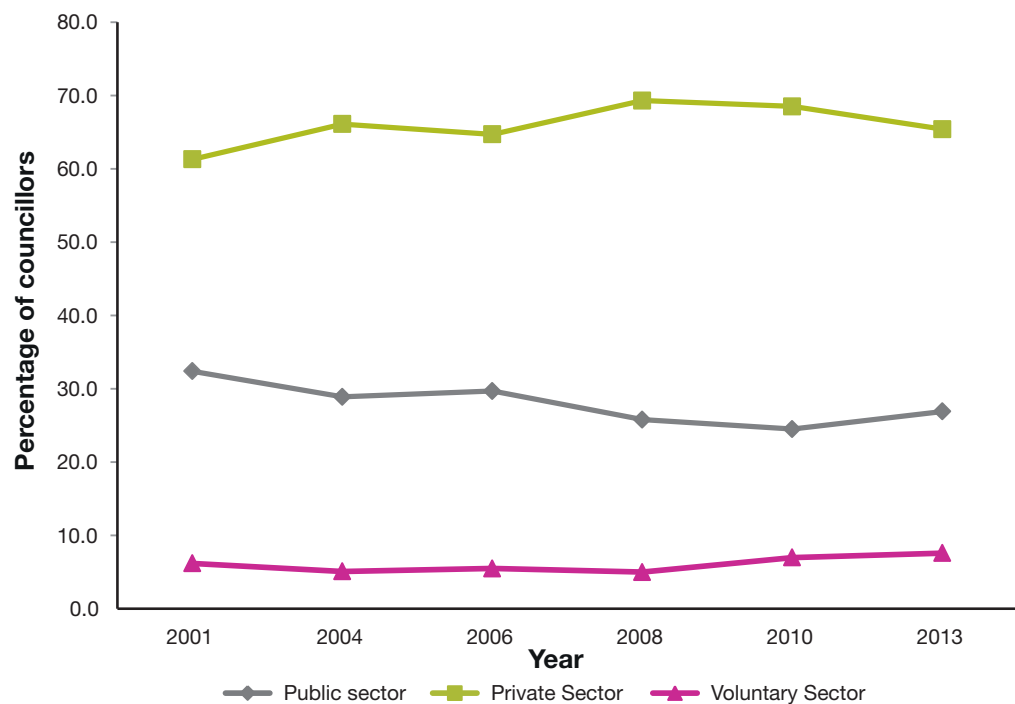
Employers' support of work as a councillor (table 26)

Overall, councillors reported that their employers supported their work as councillors. Almost two-fifths (39.5 per cent) said that their employers supported their work as a councillor 'to some extent' and slightly fewer said that they supported it 'to a great extent' (37.2 per cent). However, almost one-fifth (18.2 per cent) of respondents said that their employer did not support their work as a councillor at all. A minority of councillors (3.1 per cent) said that their employer was not aware that they had this role. This figure had fallen slightly since 2010 (5.9 per cent).

Employers in metropolitan districts and shire counties were perceived to be most supportive of their employees' councillor work; 43.6 per cent and 41.7 per cent of councillors in these authority types

respectively reported that their employers supported their role 'to a great extent'. Compared to the national average, a greater proportion of councillors in London boroughs stated that their employers did not support their councillor role at all (22.8 per cent).

Male and female councillors responded similarly to this question. Councillors from non-white backgrounds were more likely to state that their employers did not support their role at all, relative to the national average (23.4 per cent). When examined by region, greater proportions of councillors in Yorkshire and the Humber (44.3 per cent) and the North East (42.4 per cent) reported that their employers supported their role 'to a great extent', and fewer stated that they did not support their role at all (9.6 per cent and 11.8 per cent respectively). While this question was also asked in the 2004 to 2010 censuses, most of the answer options were different in 2013 than in previous years, so the response patterns are not fully comparable.

Additional voluntary/unpaid positions (table 27)

Councillors were asked if they were a school governor, magistrate, or held any other voluntary or unpaid role. Due to changes in the question options from previous censuses, this year's responses are not directly comparable with that of previous years and caution must be taken when making such comparisons.

Overall, two-thirds (66.6 per cent) of councillors held such roles in addition to being a councillor. Almost two-fifths (37.2 per cent) were school governors, 2.6 per cent were magistrates, and just under half (43.7 per cent) fulfilled 'other' voluntary or unpaid roles.

Councillors' participation varied across the types of authority. A greater proportion of those in metropolitan districts (59.7 per cent) and London boroughs (50.7 per cent) were school governors than was the case nationally. Councillors in shire district councils were least likely to be school governors (26.2 per cent in 2013).

More councillors in the North East (57.5 per cent) and North West (52.8 per cent) tended to be school governors and fewer in these regions had no unpaid or voluntary roles (24.3 per cent and 24.8 per cent respectively). Conversely, those in the East of England (29.7 per cent) and the South East (26.4 per cent) were less likely to be school governors, and those in the East of England (38.5 per cent) and the South West (39.0 per cent) were more likely not to have any unpaid or voluntary roles in addition to being a councillor. Few differences were found across the regions in terms of councillors also fulfilling magistrate responsibilities.

Across the parties, it emerged that almost half of Labour Party councillors were school governors (48.7 per cent) compared with around one-third of Liberal Democrat Party members (33.2 per cent) and Conservative Party members (32.8 per cent). Few differences were found across the three main parties in relation to magistrate responsibilities.

Representatives of the UK Independence Party (13.0 per cent) and the Green Party (17.0 per cent) were substantially less likely to be school governors compared to the three main parties and the national average. UK Independence Party members were also more likely to have no other unpaid or voluntary role on top of their councillor responsibilities (63.1 per cent).

Councillors from non-white backgrounds held voluntary or unpaid roles to a greater extent than average. Half (50.1 per cent) of these councillors were school governors and 5.7 per cent were magistrates, whereas just 23.9 per cent did no voluntary or unpaid work.

Figure H Additional voluntary/unpaid positions, England 2013
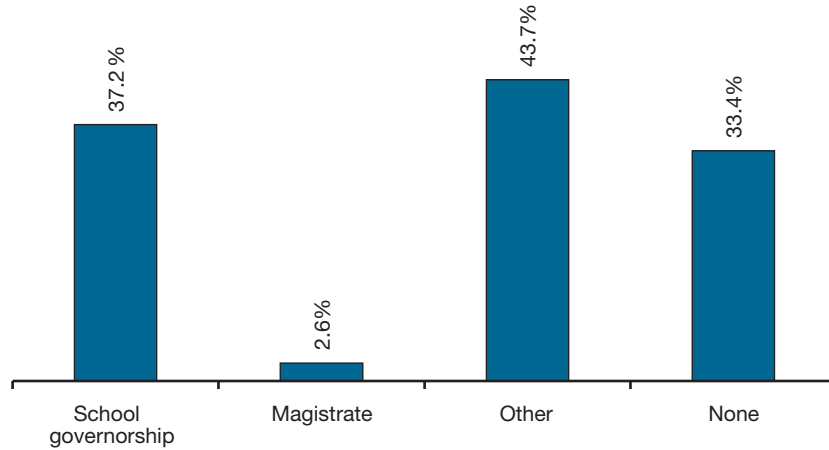
Education and qualifications (table 28)

Over half of councillors (58.8 per cent) were educated to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 4 or equivalent (degree or professional qualification). Fewer (13.0 per cent) had attained NVQ level 3 or equivalent (GCE A level or National Certificate/Diploma) as their highest level of qualification and 11.2 per cent had achieved GCSE level or level 2 as their highest qualification. These proportions were similar to those reported in 2010 (55.9 per cent, 13.6 per cent and 12.0 per cent respectively). A minority of councillors (5.2 per cent) did not have any of the qualifications listed. This proportion was smaller than that seen in 2010 (9.0 per cent) and 2008 (18.0 per cent).

More councillors in the younger age brackets listed NVQ level 4 or equivalent (degree or professional qualification) as their highest qualification than those in the older age brackets. Four-fifths (80.9 per cent) of the under 25s confirmed that this was their highest qualification. This figure was even higher among those aged 25–29 (85.5 per cent) and 30–34 (87.0 per cent). In contrast, 60.1 per cent of councillors aged 60–64, 54.8 per cent of those aged 65–69, and 50.1 per cent of those over 70 years reported that they were qualified to this level. Around one in ten of the respondents in these three age brackets reported having GCSE/O level/School Certificate or NVQ level 2 as their highest qualification, whereas very few younger councillors did so.

Figure I Education and qualifications (NVQ equivalent), England 2004–2013

Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013
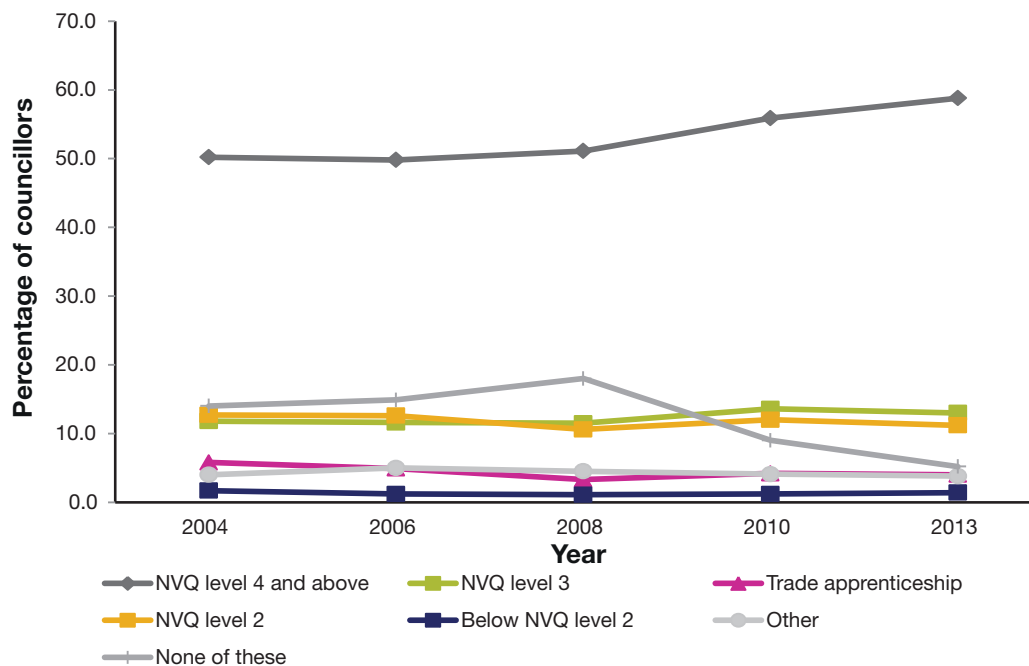
Gender (table 29)

Overall, around two-thirds (67.3 per cent) of councillors were male and around one-third were female (31.7 per cent). These proportions have changed slightly from 2010 (68.5 per cent male, 30.6 per cent female), and in previous years of the census. Councillors' gender profile was similar across the regions, although a slightly higher proportion were female in the North East (40.7 per cent). This differs from 2010, when the highest proportion of female councillors were found in London (36.4 per cent), followed by Yorkshire and the Humber (33.8 per cent).

The youngest (under 25 and 25–29) and oldest (65–69 and 70 or over) age brackets had the greatest proportion of male councillors relative to female, whereas those aged 50–54 had the greatest proportion of female councillors relative to males.

Male councillors were present in higher proportions in the UK Independence Party (88.6 per cent) and in Independent/Residents' Associations (73.1 per cent) compared to the national average. On the whole, the three main parties had similar gender profiles, although the Conservative Party had slightly more male (70 per cent) than female councillors (29.1 per cent) in relation to the Labour Party (62.3 per cent male, 36.7 per cent female) and the Liberal Democrats (66.2 per cent male; 33.4 per cent female).

Age (table 30)

The average age of councillors had risen slightly in 2013 (60.2 years old) from 2010 (59.7 years old) and 2008 (58.8 years old). Overall, 18.3 per cent were aged under 50, 20.9 per cent were aged 50–59, and 60.8 per cent were aged 60 or over.

When examined by region and ethnicity, response patterns were broadly similar to those observed in 2010. Generally, councillors in shire districts were slightly older (62 years old in 2013 and 61.3 years old in 2010) while those in London boroughs were slightly younger (56.5 years old in 2013 and 54.3 years old in 2010). On average, councillors in the South West (62.3 years old) and the East Midlands (61.3 years old) tended to be older than those in London (56.5 years old) and the North West (59.9 years old).

Councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds had a slightly younger age on average (55.1 years old in 2013 and 52.9 years old in 2010) than other councillors (60.4 years old in 2013 and 60.0 years old in 2010).

Ethnicity (table 31)

The categories used for this question differed slightly from previous years. 'Chinese' was included within 'Asian' backgrounds in 2013, whereas in previous years it was a separate category. Also, 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' was a new option in 2013. Care should therefore be taken when comparing the responses from previous years' surveys.

The vast majority of councillors were white (96.0 per cent), and very few were from other ethnic backgrounds (4.0 per cent). These figures were very similar to those found in previous censuses. In 2010, 96.3 per cent of councillors were white and 3.7 per cent were from other ethnic backgrounds. In 2008, these figures were 96.6 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively.

All of the councillors from the Green Party and the UK Independence Party were white. Of the main political parties, the Conservatives had the smallest proportion of representatives who were from other ethnic backgrounds (1.5 per cent), followed by the Liberal Democrats (2.3 per cent). The

Labour Party had the highest proportion of representatives from other ethnic backgrounds (9.2 per cent). These figures were similar to those reported in 2010.

A greater proportion of councillors in London boroughs were from minority ethnic backgrounds (15.7 per cent) than was the case in England as a whole. Councillors in the North East and South West were most likely to be white (100.0 per cent and 99.2 per cent respectively) than in any other region, although the figures were broadly similar in all regions apart from London, where 84.3 per cent of councillors were white and 15.7 per cent were from other ethnic backgrounds.

Disability/long-term illness (table 32)

Councillors were asked in the 2013 census whether they had a long-term health problem or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do and that has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months. The corresponding question asked in the 2010 census was very similar to this, but did not include a specific timescale. Due to this difference in the wording of the questions, care should be taken when comparing these questions across the two censuses.

Just over one in eight (13.2 per cent) of councillors confirmed that they had a disability or long-term illness which fitted the above definition. This proportion has fallen slightly from 2010 (14.1 per cent).

The proportions of councillors who had a long-term health problem or disability was highest in the North East (16.8 per cent), the West Midlands (16.1 per cent), and the East Midlands (15.3 per cent) and lowest in London (8.9 per cent), the South East (11.4 per cent) and the East of England (11.6 per cent).

No differences were present between male and female councillors in the extent to which they reported having a long-term health problem or disability. However, as with 2010, some differences were present by authority type. Councillors in metropolitan districts (15.6 per cent) and unitary authorities (14.5 per cent) were more likely to experience such problems or disabilities compared to those in London Boroughs (8.9 per cent).

The proportions of councillors with a long-term illness or disability varied across the parties. Labour Party representatives (16.5 per cent) were the most likely of all of the main parties to state that this was the case, followed by Liberal Democrat (12.0 per cent) and Conservative Party members (11.6 per cent). Similar response patterns were found in the 2010 census from the three main political parties, although the proportion of Green Party councillors to report having a long-term illness or disability had fallen slightly from 7.8 per cent in 2010 to 6.1 per cent in 2013. The 2013 figure for the UK Independence Party was 7.6 per cent. Almost one-third (31.8 per cent) of councillors representing other parties had a long-term illness or disability.

Figure J: Gender, age, ethnic origin, disability, England 2001–2013
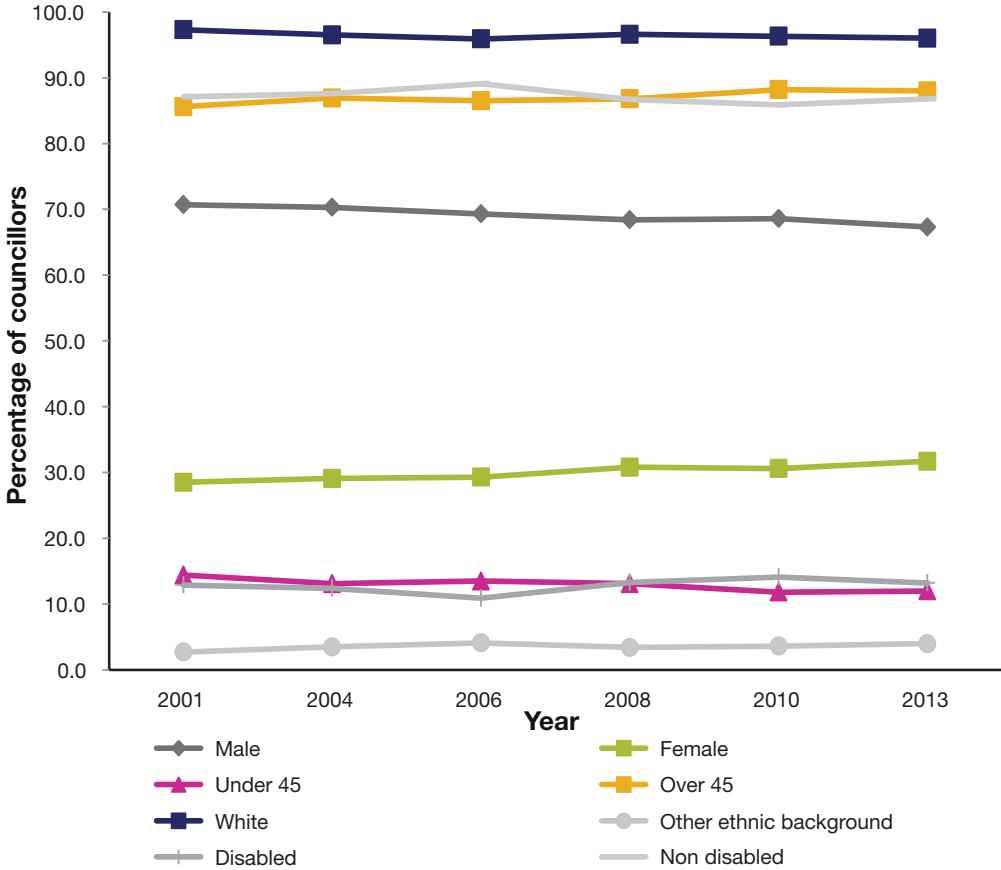
Caring responsibilities (table 33)

Just over one-quarter (27.9 per cent) of councillors reported having one or more caring responsibility in 2013. This figure is similar to those reported in previous years (24.2 per cent in 2010, 26.0 per cent in 2008, 24.2 per cent in 2006 and 25.0 per cent in 2004). Caring for children was the most frequently cited caring responsibility by councillors (14.5 per cent), followed by caring for a partner (7.9 per cent) and a relative (7.6 per cent). These proportions were similar in 2010.

Councillors who represented the Green Party were much more likely to have a caring responsibility than those from all other parties (40.9 per cent). This figure has risen substantially from 2010, when 28.6 per cent of Green Party councillors reported having one or more caring responsibility. Almost one-third (31.4 per cent) of Labour Party members had one or more caring responsibilities compared to 29.9 per cent of Liberal Democrats and 25.1 per cent of Conservative Party members. These figures are slightly higher than in 2010.

A greater proportion of female councillors had caring responsibilities (35.1 per cent) compared with males (24.6 per cent), and a greater proportion of councillors from minority ethnic backgrounds had caring responsibilities (38.6 per cent) compared with those who were white (27.5 per cent).

Key facts summary table, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
average length of service as a councillor (years)	9.2		8.3		8.3		8.3		8.3		9.5	
average number of council committees/ sub-committees	3.8		3.7		3.8		3.7		3.6		3.3	
senior positions held												
one or more positions	–		10528	53.6	10573	53.7	11059	56.4	10404	57.4	9594	53.0
no senior positions	–		9128	46.4	9116	46.3	8558	43.6	7725	42.6	8517	47.0
average no. hours/ week how time spent on council business (decimalised)											20.8	
Time spent on attendance at council meetings, committees					10		10		10.2		8	
Time spent on engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquiries					7		8		7.9		6	
Time spent on working with community groups											4.5	
Other					6		6		5.5		4.1	
average no. hours/ week how time spent on group/party business (decimalised)											4.3	
political party (when last elected)												
Conservative Party	6832	34.3	7593	39.0	7719	42.3	9436	48.5	9031	50.1	8247	46.1
Labour Party	7140	35.9	5586	28.7	4585	25.1	4201	21.6	3748	20.8	5697	31.8
Liberal Democrat Party	4208	21.2	4497	23.1	4427	24.3	4315	22.2	3958	22.0	2624	14.7
Green Party	71	0.4	58	0.3	97	0.5	144	0.7	141	0.8	176	1.0
UK Independence Party											178	1.0
Independent Party	1385	7.0	1483	7.6	1178	6.5	1143	5.9	964	5.4	869	4.9
other	187	0.9	240	1.2	246	1.3	207	1.1	167	0.9	113	0.6
Change of political party since last election*												
Yes, have changed party											334	1.8
No, have not changed party											17671	97.6
If you have changed party please indicate your current party												
Conservative Party											40	14.3
Labour Party											28	9.9
Liberal Democrats											16	5.5
Independent/Residents' Association											115	40.8
UK Independence Party											46	16.3
Greens											3	1.1
Other											34	12.0

Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Membership of local partnership groups/ boards												
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership											948	5.2
Health and Wellbeing board											1687	9.3
Local Enterprise Partnership											593	3.3
Community Safety Board											931	5.1
Other											4222	23.3
Membership of other public bodies												
Local authority council	1632	8.3	1888	9.6	2265	11.5	2090	11.5	2388	13.2		
Town council	2192	11.2	2161	11.0	2422	12.3	2305	12.7	2426	13.4		
Parish/community council	2951	15.0	3102	15.8	3081	15.7	2815	15.5	2556	14.1		
Police and crime panel	474	2.4	558	2.8	525	2.7	432	2.4	237	1.3		
Fire authority	703	3.6	717	3.6	798	4.1	704	3.9	661	3.7		
National Parks authority	172	0.9	200	1.0	187	1.0	238	1.3	207	1.1		
Received one or more training and development opportunity in past 12 months			17369	88.2	18382	93.7	16555	91.3	15387	85.0		
Resources/learning that may be beneficial to role												
Social media and online tools	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5965	32.9		
Administrative support			5373	27.3	6318	32.2	4854	26.8	5196	28.7		
Media training			6711	34.1	7366	37.5	6317	34.8	5168	28.5		
Better information on community engagement	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4381	24.2		
Political skills training			4518	22.9	4940	25.2	4457	24.6	3554	19.6		
Better facilities for surgeries			4238	21.5	4599	23.4	3773	20.8	3308	18.3		
Information on role	–	–	3926	19.9	4541	23.1	3369	18.6	2611	14.4		
IT support			5928	30.1	7067	36.0	5639	31.1	–	–		
Case worker			3961	20.1	4322	22.0	3812	21.0	–	–		
other			1251	6.4	1125	5.7	749	4.1	884	4.9		
IT resources available to councillors*												
Council email address											16354	90.3
PC/Laptop/tablet											15677	86.6
Remote log-in access to council system											13342	73.7
Broadband											12470	68.9
Smartphone											7331	40.5
Mobile phone											4226	23.3
Telephone conferencing											1888	10.4
None											423	2.3

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
IT resources used by councillors*												
Council email address											14598	80.6
PC/Laptop/tablet											13442	74.2
Remote log-in access to council system											11197	61.8
Broadband											10805	59.7
Smartphone											6019	33.2
Mobile phone											3160	17.4
Telephone conferencing											1030	5.7
None											1299	7.2
Most useful IT resource*												
Council email address											8517	47.0
PC/Laptop/tablet											10009	55.3
Remote log-in access to council system											6111	33.7
Broadband											6009	33.2
Smartphone											3710	20.5
Mobile phone											1075	5.9
Telephone conferencing											132	0.7
None											3874	21.4
Online resources available to councillors*												
Own webpage											12013	66.3
Blog											7443	41.1
Twitter account											8142	45.0
Facebook page											6509	35.9
YouTube											2384	13.2
None											2997	16.5
Online resources used by councillors*												
Own webpage											10981	60.6
Blog											6669	36.8
Twitter account											2813	15.5
Facebook page											5375	29.7
YouTube											1511	8.3
None											4396	24.3
Most useful online resources*												
Own webpage											1984	11.0
Blog											502	2.8
Twitter account											1719	9.5
Facebook page											1230	6.8
YouTube											103	0.6
None											13703	75.7

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	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	16115	90.0
to change things			8921	45.8	10020	52.3	10471	53.7	9428	52.3	10520	58.7
political beliefs			9633	49.5	9866	51.5	10032	51.5	9064	50.2	9752	54.4
because I was asked to			5603	28.8	5631	29.4	5909	30.3	5079	28.2	4902	27.4
resolve an issue			1558	8.0	2183	11.4	2436	12.5	2317	12.8	2621	14.6
member allowances			189	1.0	312	1.6	384	2.0	388	2.2	459	2.6
other			463	2.4	635	3.3	522	2.7	338	1.9	328	1.8
What are the most important things that councillors do?												
Listen to the views of local people											12028	69.8
Represent local residents											11162	64.8
Support the local community											10610	61.6
Address issues											6954	40.4
Council meetings											5438	31.6
Deal with complaints											4367	25.4
Keep the public informed											3638	21.1
Plan services											3457	20.1
Hold surgeries											2188	12.7
To what extent would you be able to continue to fulfil you role without the current package of benefits available to you?												
Fully/to a great extent											4329	24.4
To some extent											6778	38.2
To a small extent											3351	18.9
Not at all											2615	14.8
Don't know											650	3.7
Influence as a Councillor												
More influence than expected					6717	35.6	7806	40.5	7213	40.3	7373	41.4
Less influence than expected					5526	29.3	4908	25.4	4465	25.0	4081	22.9
About as much influence as expected					6637	35.1	6575	34.1	6206	34.7	6362	35.7
Effective in your role												
very effective			3795	19.3	4290	23.5	4723	24.3	5077	28.2	4937	27.6
effective			13135	68.6	12513	68.6	12366	63.7	11303	62.9	11163	62.4
not effective			883	4.6	635	3.5	414	2.1	349	1.9	1134	6.3
not very effective			1436	7.5	798	4.4	539	2.8	442	2.5	120	0.7
don't know/too early to say											538	3.0

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Perceptions of whether authorities are fully committed to specific activities												
Inviting people to have their say on services provided locally through consultation and feedback*							10038	51.2	9168	50.6	11233	63.0
Enabling people and communities to have an influence locally through active programmes of engagement							7506	38.3	6943	38.3	8237	46.6
Encouraging people to be more engaged with democratic processes											7824	44.2
Providing relevant practical support for elected members so that they can act more effectively as local leaders*							7510	38.3	6439	35.5	7639	43.3
Having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues							7075	36.1	6686	36.9	6502	37.0
Inviting people to have a role in allocating resources within their neighbourhood or community*							612	18.4	4272	23.6	5040	28.5
Extent to which councillors would be able to fulfil their role without the current package of benefits*												
Fully											4329	24.4
To some extent											6778	38.2
To a small extent											3351	18.9
Not at all											2615	14.8
Don't know											650	3.7
Intend to stand for re-election?												
Yes			10611	54.0	12076	61.3	10694	54.5	12203	67.3	11819	65.3
No			2490	12.7	2250	11.4	3108	15.8	2455	13.5	2716	15.0
Would you recommend becoming a Councillor?												
Yes			15045	76.4	16050	81.8	15118	83.4	14928	82.4		
No			1224	6.2	1447	7.4	1167	6.4	1283	7.1		
Don't know			1802	9.2	1820	9.3	1548	8.5	1605	8.9		

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Current circumstances												
in full-time paid employment	5358	27.2	4793	24.7	4346	23.5	4133	22.0	3586	21.0	3361	19.2
in part-time paid employment	1886	9.6	2089	10.8	1924	10.4	1862	9.9	1620	9.5	1657	9.5
self-employed	3125	15.9	3181	16.4	2948	16.0	3047	16.2	2493	14.6	2798	16.0
unemployed											345	2.0
retired	7240	36.8	7512	38.7	7548	40.9	8193	43.5	8082	47.2	8165	46.6
other not working**	2068	10.6	1851	9.5	1709	9.2	1579	8.4**	1029	6.0	1198	6.8
Employer supports your work as a councillor												
to a great extent											1762	37.2
to a certain extent											1870	39.5
not at all											861	18.2
Employer is not aware I am a councillor											147	3.1
Don't know											94	2.0
Additional voluntary/ unpaid positions												
Any												66.6
school governorship	10874	54.4	9405	47.8	8546	43.4	8196	41.8	7602	52.8	6730	37.2
Magistrate											473	2.6
other	1956	9.8	2425	12.3	2382	12.1	2168	11.1	2253	15.6	7921	43.7
Education/ qualifications held (NVQ equivalent)*												
degree/NVQ level 4 and above												
NVQ level 3			9862	50.2	9806	49.8	10018	51.1	10129	55.9	10658	58.8
trade apprenticeship			2310	11.8	2278	11.6	2256	11.5	2467	13.6	2356	13.0
GCSE/NVQ level 2			1131	5.8	961	4.9	641	3.3	759	4.2	725	4.0
below NVQ level 2			2488	12.7	2478	12.6	2077	10.6	2178	12	2034	11.2
other			325	1.7	244	1.2	209	1.1	211	1.2	249	1.4
none of these			790	4.0	986	5.0	878	4.5	749	4.1	691	3.8
Gender												
male	14137	70.7	13825	70.3	13645	69.3	13417	68.4	12411	68.5	12192	67.3
female	5703	28.5	5711	29.1	5774	29.3	6038	30.8	5545	30.6	5748	31.7
not answered	158	0.8	121	0.6	271	1.4	162	0.8	173	1.0	171	0.9
Age												
average age (years)	56.9		57.8		58.3		58.8		59.7		60.2	
proportion under 45	2773	14.4	2410	13.1	2453	13.5	2486	13.1	1839	11.7	2106	12.0
Ethnic origin												
white	19355	97.3	18765	96.5	17855	95.9	18176	96.6	16823	96.3	16892	96.0
other ethnic background	531	2.7	674	3.5	764	4.1	633	3.4	640	3.7	704	4.0
Have long-term illness, health problem or disability	2587	12.9	2443	12.4	2138	10.9	2602	13.3	2563	14.1	2383	13.2
Caring responsibilities												
one or more caring responsibility	5492	27.6	4916	25.0	4757	24.2	5099	26.0	4396	24.2	5044	27.9
no caring responsibilities	14506	72.4	14741	75.0	14932	75.8	14518	74.0	13733	75.8	13067	72.1

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

*New or significantly altered question in 2013.

**Other not working = unemployed, not in paid work – looking after home, in FT education, not working for other reason

Summary by type of authority and English region

	response rate		gender		average age (years)	ethnic origin	
	%	No.	% male	% female		% white	% other
type of authority							
Shire counties	37.4	670	71.6	26.8	61.6	9.0	1.0
Shire districts	41.6	3695	67.8	31.3	62.0	98.0	1.7
Metropolitan districts	34.7	827	63.9	35.4	57.2	95.0	4.6
London boroughs	31.6	584	63.0	36.0	56.5	84.3	15.7
Unitaries	35.9	1126	68.6	30.5	59.1	95.0	4.7
English region							
East Midlands	39.1	771	68.7	29.9	61.3	97.1	2.9
East of England	38.7	985	70.3	29.3	60.6	97.3	2.7
North East	37.1	286	59.0	40.7	60.3	100.0	0.0
North West	35.6	839	65.8	32.9	59.9	96.4	3.6
South East	44.1	1563	68.6	30.4	60.7	97.2	2.8
South West	41.5	817	70.4	28.5	62.3	99.2	0.8
West Midlands	35.3	601	67.8	31.6	59.6	95.2	4.8
Yorks. & Humberside	37.5	456	64.4	35.0	59.7	95.2	4.8
London	31.6	584	63.0	36.0	56.5	84.3	15.7
All England	**38.8**	**6902**	**67.3**	**31.7**	**60.2**	**96.0**	**4.0**

Analysis to different questions may be based on different groups of respondents.
The figures may not total 100% as a result of rounding.

	% long term illness/health problem/ disability	% one or more caring responsibility	employment status			
			% full-time employment	% part-time employment	% self-employed	% retired
Type of authority						
Shire counties	11.0	20.2	10.0	8.6	23.1	47.7
Shire districts	13.3	27.5	18.8	8.5	15.4	51.2
Metropolitan districts	15.6	30.4	21.7	12.5	12.0	40.8
London boroughs	8.9	28.8	27.3	10.1	17.6	34.4
English Unitaries	14.5	30.9	18.6	9.9	15.1	45.0
English region						
East Midlands	15.3	25.6	16.3	10.7	13.9	51.3
East of England	11.6	29.9	18.9	8.2	18.7	47.0
North East	16.8	27.1	17.5	10.0	10.6	50.4
North West	14.5	29.6	20.8	8.7	11.8	49.5
South East	11.4	28.0	21.0	8.3	16.6	46.2
South West	13.9	25.2	13.6	9.2	19.3	50.8
West Midlands	16.1	28.5	18.3	11.8	15.5	45.9
Yorks. & Humberside	14.4	25.9	14.8	10.6	16.8	44.3
London	8.9	28.8	27.3	10.1	17.6	34.4
All England	**13.2**	**27.9**	**19.2**	**9**	**16.0**	**46.6**

	average length of service (years)	% holding one or more position of leading responsibilities	average no. hours/ week (council and party business combined) (decimalised)	% wanting to stand for re-election
type of authority				
Shire counties	7.5	49.8	27.9	56.9
Shire districts	9.8	50.9	20.6	61.8
Metropolitan districts	9.9	53.8	30.9	71.6
London boroughs	10.5	55.1	27.7	77.2
Unitaries	8.5	58.8	29.9	68.0
English Region				
East Midlands	9.8	58.0	22.5	66.9
East of England	9.0	52.0	22.5	62.8
North East	9.8	56.6	30.6	64.2
North West	9.3	48.7	26.8	68.6
South East	9.0	52.0	23.2	62.6
South West	9.1	51.0	25.4	57.2
West Midlands	10.0	56.7	25.7	65.7
Yorks. & Humberside	9.3	50.7	27.8	64.1
London	10.8	55.1	27.7	77.1
All England	**9.5**	**53.0**	**25.1**	**65.3**

Councils and their constitutions in England

	2013	
	No.	%
Councils which have chosen the Mayor and Cabinet model	12	3.0
Councils which have chosen the Leader and Cabinet model	309	88.0
Councils which have chosen alternative arrangements	30	8.5

Excludes Corporation of London and Isles of Scilly.
Numbers of councillors from: http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/uklocalgov/makeup.htm (last updated at 24/11/2013)

	Number of authorities
Type of authority	
Shire counties	27
Shire districts	201
Metropolitan districts	36
London boroughs	32
Unitaries	55
English region	
East Midlands	45
East of England	52
North East	12
North West	41
South East	74
South West	40
West Midlands	33
Yorks. & Humberside	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 2010 and 2017.

Type of authority	Electoral cycle and warding arrangements	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
33 County councils including single tier (unitary)	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				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	1/3	
67 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	1/3	
127 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		1/2	

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/election-timetable-in-england

Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013

Annex B: Breakdown of survey data, England 2001–2013

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 18,111 councillors.

Where the base is shown as 'Base (respondents)', this is the 'Base (population)' less the estimate for non respondents and non applicable answers, for example 7,238 were employed and indicated a current occupation (table 29).

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 2004–2013

| | 2004 | | 2006 | | 2008 | | 2010 | | 2013 |
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1–2 years	5503	29.0	4857	24.7	6292	32.1	3337	18.9	4311	24.4
3–5 years	3592	19.0	4757	24.2	3495	17.8	4104	23.2	3001	17.0
6–9 years	3727	19.7	3772	19.2	3469	17.7	3550	20.1	3253	18.4
10–15 years	3090	16.3	3133	15.9	3157	16.1	3399	19.3	3684	20.9
16–20 years	1341	7.1	1494	7.6	1351	6.9	1409	8.0	1355	7.7
21–25 years	823	4.3	776	3.9	854	4.4	852	4.8	885	5.0
>25 years	855	4.5	901	4.6	1000	5.1	1001	5.7	1157	6.6
Base (respondents)	18931		19689		19617		17652		17647	
Average	**8.3**		**8.3**		**8.3**		**9.4**		**9.5**	

Table 2: Leading responsibilities held, England 2004–2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Directly Elected Mayor	6	0.0	6	0.0	5	0.0	86	0.5	89	0.5
Deputy Mayor	279	1.4	314	1.6	338	1.7	261	1.4	292	1.6
Leader of the Authority	938	4.8	885	4.5	1020	5.2	924	5.1	516	2.9
Deputy Leader of the Authority									557	3.1
Chair/Vice-Chair of Council/Civic Mayor	878	4.5	876	4.5	963	4.9	805	4.4	825	4.6
Cabinet/ Executive Members	2863	14.6	2969	15.1	3214	16.4	2900	16.0	2815	15.5
Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	2633	13.4	2476	12.6	2532	12.9	2341	12.9	1938	10.7
Chair/Vice-Chair of Area Forum Committee	1297	6.6	2084	10.6	1473	7.5	1505	8.3	1125	6.2
Chair/Vice-Chair of Regulatory committee	2037	10.4	1238	6.3	2152	11.0	2118	11.7	1769	9.8
Chair/Vice-Chair of Standards Committee	307	1.6	312	1.6	288	1.5	211	1.2	494	2.7
Chair/Vice-Chair of Main Policy	439	2.2	416	2.1	555	2.8	481	2.7	510	2.8
Chair/Vice-Chair of Other Major Committee	859	4.4	1000	5.1	1292	6.6	1393	7.7	1779	9.8
Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Group	n/a		261	1.3	370	1.9	355	2.0	292	1.6
Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Sub Group	n/a		261	1.3	375	1.9	369	2.0	187	1.0
One or more positions	10528	53.6	10573	53.7	11059	56.4	10404	57.4	9594	53.0
No positions	9129	46.4	9116	46.3	8558	43.6	7725	42.6	8517	47.0
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	100

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

Table 3: Number of council committees/sub-committees, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	5	0.0	38	0.2	54	0.3	205	1.1	351	2.1	434	2.5
1	1838	10.3	2004	11.0	1761	10.0	1856	10.3	1830	10.7	2091	12.1
2	3842	21.4	4212	23.1	3815	21.6	3907	21.6	3671	21.6	4246	24.6
3	4075	22.7	4171	22.8	4120	23.3	4374	24.2	4180	24.5	4209	24.4
4	3154	17.6	3231	17.7	3243	18.4	3221	17.8	2931	17.2	2713	15.7
5	1865	10.4	1737	9.5	1944	11.0	1693	9.4	1597	9.4	1514	8.8
6–10	2799	15.6	2506	13.7	2392	13.6	2542	14.1	2209	13.0	1886	10.9
11–15	250	1.4	278	1.5	252	1.4	201	1.1	200	1.2	116	0.7
16–20	60	0.3	53	0.3	34	0.2	28	0.2	44	0.3	3	0.0
20+	26	0.1	41	0.2	34	0.2	39	0.2	18	0.1	21	0.1
Base (respondents)	17913		18271		17649		18065		17031		17232	
Average	3.8		3.7		3.8		3.7		3.6		3.3	

Table 4: Party positions held, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Party/Group Leader	1367	6.8	1392	7.1	1414	7.2	1448	7.4	1180	6.5	1372	7.6
Party/Group Deputy Leader	1189	5.9	1125	5.7	1109	5.6	1160	5.9	1076	5.9	1084	6.0
Other Party/ Group Official	3296	16.5	2667	13.6	2646	13.4	2719	13.9	2374	13.1	2582	14.3
Base (population)	19998		19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	

Table 5: Membership of local partnership groups/boards, England 2013

	2013	
	No.	%
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	948	5.2
Health and Wellbeing board	1687	9.3
Local Enterprise Partnership	593	3.3
Community Safety Board	931	5.1
Other	4222	23.3
Any	6497	35.9
None selected	11614	64.1
Base (population)	18111	

Table 6(i): Number of hours/week spent on council business and group/party business (decimalised hours), England 2013

	Council business		Group/party business	
	No.	%	No.	%
≤5	916	5.2	13552	80.2
6–10	3542	20.1	2394	14.2
11–15	2823	16.0	435	2.6
16–20	3795	21.5	256	1.5
21–25	1886	10.7	77	0.5
26–30	1974	11.2	55	0.3
31–35	600	3.4	15	0.1
36–40	975	5.5	44	0.3
41–45	247	1.4	13	0.1
46–50	413	2.3	28	0.2
50+	442	2.5	20	0.1
Average no. of hours	20.8		4.3	
Base (respondents)	17613		16889	

Table 6(ii): Average number of hours spent on council and group/party business, England 2004–2013

	2004 No.	2006 No.	2008 No.	2010 No.	2013 No.
Average no. of hours	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.7	25.1
Base (respondents)	18678	18596	18850	17579	17613

Table 7: Distribution of hours/weeks of how time spent on council business (decimalised hours), England 2006–2013

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

	2006 Average no. of hours	2008 Average no. of hours	2010 Average no. of hours	2013 Average no. of hours
Attendance at council meetings, committees	10	10	10.2	8.0
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquires	7	8	7.9	6.0
Working with community groups*	–	–	–	4.5
Other, external meetings, seminars, training*	6	6	5.5	4.1
Overall average no. of hours	22	22	22.8	21.3
Base (respondents)	16837	18143	17040	17679

*An additional item was added to this question in 2013 meaning 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be taken when making comparisons for this question.

Table 8: Political party profile (party which candidate stood for at last election), England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conservative Party	6832	34.3	7593	39.0	7719	42.3	9436	48.5	9031	50.1	8247	46.1
Labour Party	7140	35.9	5586	28.7	4585	25.1	4201	21.6	3748	20.8	5697	31.8
Liberal Democrats	4208	21.2	4497	23.1	4427	24.3	4315	22.2	3958	22.0	2624	14.7
Green Party	71	0.4	58	0.3	97	0.5	144	0.7	141	0.8	176	1.0
An Independent	1385	7.0	1483	7.6	1178	6.5	1143	5.9	964	5.4	869	4.9
UK Independence Party	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	178	1.0
Other	187	0.9	240	1.2	246	1.3	207	1.1	167	0.9	113	0.6
Base (respondents)	19825	99.1	19457	99.0	18252	92.7	19445	99.1	18008	99.3	17905	100.0

An additional party (UK Independence Party) was added to this question in 2013 meaning 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be taken when making comparisons for this question.

Table 9: Whether councillors have changed political party since being elected, England 2013

	2013	
	No.	%
Yes	334	1.8
No	17671	97.6
Base (population)	18111	

New question in 2013

Table 10: Member of other public bodies, England 2004–2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local authority	1632	8.3	1888	9.6	2265	11.5	2090	11.5	2388	13.2
Town councils	2192	11.2	2161	11.0	2422	12.3	2305	12.7	2426	13.4
Parish/ Community council	2951	15.0	3102	15.8	3081	15.7	2815	15.5	2556	14.1
Police	474	2.4	558	2.8	525	2.7	432	2.4	237	1.3
Fire authority	703	3.6	717	3.6	798	4.1	704	3.9	661	3.7
National Parks authority	172	0.9	200	1.0	187	1.0	238	1.3	207	1.1
Any of the above										39.4
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	

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

Table 11: Training and development opportunities received, England 2006–2013

	2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Induction	4958	25.2	7171	36.6	5059	27.9	4005	22.1
Personal development plan	3794	19.3	5213	26.6	5164	28.5	3967	21.9
Training needs questionnaire	6940	35.2	8535	43.5	7121	39.3	5049	27.9
Seminars/ conferences	13120	66.6	13961	71.2	12127	66.9	9035	49.9
Any LGA training							2922	16.1
Mentoring coaching	2404	12.2	3538	18	2793	15.4	1942	10.7
Other member development programmes	10896	55.3	11197	57.1	9936	54.8	7550	41.7
Skills training	7274	36.9	8024	40.9	6788	37.4	6030	33.3
Other*	1940	9.9	1541	7.9	1087	6	1043	5.8
One or more opportunities	17369	88.2	18382	93.7	16555	91.3	15387	85.0
No opportunities	2320	11.8	1235	6.3	1574	8.7	2724	15.0
Base (population)	19689		19617		18129		18111	

More than one response could be given so percentages do not sum to 100.
*An additional item (Any LGA training) was added to this question in 2013 while a item previously used (Attended IDeA Leadership Academy) was not included meaning 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be taken when making comparisons for this question.

Table 12(i): Which resources or learning would be beneficial for the work of councillors, England 2006–2013

	2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Media training	6711	34.1	7366	37.5	6317	34.8	5168	28.5
Administrative support	5373	27.3	6318	32.2	4854	26.8	5196	28.7
Political skills training	4518	22.9	4940	25.2	4457	24.6	3554	19.6
Better facilities to hold surgeries	4238	21.5	4599	23.4	3773	20.8	3308	18.3
Social media and online tools	N/A		N/A		N/A		5965	32.9
Better information on role of ward/division councillor	3926	19.9	4541	23.1	3369	18.6	2611	14.4
Better information on community engagement and development							4	24.2
Other resources or learning*	1251	6.4	1125	5.7	749	4.1	884	4.9
No response							4380	24.2
Base (population)	19689		19617		18129		18111	

More than one response could be given so percentages do not sum to 100.
*Additional items (better information on community engagement and social media and online tools) were added to this question in 2013 while two items (case worker and IT support) previously used were not included meaning 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be taken when making comparisons for this question.

Table 12(ii): Which of these resources or learning is the most important for the work of councillors, England 2006–2013

	2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Media training	928	11.1	1438	11.7	1121	12.6	979	12.2
Administrative support	2066	24.7	2822	23	1828	20.5	1934	24.1
Political skills training	847	10.1	1111	9.1	1029	11.5	751	9.4
Better facilities	572	6.8	1024	8.3	644	7.2	618	7.7
Social media and online tools							1507	18.8
Better information on role	986	11.8	1592	13	991	11.1	617	7.7
Better information on community engagement and development							1252	15.6
Other resources or learning*	449	5.4	552	4.5	443	5	361	4.5
Base (respondents)	8362		12272		8915		8019	

*Additional items (better information on community engagement and social media and online tools) were added to this question in 2013 while two items (case worker and IT support) previously used were not included meaning 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be taken when making comparisons for this question.

Table 13(i): Which of these IT resources are available to you, which do you use, and which do you find the most useful in your role as a councillor, England 2013

	Available to you		Use		Most useful	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
PC/laptop	15677	86.6	13442	74.2	10009	55.3
Broadband	12470	68.9	10805	59.7	6009	33.2
Remote log-in access to council system	13342	73.7	11197	61.8	6111	33.7
Smartphone for council business	7331	40.5	6019	33.2	3710	20.5
Mobile phone for council business	4226	23.3	3160	17.4	1075	5.9
Telephone conferencing	1888	10.4	1030	5.7	132	0.7
Council email address	16354	90.3	14598	80.6	8517	47.0
No response	423	2.3	1299	7.2	3874	21.4
Base (population)	18111		18111		18111	

More than one response could be given so percentages do not sum to 100.
This question has been altered and is not directly comparable with previous years.

Table 13(ii): Which of these online resources are available to you, which do you use, and which do you find the most useful in your role as a councillor, England 2013

	Available to you		Use		Most useful	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Own webpage	12013	66.3	10981	60.6	1984	11.0
Blog	7443	41.1	6669	36.8	502	2.8
Twitter account	8142	45.0	2813	15.5	1719	9.5
Facebook page	6509	35.9	5375	29.7	1230	6.8
YouTube	2384	13.2	1511	8.3	103	0.6
No response	2997	16.5	4396	24.3	13703	75.7
Base (population)	18111		18111		18111	

More than one response could be given so percentages do not sum to 100.
This question has been altered and is not directly comparable with previous years.

Table 14: Reasons for becoming a councillor, England 2004 - 2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Serve community	16176	83.1	16654	86.9	17228	88.4	15905	88.2	16115	90.0
Resolve an issue	1558	8.0	2183	11.4	2436	12.5	2317	12.8	2621	14.6
Political beliefs	9633	49.5	9866	51.5	10032	51.5	9064	50.2	9752	54.4
To change things	8921	45.8	10020	52.3	10471	53.7	9428	52.3	10520	58.7
Because I was asked to	5603	28.8	5631	29.4	5909	30.3	5079	28.2	4902	27.4
Member allowances	189	1.0	312	1.6	384	2.0	388	2.2	459	2.6
Other	463	2.4	635	3.3	522	2.7	338	1.9	328	1.8
Base (respondents)	19475		19153		19496		18041		17915	

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

Table 15: Which are most important things that councillors do, England 2013

	2013	
	No.	%
Listen to views of local people	12028	69.8
Support local community	10610	61.6
Hold surgeries	2188	12.7
Address issues	6954	40.4
Attend council meetings	5438	31.6
Plan services	3457	20.1
Deal with complaints	4367	25.4
Keep the public informed	3638	21.1
Represent local residents	11162	64.8
Base (respondents)	17227	

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

Table 16: The extent to which councillors would be able to fulfil their role without the current package of benefits, England 2013

	2013	
	No.	%
Fully/to a great extent	4329	24.4
To some extent	6778	38.2
To a small extent	3351	18.9
Not at all	2615	14.8
Don't know	650	3.7
Base (population)	17723	

This was a new question in 2013.

Table 17: Views on influence as a councillor, England 2006–2013

	2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
More influence to change things than expected	6717	35.6	7806	40.5	7213	40.3	7373	41.4
Less influence to change things than expected	5526	29.3	4908	25.4	4465	25.0	4081	22.9
As much influence as expected	6637	35.1	6575	34.1	6206	34.7	6362	35.7
Base (respondents)	18880		19289		17885		17816	

Table 18: How effective councillors are in their role, England 2004–2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very effective	3705	19.3	4290	23.5	4723	24.3	5077	28.2	4937	27.6
Effective	13135	68.6	12513	68.6	12366	63.7	11303	62.9	11163	62.4
Not effective	883	4.6	635	3.5	414	2.1	349	1.9	1134	6.3
Not very effective	1436	7.5	798	4.4	539	2.8	442	2.5	120	0.7
Don't know/too early to say*					1364	7.0	804	4.5	538	3.0
Base (respondents)	19159		18236		19405		17975		17892	

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

Table 19: In which situations councillors talk about their work, England 2008–2013

	2008						2010								2013							
	Never		Sometimes		Often		Never		Sometimes		Often		Not applicable		Never		Sometimes		Often		not applicable	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Social gatherings with friends	1671	8.8	12441	65.7	4834	25.5	1241	7.2	10875	63.3	5068	29.5	161	0.9	1118	6.4	9872	56.8	6204	35.7	182	1.1
At work	3807	23.6	8710	54.0	3626	22.5	1665	14.3	6385	54.8	3612	31.0	4488	27.8	1677	10.7	5352	34.2	3308	21.1	5320	34.0
Community events	2356	12.9	10694	58.4	5261	28.7	1445	8.9	8527	52.8	6192	38.3	604	3.6	487	2.8	6325	36.2	10585	60.5	85	0.5
Family	1332	7.3	10640	58.1	6353	34.7	967	5.8	9392	55.9	6441	38.3	255	1.5	906	5.3	9042	52.6	6968	40.5	281	1.6
Base respondents	18726						16654								17198							

In 2010 a 'not applicable' option was added to the survey.
Please note three items were removed from this question in 2013. Caution must be taken when comparing the responses in this question.

Table 20: Would councillors recommend the role to others, England 2006–2013

	2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	15045	76.4	16050	81.8	15118	83.4	14928	82.4
No	1224	6.2	1447	7.4	1167	6.4	1283	7.1
Don't know	1802	9.2	1820	9.3	1548	8.5	1605	8.9
Not known	1618	8.2	300	1.5	296	1.6	295	1.6
Base (population)	19689		19617		18129		18111	

Table 21: Do councillors intend to stand for re-election, England 2004–2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	10611	54.0	12076	61.3	10694	54.5	12203	67.3	11819	65.3
No	2490	12.7	2250	11.4	3108	15.8	2455	13.5	2716	15.0
Don't know	6050	30.8	3948	20	5616	28.6	3305	18.2	3439	19.0
Not answered	506	2.6	1415	7.2	200	1	166	0.9	138	0.8
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	

Table 22: How committed councillors think their authorities are to specific activities, England 2010–2013

	2010								2013							
	Fully		Partially		Not committed		Don't know		Fully		Partially		Not committed		Don't know	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Inviting people to have their say on local services	9168	50.6	6962	38.4	1465	8.1	535	3.0	11233	63.0	5435	30.5	1055	5.9	94	0.5
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	8237	46.6	7082	40.0	2154	12.2	219	1.2
Inviting people to have a role in allocating resources within their neighbourhood or community	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5040	28.5	7542	42.7	4603	26.1	472	2.7
Encouraging people to be more engaged with democratic processes	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7824	44.2	6678	37.7	2941	16.6	256	1.4
Having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues	6686	36.9	6880	38.0	3161	17.4	1402	7.7	6502	37.0	6952	39.6	3338	19.0	773	4.4
Providing relevant practical support for elected members	6439	35.5	7865	43.4	2963	16.3	863	4.8	7639	43.3	7285	41.3	2447	13.9	274	1.6
Base respondents	18129								17644							

Some of the options were changed in the 2013 survey. Caution must be taken when making comparisons.

Table 23: Current circumstances, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2018		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In full-time paid employment	5358	27.2	4793	24.7	4346	23.5	4133	22.0	3586	21.0	3361	19.2
In part-time paid employment	1886	9.6	2089	10.8	1924	10.4	1862	9.9	1620	9.5	1657	9.5
Self-employed	3125	15.9	3181	16.4	2948	16.0	3047	16.2	2493	14.6	2798	16.0
Unemployed	411	2.1	403	2.1	360	1.9	242	1.3	297	1.7	345	2.0
Retired	7240	36.8	7512	38.7	7548	40.9	8193	43.5	8082	47.2	8165	46.6
Permanently sick or disabled	470	2.4	339	1.7	247	1.3	183	1.0	117	0.7		
Looking after home/family	685	3.5	602	3.1	601	3.3	645	3.4	472	2.8	529	3.0
In full-time education	36	0.2	60	0.3	36	0.2	69	0.4	59	0.3	57	0.3
Not working for other reason	466	2.4	447	2.3	465	2.5	440	2.3	381	2.2	612	3.5
Base (respondents)	19676		19426		18475		18813		17107		17523	

Items have changed therefore caution must be taken when making comparisons for this question, particularly for the 'other' category.

Table 24: Current occupation, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Managerial or executive	3691	36.3	3528	36.7	3329	40.0	3070	36.9	2977	36.9	2840	39.2
Professional or technical	2874	28.2	2702	28.1	2523	30.4	2713	32.6	2633	32.6	2351	32.5
Lecturer, teacher or researcher	996	9.8	886	9.2	734	8.8	744	8.9	708	8.8	546	7.5
Admin/clerical/ secretarial/ sales	1491	14.7	1322	13.8	898	10.8	1010	12.1	1004	12.4	914	12.6
Manual or craft	1128	11.1	1172	12.2	827	9.9	781	9.4	744	9.2	587	8.1
Base (respondents)	10177		9610		8310		8319		8066		7238	

Only councillors in employment.

Table 25: Employment sector, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2018		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local government	1171	11.5	892	9.0	944	10.6	681	7.7	640	7.7	493	6.7
Central government	481	4.7	356	3.6	390	4.4	382	4.3	340	4.1	396	5.4
NHS	521	5.1	506	5.1	390	4.4	332	3.8	287	3.4	240	3.3
Other public sector	1125	11.1	1115	11.2	916	10.3	879	10.0	771	9.3	842	11.5
Private sector	6232	61.3	6585	66.1	5750	64.7	6110	69.3	5706	68.5	4783	65.4
Voluntary sector	630	6.2	509	5.1	493	5.5	437	5.0	586	7.0	559	7.6
Base (respondents)	10162		9963		8883		8821		8330		7313	

Only councillors in employment.

Table 26: Does employer support work as a councillor, England 2013

	2013	
	No.	%
To a great extent	1762	37.2
To some extent	1870	39.5
Not at all	861	18.2
Employer is not aware I am a councillor	147	3.1
Base (respondents that were employees)	4734	100.0

Only councillors in employment.
Response options changed in 2013 and therefore not comparable with previous years.

Table 27: Additional voluntary activities, England 2013

	2013	
	No.	%
School governorship	6730	37.2
Magistrate	473	2.6
Other	7921	43.7
No additional activities	6048	33.4
Base (population)	18111	

More than one response could be given so percentages do not sum to 100.
Response options changed in 2013 and therefore not comparable with previous years.

Table 28: Highest qualification held (NVQ equivalents), England 2004–2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	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	10658	58.8
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	2356	13.0
Trade Apprenticeship	1131	5.8	961	4.9	641	3.3	759	4.2	725	4.0
NVQ 2: GCSE/ GCE O level/ School Certificate/ NVQ2	2488	12.7	2478	12.6	2077	10.6	2178	12.0	2034	11.2
Below NVQ level 2: CSE (other than grade 1)/NVQ 1	325	1.7	244	1.2	209	1.1	211	1.2	249	1.4
Other	790	4.0	986	5.0	878	4.5	749	4.1	691	3.8
None of these	2751	14.0	2936	14.9	3538	18.0	1636	9.0	943	5.2
Base (population)	19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	

Table 29: Gender profile, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	14137	70.7	13825	70.3	13645	69.3	13417	68.4	12411	68.5	12192	67.3
Female	5703	28.5	5711	29.1	5774	29.3	6038	30.8	5545	30.6	5748	31.7
Not Known	158	0.8	121	0.6	271	1.4	162	0.8	173	1.0	171	0.9
Base (population)	19998		19657		19689	100.0	19617		18129		18111	

Table 30: Age profile, England 2004–2013

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 25	62	0.3	58	0.3	110	0.6	124	0.8	106	0.6
25–29	222	1.2	273	1.5	308	1.6	221	1.4	298	1.7
30–34	423	2.3	430	2.4	403	2.1	378	2.4	471	2.7
35–39	626	3.4	656	3.6	643	3.4	454	2.9	493	2.8
40–44	1077	5.9	1036	5.7	1022	5.4	662	4.2	738	4.2
45–49	1494	8.2	1368	7.5	1378	7.3	1068	6.8	1094	6.3
50–54	2148	11.8	1877	10.3	1746	9.3	1494	9.5	1515	8.7
55–59	3312	18.2	2992	16.4	2638	14.0	1944	12.4	2131	12.2
60–64	3465	19.0	3730	20.5	4119	21.9	3086	19.7	2970	17.0
65–69	2846	15.6	3009	16.5	3275	17.4	3232	20.6	3779	21.6
70+	2520	13.8	2778	15.3	3175	16.9	2997	19.1	3875	22.2
Base (respondents)	18195	92.6	18207	92.5	18819	95.9	15660	86.4	17471	100.0
Average age in years	57.8		58.3		58.8		59.7		60.2	
Proportion under 45	2410	13.1	2453	13.5	2486	13.1	1839	11.7	2106	12.0

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

Table 31: Ethnic origin profile, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	19355	97.3	18765	96.5	17855	95.9	18716	96.6	16823	96.3	16892	96.0
Mixed	62	0.3	114	0.6	127	0.7	82	0.4	106	0.6	69	0.4
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	499	2.8
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	102	0.6
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	0.0	–	–
Ethnicity summary												
White	19355	97.3	18765	96.5	17855	95.9	18176	96.6	16823	96.3	16892	96.0
Other ethnic background	531	2.7	674	3.5	764	4.1	633	3.4	640	3.7	704	4.0
Base (respondents)	19886		19439		18618		18808		17463		17596	

Ethnic groups were changed in 2004 therefore only limited comparisons can be made with previous years. Chinese was included within 'Asian' backgrounds in 2013. In previous years it has been a separate category.

Table 32: Long-term health problems or disabilities, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term illness, health problem	2587	12.9	2443	12.4	2138	10.9	2602	13.3	2563	14.1	2383	13.2
Base (population)	19998		19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	

Table 33: Caring responsibilities, England 2001–2013

	2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Child/children			2743	14.0	2737	13.9	2641	13.5	2251	12.4	2625	14.5
Partner			1603	8.2	1521	7.7	1825	9.3	1432	7.9	1430	7.9
Relative			1138	5.8	994	5.0	1374	7.0	1163	6.4	1368	7.6
Other			219	1.1	207	1.1	322	1.6	238	1.3	362	2.0
One or more caring responsibility	5492	27.6	4916	25.0	4757	24.2	5099	26.0	4396	24.2	5044	27.9
No caring responsibilities	14506	72.4	14741	75.0	14932	75.8	14518	74.0	13733	75.8	13067	72.1
Base (population)	19998		19657		19689		19617		18129		18111	

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

Annex C: Comparison with Labour Force Survey data

	England		East Midlands		East of England		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Greater London	
	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %
Gender																				
Male	49.0	67.3	49.1	68.7	49.2	70.3	48.7	59.0	48.8	65.8	48.7	68.6	48.8	70.4	48.9	67.8	49.1	64.4	49.5	63.0
Female	51.0	31.7	50.9	29.9	50.8	29.2	51.3	40.7	51.2	32.9	51.3	30.4	51.2	28.5	51.1	31.6	50.9	35.0	50.5	36.0
Age																				
18–24	11.7	0.6	12.5	0.4	10.4	0.8	13.0	0.4	12.5	0.9	10.8	0.5	10.8	0.2	11.5	0.9	13.3	1.1	11.6	0.2
25–29	9.3	1.7	8.5	0.8	8.5	1.8	8.9	1.7	9.1	1.9	8.2	1.8	7.8	0.7	8.9	2.3	9.7	0.9	12.9	3.2
30–34	8.5	2.7	7.4	2.1	8.1	1.7	7.4	2.2	7.6	3.0	8.0	2.2	7.0	1.1	7.7	2.9	7.9	3.1	13.0	6.8
35–39	7.9	2.8	7.5	2.7	7.9	2.0	6.9	2.3	7.4	2.7	7.9	2.7	7.1	2.0	7.5	2.9	7.4	1.5	10.0	6.4
40–44	9.0	4.2	9.0	4.4	9.1	4.1	8.4	4.6	8.8	3.6	9.2	4.8	8.5	2.3	9.0	5.4	8.6	3.8	9.7	5.2
45–49	9.4	6.3	9.4	5.3	9.5	6.7	9.4	5.0	9.5	5.1	9.7	6.0	9.2	7.1	9.3	7.4	9.2	5.6	9.1	7.7
50–54	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.1	8.7	9.2	9.1	7.6	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.0	8.7	7.6	8.6	8.0	8.6	10.1	7.7	10.9
55–59	7.3	12.2	7.6	10.9	7.6	12.5	7.8	14.2	7.6	13.9	7.6	10.9	7.8	12.4	7.6	11.4	7.4	12.8	5.9	12.9
60–64	6.9	17.0	7.4	18.6	7.4	16.3	7.2	20.5	7.2	17.4	7.3	15.9	7.9	17.3	7.1	16.1	7.0	24.5	4.9	11.6
65–69	6.8	21.6	7.3	23.6	7.3	21.3	6.9	22.2	7.0	21.5	7.1	23.2	8.0	24.1	7.4	19.2	6.8	20.5	4.6	17.2
70+	14.6	22.2	14.8	23.1	15.6	23.5	15.0	19.4	14.6	21.0	15.4	24.1	17.2	25.3	15.3	23.4	14.4	15.9	10.6	17.9
Ethnicity																				
White	87.7	96.0	91.4	97.1	92.8	97.3	94.9	100.0	91.5	96.4	92.6	97.2	96.3	99.2	86.2	95.2	91.2	98.0	63.6	84.3
Mixed	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	2.2	0.9
Asian	6.8	2.8	5.5	2.3	3.7	1.9	3.8	0.0	5.5	2.1	4.5	2.0	1.6	0.1	9.0	3.9	5.6	0.8	17.2	11.8
Black	2.8	0.6	1.6	0.4	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.3	2.5	0.4	1.9	0.0	10.7	2.1
Other	1.8	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.7	0.4	6.3	0.9
Health problem																				
Yes	26.3	13.3	21.5	15.3	19.2	11.6	24.9	16.8	23.5	14.5	17.9	11.4	20.9	13.9	22.1	16.1	21.9	14.4	16.4	8.9
Employment status																				
Full-time	37.3	19.2	36.5	16.3	39.8	18.9	35.5	17.5	36.2	20.8	38.7	21.0	34.7	13.6	35.8	18.3	36.2	14.8	39.7	27.3
Part-time	13.2	9.5	13.9	10.7	12.5	8.2	12.1	10.0	13.7	8.7	13.6	8.3	13.9	9.2	13.7	11.8	14.2	10.6	11.5	10.1
Self-employed	8.7	16.0	7.4	13.9	9.2	18.7	6.2	10.6	7.1	11.5	9.8	16.6	10.1	19.3	7.4	15.5	7.2	16.8	10.8	17.6
Unemployed	4.7	2.0	4.7	2.1	3.8	1.8	5.9	3.1	4.9	2.1	3.5	2.0	3.4	0.9	5.9	1.6	5.3	2.5	5.5	2.4
Retired	21.3	46.6	22.6	51.3	22.3	47.0	22.4	50.4	21.8	49.5	21.8	46.2	25.2	50.8	22.5	45.9	22.0	44.3	14.3	34.4
Sickness/ disability	4.6		5.1		3.3		7.0		6.3		3.3		4.3		5.0		4.8		4.0	
Looking after family, home	5.0	3.0	4.6	2.7	4.8	2.8	4.9	2.1	4.9	3.0	4.8	3.7	4.0	3.1	5.2	2.3	5.0	3.9	6.1	2.8
In full-time education	3.5	0.3	3.6	0.0	2.5	0.3	4.4	0.7	3.1	0.5	2.6	0.1	2.6	0.2	3.0	0.7	3.7	0.6	5.7	0.3
Not working other	1.8	3.5	1.7	3.0	1.8	2.2	1.5	5.6	2.0	3.9	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.9	1.6	3.9	1.5	6.7	2.3	5.0

	England		East Midlands		East of England		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Greater London	
	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %	Pop %	Cllr %
Employment sector																				
Local gov or council	10.9	6.7	11.3	9.2	11.7	6.6	10.9	8.6	11.5	8.2	9.4	5.5	11.1	2.5	12.4	7.4	12.9	8.5	9.0	7.1
Central	2.2	5.4	2.3	4.4	1.7	2.7	4.0	11.1	2.4	8.5	2.1	3.3	2.2	4.7	1.2	7.0	2.1	8.7	2.8	5.8
Health authority or NHS trust	6.3	3.3	6.6	3.5	5.5	2.9	8.7	6.8	7.6	4.3	5.8	2.9	6.2	1.6	6.1	4.8	7.7	4.8	5.0	1.7
Other public sector	6.4	11.5	4.4	12.3	6.9	10.1	5.0	15.9	6.1	12.7	7.6	11.0	5.6	8.1	4.8	15.0	5.3	8.1	8.6	12.9
Private firm or business or ltd	71.4	65.4	73.3	65.7	71.5	72.3	68.8	41.1	70.2	56.1	72.1	72.2	71.2	76.6	73.2	57.4	70.0	61.4	71.1	61.2
Charity, voluntary	2.7	7.6	2.2	5.0	2.6	5.4	2.7	16.4	2.2	10.2	3.0	5.2	3.6	6.5	2.2	8.5	2.0	8.5	3.5	11.2
Highest qualification																				
NVQ Level 4 and above	35.3	58.8	31.4	51.5	33.4	54.7	25.9	52.1	31.1	55.4	39.0	62.0	34.4	55.7	28.8	62.8	30.3	56.7	49.6	74.7
NVQ Level 3	16.8	13.0	17.6	12.6	16.9	13.9	19.1	12.6	17.1	13.4	17.0	13.3	18.8	13.6	16.4	13.3	17.9	15.1	13.4	8.9
Trade Apprenticeships	4.0	4.0	3.9	5.8	4.0	4.2	5.3	6.0	4.6	4.7	3.8	2.9	5.2	5.1	4.3	1.8	4.7	5.6	1.7	1.9
NVQ Level 2	15.3	11.2	16.5	13.8	17.2	13.8	18.2	8.8	16.3	11.7	15.2	10.5	15.7	12.9	16.1	11.3	16.3	9.1	10.3	6.3
Below NVQ Level 2	11.8	1.4	12.6	1.4	13.2	2.1	13.3	3.3	12.5	0.9	11.9	0.9	12.1	1.5	11.9	1.6	13.0	1.4	8.1	0.7
Other Qualifications	6.7	3.8	7.4	4.7	6.2	2.9	5.5	5.5	6.3	4.8	5.8	3.0	5.4	4.4	7.6	3.1	6.8	4.2	8.7	3.6
No Qualifications	10.1	5.2	10.6	7.0	9.0	5.5	12.8	7.8	12.2	6.4	7.2	4.9	8.5	4.1	14.9	3.6	11.0	5.6	8.1	3.3

*Population percentages taken from the 2011 Census for over-16s.
**Not included in 2013 Census of Local Authority Councillors.

Annex D: Copy of questionnaire

NATIONAL CENSUS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCILLORS 2013

Local authority name:

The Local Government Association is the national voice of local government. Please help to ensure that our work is based on an up-to-date understanding of councillors by completing this Census, either on paper or online at **www.nfer.ac.uk/LGCL**. It should take no longer than **ten minutes** to complete.

If completing the paper survey, please use **black ink**.

If completing online, when prompted, please simply enter your unique log-in ID which is on the top right hand corner of this survey. 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.

If you are a councillor in more than one English authority, you will receive more than one survey – please respond separately in respect of each council.

NFER will share all anonymised responses with the LGA for statistical purposes. Any such data will only be used by the LGA on an aggregated basis.

If you <u>do not want</u> your anonymised responses to be passed to the LGA please tick this box: ☐

Should you have any queries, please contact Michael Neaves on 01753 637014 or m.neaves@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?
(If less than one year, please enter 1) _____ (in years)

LGCL   National Foundation for Education Research,
The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berks. SL1 2DQ   **40011**

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 Area forum/cttee	☐ 8
Deputy Mayor	☐ 2	Chair/Vice-Chair of Regulatory cttee e.g. licensing, planning etc.	☐ 9
Leader of the authority	☐ 3	Chair/Vice-Chair of Standards cttee	☐ 10
Deputy Leader of the authority	☐ 4	Chair/Vice-Chair of Main Policy cttee	☐ 11
Chair/Vice-Chair of council/ Civic Mayor	☐ 5	Chair/Vice-Chair Other Major cttee	☐ 12
Cabinet/Executive member	☐ 6	Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Partnership Main group	☐ 13
Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	☐ 7	Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Partnership Sub group	☐ 14

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
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3

A5 **Are you a member of any of the following local partnership groups/boards?** *(please tick all relevant)*

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	☐ 1
Health and Wellbeing Board	☐ 2
Local Enterprise Partnership	☐ 3
Community Safety Board	☐ 4
Other (please write in)	_____
Other (please write in)	_____

A6 **Please indicate the average number of hours per week you spend on council business for this authority (excluding group/party business):** *(round to the nearest hour)* ☐

A7 **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, etc. (incl. prep)	☐	Hrs
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, constituent enquiries, etc. (incl. prep)	☐	Hrs
Working with community groups, community engagement, etc (incl. prep)	☐	Hrs
Other e.g. external meetings, seminars, training, travel related to council, etc.	☐	Hrs

A8 Please indicate the average number of hours per week you spend on group/party business in this authority:
(round to the nearest hour)

A9 When last elected, for which political party did you stand as a candidate?
(please tick one only)

Conservatives ☐ 1   Independent/Residents' Association ☐ 4

Labour ☐ 2   UK Independence Party ☐ 5

Liberal Democrats ☐ 3   Greens ☐ 6

Other, please write in below: ☐ 7

A10 Have you changed political party since you were last elected as a Councillor?

Yes ☐   No ☐

A11 If you have changed party since you were last elected, please indicate your current party: *(please tick one only)*

Conservatives ☐ 1   Independent/Residents' Association ☐ 4

Labour ☐ 2   UK Independence Party ☐ 5

Liberal Democrats ☐ 3   Greens ☐ 6

Other, please write in below: ☐ 7

A12 Please indicate if you are 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

A13 Please indicate which of the following training and development opportunities you have received in the last 12 months: *(please tick all relevant)*

An induction ☐ 1   Mentoring/coaching ☐ 6

A personal development plan ☐ 2   Other member development programmes ☐ 7

Training needs questionnaire ☐ 3   Skills training e.g. IT, chairing skills, speed reading ☐ 8

Seminars/conferences ☐ 4   Other, please write in below: ☐ 9

Any LGA training ☐ 5

A14 Please indicate which of the following you would find beneficial to your work as a Councillor: *(please tick all relevant)*

Media training ☐ 1   Better information on the role of ward/division councillor e.g. job description ☐ 5

Administrative support ☐ 2   Social media and online tools ☐ 6

Political skills training ☐ 3   Better information on community engagement and development ☐ 7

Better facilities to hold surgeries ☐ 4   Other resources or learning, please write in below: ☐ 8

[blank box]

If you ticked any of items 1–8 which, for you, is the most important? [blank box]

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	Use	3 Most useful
PC / laptop / tablet	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Broadband	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
Remote log-in / access to council system	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
Smartphone (e.g. Blackberry)	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
Mobile phone (no internet access)	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
Telephone conferencing/Skype	☐ 6	☐ 6	☐ 6
Council e-mail address	☐ 7	☐ 7	☐ 7

A16 Please indicate which of the following online tools are available to you, which you use, and which you find most useful in your work as Councillor: *(please tick as appropriate)*

	Available	Use	Most useful
Own webpage	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Blog	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
Twitter account	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
Facebook page	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
YouTube	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5

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 below: ☐ 7

To change things ☐ 4   [blank box]

B2 **Please indicate which of the following are the most important things for Councillors to do?** *(please tick up to three things)*

Listen to the views of local people ☐ 1   Plan local services ☐ 6

Support the local community ☐ 2   Deal with complaints ☐ 7

Hold surgeries for constituents ☐ 3   Keep the public informed about council activities ☐ 8

Address issues concerning the whole area ☐ 4   Represent local residents' views to the council ☐ 9

Attend council meetings ☐ 5

B3 **To what extent would you be able to continue to fulfil your role as a Councillor without the current package of benefits available to you?** *(please tick one only)*

Fully/to a great extent ☐ 1   Not at all ☐ 4

To some extent ☐ 2   Don't know ☐ 5

To a small extent ☐ 3

B4 **Which statement best describes your view of your influence as a Councillor:** *(please tick one only)*

I feel that I have more influence to change things in my area than I expected before I was elected ☐ 1

I feel that I have less influence to change things in my area than I expected before I was elected ☐ 2

I feel that I have about as much influence to change things in my area as I expected before I was elected ☐ 3

B5 **To what extent do you think you are effective in your role as a Councillor in this authority?** *(please tick one only)*

Very effective ☐ 1   Not at all effective ☐ 4

Effective ☐ 2   Don't know/too early to say ☐ 5

Not very effective ☐ 3

B6 **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	☐	☐	☐	☐
At work	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community events	☐	☐	☐	☐
With family	☐	☐	☐	☐

B7 **Would you recommend becoming a Councillor if you were asked?** *(please tick one only)*

Yes ☐ 1   No ☐ 2   Don't know ☐ 3

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

Yes ☐ 1   No ☐ 2   Don't know ☐ 3

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

	Fully committed	Partially committed	Not committed	Don't know
	1	2	3	4
Inviting people to have a say on services provided locally through consultation and feedback	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enabling people and communities to have an influence locally through active programmes of engagement	☐	☐	☐	☐
Inviting people to have a role in allocating resources within their neighbourhood or community	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encouraging people to be more engaged with democratic processes, e.g. voting, council meetings, scrutiny	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having mechanisms to organise inquiries about contentious issues	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing relevant practical support for elected members so they can act more effectively as local leaders	☐	☐	☐	☐

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 circumstances, excluding work as a Councillor:** *(please tick the main one)*

In full-time paid employment ☐ 1
In part-time employment ☐ 2
Self-employed or freelance ☐ 3
Unemployed ☐ 4
Retired ☐ 5
Not in paid work – looking after home/family ☐ 6
Not in paid work - in full-time education ☐ 7
Not in paid work for some other reason ☐ 8

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

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 in which you work:** *(please tick one only)*

Public – local government ☐ 1

Public – central government ☐ 2

Public - NHS ☐ 3

Public – other public sector ☐ 4

Private sector ☐ 5

Voluntary ☐ 6

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

To a great extent ☐ 1

To some extent ☐ 2

Not at all ☐ 3

Employer is not aware I am a Councillor ☐ 4

Don't know ☐ 5

C5 **Do you hold any voluntary/unpaid positions in addition to your main job and work as a Councillor?** *(please tick all relevant)*

School governor ☐ 1   Magistrate ☐ 2   Other ☐ 3

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

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: Male ☐ Female ☐
(please tick one only)

C8 Please enter your age in years: ☐

C9 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):
(Office for National Statistics categories)

A. White

British ☐ 1

English ☐ 2

Scottish ☐ 3

Welsh ☐ 4

Irish ☐ 5

Gypsy or Irish Traveller ☐ 6

Any other White background, please write in below: ☐ 7

B. Mixed/Multiple

White and Black Caribbean ☐ 8

White and Black African ☐ 9

White and Asian ☐ 10

Any other Mixed background, please write in below: ☐ 11

C. Black, African, Caribbean, Black British

African ☐ 12

Caribbean ☐ 13

Any other Black background, please write in below: ☐ 14

D. Asian, Asian British

Indian ☐ 15

Pakistani ☐ 16

Bangladeshi ☐ 17

Chinese ☐ 18

Any other Asian background, please write in below: ☐ 19

E. Other

Arab ☐ 20

Any other ethnic group, please write in below: ☐ 21

C10 Do you have any long-term health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do and that has lasted or is expected to last at least twelve months? *(please tick if you have)* ☐ Yes

C11 Please indicate whether you have any caring responsibilities:
(please tick all relevant)

Child/Children ☐ 1   Partner ☐ 2   Relative ☐ 3   Other ☐ 4

Thank you for completing this survey

Please return to NFER in the pre-paid envelope provided to:
Research Operations, The NFER, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, SL1 2DQ

For further information, please contact:

Local Government Association
Local Government House, Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ
Telephone: 020 7664 3000
www.local.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7664 3000
Fax: 020 7664 3030
Email: research@local.gov.uk