National census of local authority councillors 2018

REPORT OF THE
COUNCILLORS' CENSUS 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Association (LGA) has carried out the eighth Census of Local Authority Councillors in England. This census provides the most comprehensive, timely overview of local government representation and, with previous years' data, how that has changed over time. The results will help to inform central and local government and political groups in the development of strategies and policies for local government.

The 2018 Census collected data between September and November 2018 and updates previous censuses conducted over 1997-2013.

The 2018 Census was the first to be conducted entirely online. All 17,770 councillors in England were emailed a unique link to the questionnaire. A total of 2,627 councillors responded, a response rate of 15 per cent. This is lower than previous censuses and is most likely due to the move from a paper-based exercise (see below).

In this report, the data have been grossed to show estimates for all councillors in England. Please see Annex A for details. Annex C compares the profile of councillors with those of the adult population as a whole.

More detailed information mapping the results of the census by type of authority, region, gender, age, ethnicity and political group are available from the following website: http://www.local.gov.uk/.

Response

The 2018 response rate of 15 per cent compares with 38 per cent in 2013, 33 per cent in 2010, and 45 per cent in 2008. Prior to 2018, the Census was entirely, or primarily, a paper-based exercise, and although there is no hard evidence, the most likely reason for the fall in response is the move to an entirely online exercise in 2018. A variety of measures taken to improve response are described in Annex A.

The actual number of respondents, 2,627, is sufficient to enable robust national estimates to be produced for all councillors assuming that there is no systematic bias among repondents. As far as can be gauged, there was no such bias – see Annex B for further details. The lower response does, however, limit the production of sub-national estimates. It also means that comparisons with previous Censuses should be treated with caution, particularly as in some cases questions have been changed (this is noted on relevant tables).

The response by type of authority and region is detailed in Annex A.

Scope

Questions in the 2018 Census, which were largely the same as in 2013, fell into three broad areas, shown below together with the relevant table. A full series of tables covering each question is shown towards the end of the report.

- Councillors' work:
    - length of service (Table 1)
    - positions of responsibility (Table 2)
    - membership of local partnership groups/boards (Table 3)
    - time spent on council/party business (Tables 4-7)
    - party representation (Tables 8-9)
    - membership of other councils (Table 10)
    - use of online resources (Table 11)
    - engagement with, and usefulness of, the LGA (Tables 12-14).

- Councillors' views on a range of areas:
    - reasons for becoming a councillor (Table 15)
    - important things that councillors do (Table 16)
    - influence of councillors (Table 17)
    - effectiveness of councillors (Table 18)
    - situations in which councillors talk about their work (Table 19)
    - whether councillors would recommend their role to others (Table 20)
    - intention to stand for re-election (Table 21)
    - arrangements for dealing with inappropriate behaviour (Table 22).

- Councillors' personal characteristics:
    - employment status (Tables 23-26)
    - voluntary/unpaid positions (Table 27)
    - highest qualification (Table 28)
    - sex (Table 29)
    - age (Table 30)
    - ethnicity (Table 31)
    - sexual orientation (Table 32)
    - health problems/disability (Table 33)
    - caring responsibilities (Table 34).

SUMMARY

The main findings of the 2018 Census were as follows:

Councillors' work

- On average, councillors had served for 9.2 years in their current authority; 47 per cent had served for up to 5 years while 11 per cent had done so for more than 20 years;
- 54 per cent of councillors held a position of responsibility, most commonly membership of the cabinet/executive;
- Councillors spent, on average, 22 hours per week on council business, the largest chunk of which was on council meetings (8 hours);
- 39 per cent of councillors were also members of another public body;

Councillors' views

- 85 per cent of councillors became councillors in order to serve their community;
- 60 per cent thought that representing local residents was among the most important role of councillors, and 51 per cent thought the same of supporting local communities;
- 34 per cent of councillors thought they were very effective in their role, and 57 per cent fairly effective;
- 85 per cent would recommend the role of councillor to others;
- 68 per cent intended to stand for re-election;

Councillors' personal characteristics

- 45 per cent of councillors were retired, and 26 per cent were in full- or part-time employment;
- 64 per cent of councillors held other voluntary or unpaid positions, such as school governorships;
- 68 per cent of councillors held a degree or equivalent qualification; only 3 per cent did not hold any qualification;
- 63 per cent of councillors were male, and 36 per cent female;
- The average age of councillors in 2018 was 59 years; 15 per cent were aged under-45 and 43 per cent were aged 65 or over.
- 96 per cent described their ethnic background as white;
- 88 per cent described their sexual orientation as heterosexual or straight;
- 16 per cent had a long-term health problem or disability which limited their daily activities;
- 36 per cent of councillors had a responsibility as a carer, most commonly looking after a child.

MAIN FINDINGS

This section covers a selection of survey findings together with the relevant [table](#).

Length of service (Table 1)

The average length of service in 2018 was 9.2 years, and has not varied greatly over the period 2004-2018, remaining between 8.3 and 9.5 years.

In 2018, 23.6 per cent of councillors had been a member of their current council for 1-2 years, and 23.0 per cent for 3-5 years. Just over one in ten (10.9 per cent) had served for more than 20 years.

Chart 1: Average length of service of councillors (2004-2018)
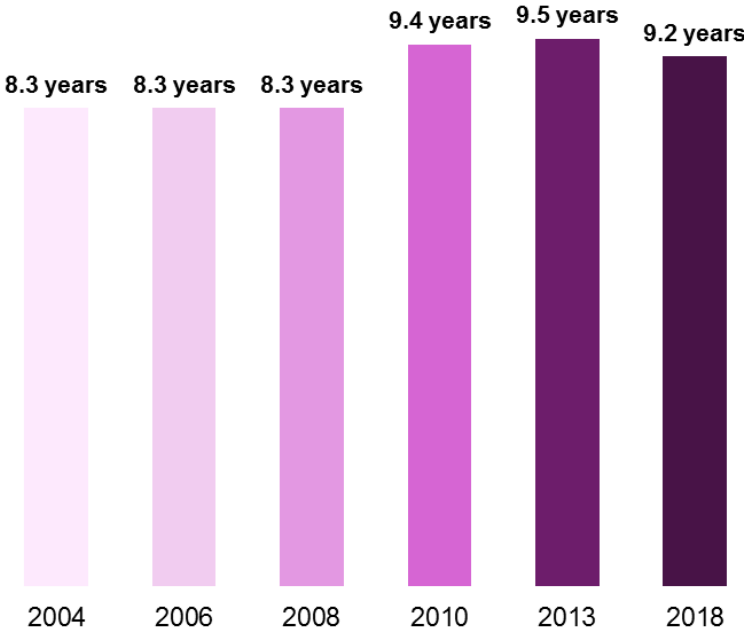
Positions of responsibility (Table 2)

In 2018, just over a half (53.5 per cent) of councillors held at least one position of responsibility, most commonly membership of the cabinet/executive (19.6 per cent). The proportion holding any position has not changed markedly over the 2004-2018 period.

Time spent on council business (Tables 4-7)

On average, councillors spent 22.0 hours per week on council business in 2018, compared with 20.8 hours in 2013. In 2018, 22.1 per cent spent 10 hours or fewer and 14.2 per cent spent more than 35 hours per week.

Chart 2: Distribution of weekly hours spent on council business (2018)
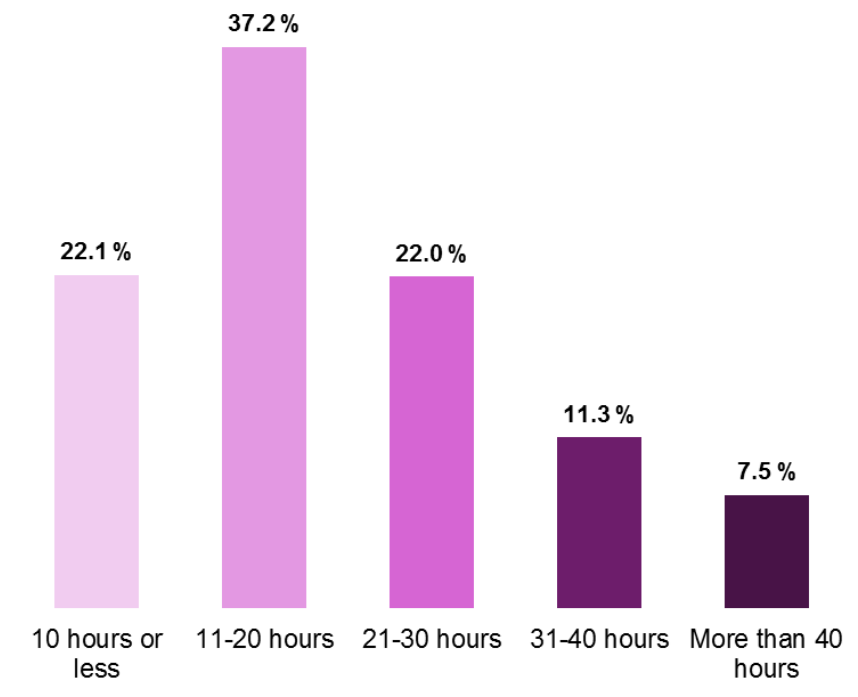
In 2018, the largest chunk of time was spent attending council meetings (8.1 hours on average), followed by engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquiries (6.2 hours), working with community groups (4.1 hours), and other items (3.6 hours).

Chart 3: Breakdown of time spent on council business (2018)
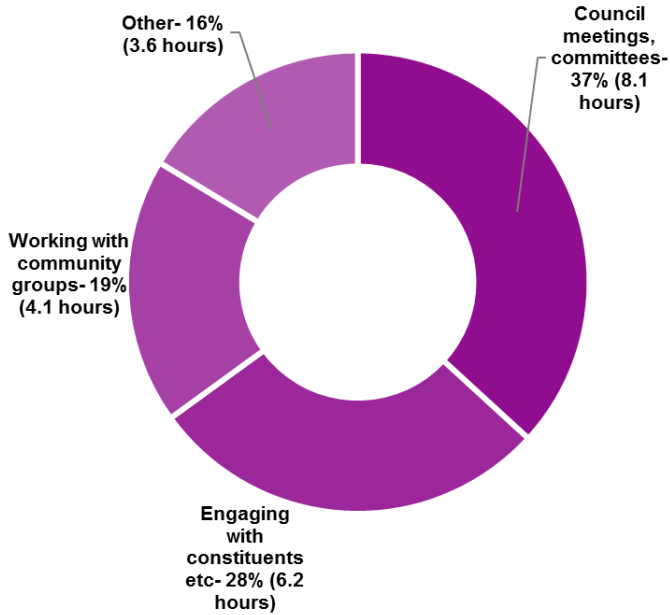
Time spent on group/party business (Table 5)

Councillors spent, on average, 4.3 hours per week on group/party business in 2018, the same as in 2013. Four out of five (79.2 per cent) spent 5 hours or less per week, and most of the remainder (15.8 per cent) spent 6-10 hours per week.

Membership of other public bodies (Table 10)

Around two in five councillors (38.9 per cent) were members of at least one other public body, a proportion that was virtually unchanged since 2013 (39.4 per cent).

Most commonly, councillors were members of other local authorities (17.9 per cent), parish councils (14.1 per cent) or town councils (12.8 per cent).

Reasons for becoming a councillor (Table 15)

More than four of five (84.6 per cent) became councillors in order to serve the community, and more than a half did so in order to change things (54.4 per cent) or for their political beliefs/values (52.9 per cent). The reasons for becoming a councillor have changed little between 2004 and 2018.

Chart 4: Reasons for becoming a councillor (2018)

To serve the community	84.6 %
To change things	54.4 %
For political beliefs/values	52.9 %
Because I was asked to	27.5 %
To resolve an issue	9.9 %
Other	4.8 %
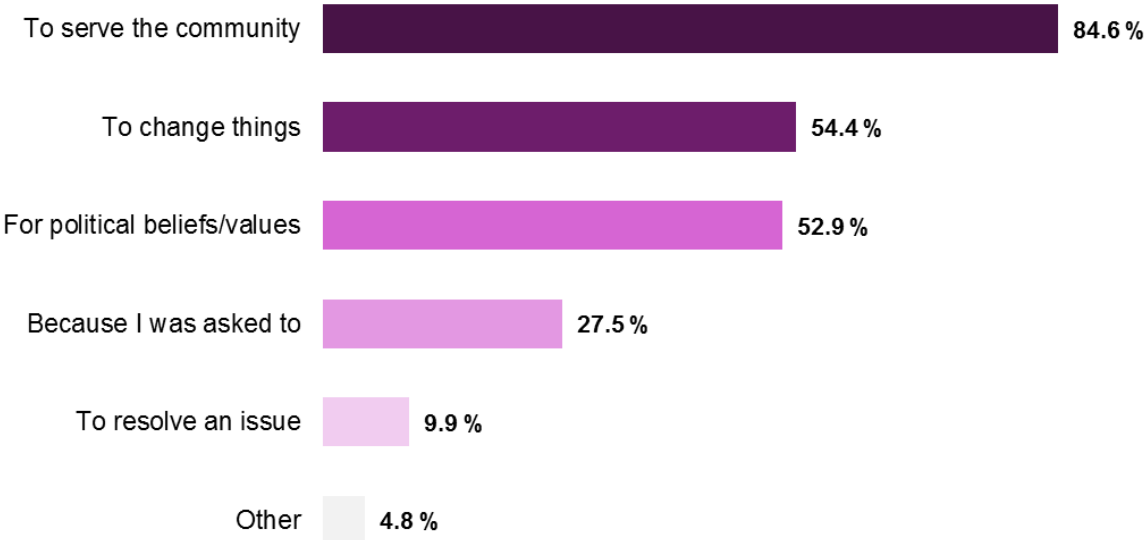
Most important things that councillors do (Table 16)

Three-fifths of councillors (60.4 per cent) thought that representing local residents was among the most important councillor roles. Supporting local communities (51.3 per cent), listening to the view of local people (48.7 per cent) and addressing issues (39.1 per cent) were also commonly cited.

(Note: respondents were allowed to indicate up to three items; the proportion reporting most of them fell between 2013 and 2018, but this may be an effect of moving from a paper-based to an online questionnaire. It was impossible for respondents to tick more than three items with the online system, whereas this could not be enforced on a paper questionnaire.)

Chart 5: Most important things that councillors do (2018)

Category	Percentage
Represent local residents	60.4%
Support the local community	51.3%
Listen to views of local people	48.7%
Address issues	39.1%
Attend council meetings	27.9%
Plan services	20.8%
Keep the public informed	17.5%
Deal with complaints	17.2%
Hold surgeries	9.1%
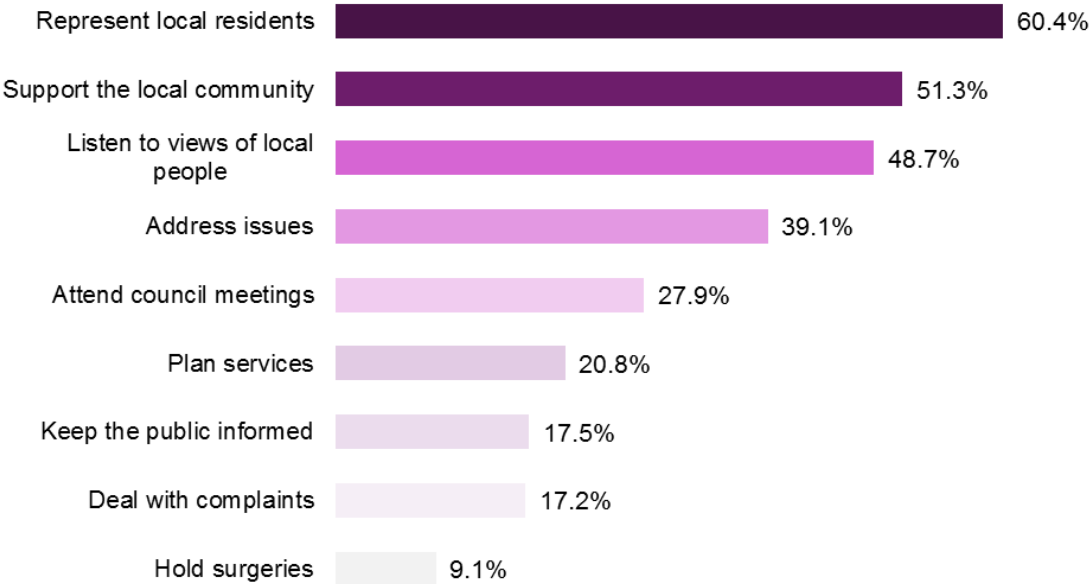
Influence of councillors (Table 17)

In 2018, 38.5 per cent of councillors thought that they had about as much influence to change things in their area as they expected before they were elected, while 37.7 per cent felt that they had more influence than expected and 23.8 per cent felt that they had less influence. These proportions have fluctuated slightly over 2006-2018 – the proportion feeling they had less influence has fallen fairly steadily from 29.3 per cent in 2006.

Effectiveness of councillors (Table 18)

Around a third of councillors (34.4 per cent) thought that they were very effective in their role in the council and 57.4 per cent rated themselves as fairly effective. Only 4.7 per cent regarded themselves as not very or not at all effective.

Since 2004, the proportion answering 'very effective' has increased (from 19.3 per cent) while the proportion answering 'fairly effective' has fallen (from 68.6 per cent).

Recommending the role of councillor (Table 20)

In 2018, 84.7 per cent of councillors would recommend the role to others, 5.6 per cent would not, and 9.7 per cent did not answer or could not say.

Intention to stand for re-election (Table 21)

Two-thirds of councillors (67.8 per cent) intended to stand at the next elections (19.0 per cent did not answer or didn't know).

Chart 6: Recommendation of the role and intention to stand for re-election (2004-2018)
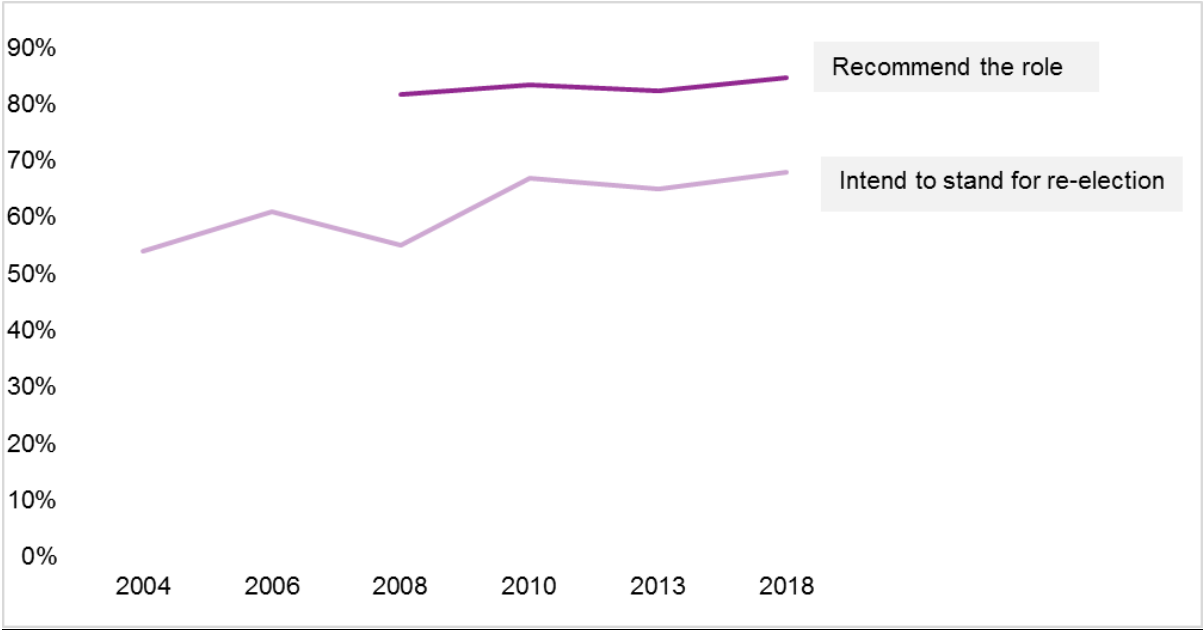
Arrangements for dealing with inappropriate behaviour (Table 22)

Most councillors thought that their council had appropriate arrangements in place to deal with inappopriate behaviour towards them in their role as councillors. The proportion was highest in respect of such behaviour by officers.

Chart 7: Arrangements in place to deal with inappropriate behaviour (2018)
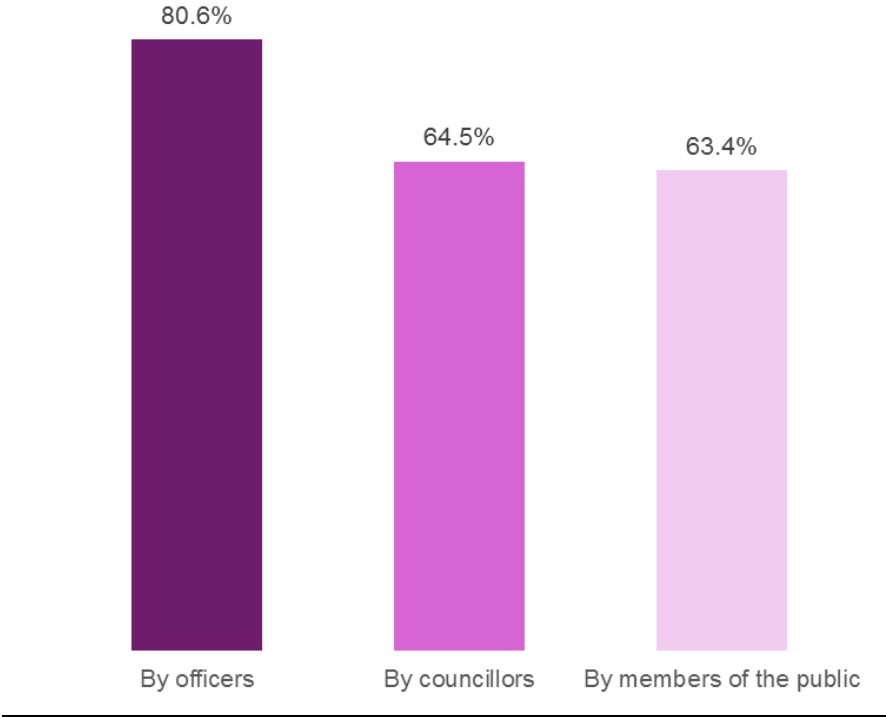
Employment status (Table 23)

In 2018, 45.1 per cent of councillors were retired. The proportion in full-time employment has fallen gradually from 24.7 per cent in 2004 to 16.2 per cent in 2018.

In the population as a whole (aged 18+), 21.6 per cent of people were retired and 33.6 per cent were in full-time employment (see Annex C).

Chart 8: Employment status (2004-2018)
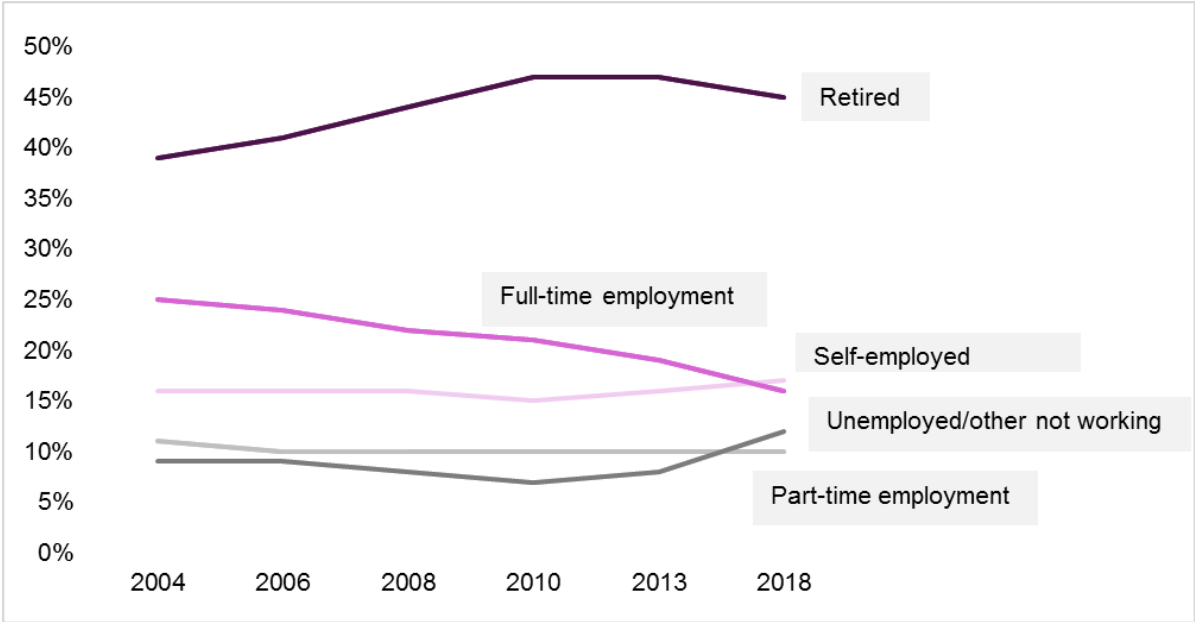
Voluntary activities (Table 27)

Almost two-thirds of councillors (64.4 per cent) held additional voluntary or unpaid positions. A quarter were school governors.

Highest qualification (Table 28)

More than two-thirds of councillors (67.5 per cent) had a degree or higher degree or some other qualification equivalent to NVQ level 4. This compares with around 50 per cent over the period 2004-2008. In 2018, just under a quarter (22.8 per cent) held a qualification equivalent to NVQ level 2 or 3. Only 3.1 per cent did not hold any qualification.

In the population as a whole (aged 18+), 40.0 per cent of people had a degree-level qualification and 7.5 per cent had no qualification (see Annex C).

Chart 9: Highest qualification held (2018)

Qualification	Percentage
NVQ4+ (degree etc)	68.0%
NVQ3 (A level etc)	14.0%
NVQ2 (GCSE etc)	9.0%
Trade apprenticeship	3.0%
Below NVQ2	1.0%
Other	3.0%
None	3.0%
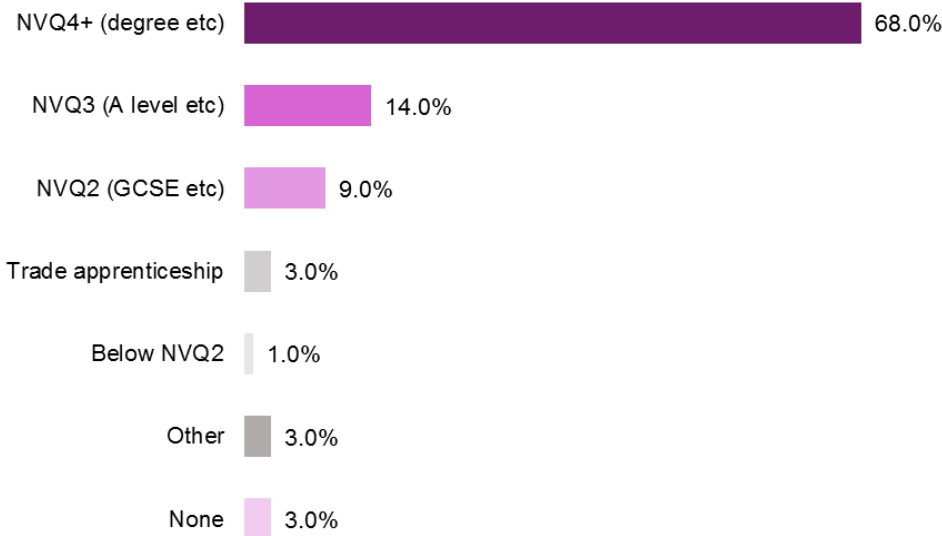
Sex (Table 29)

Just over three in five councillors were male in 2018 (63.3 per cent), and 35.7 per cent were female. There has been a gradual fall in the former and concomitant rise in the latter over 2004-2018.

Chart 10: Sex of councillors (2004-2018)
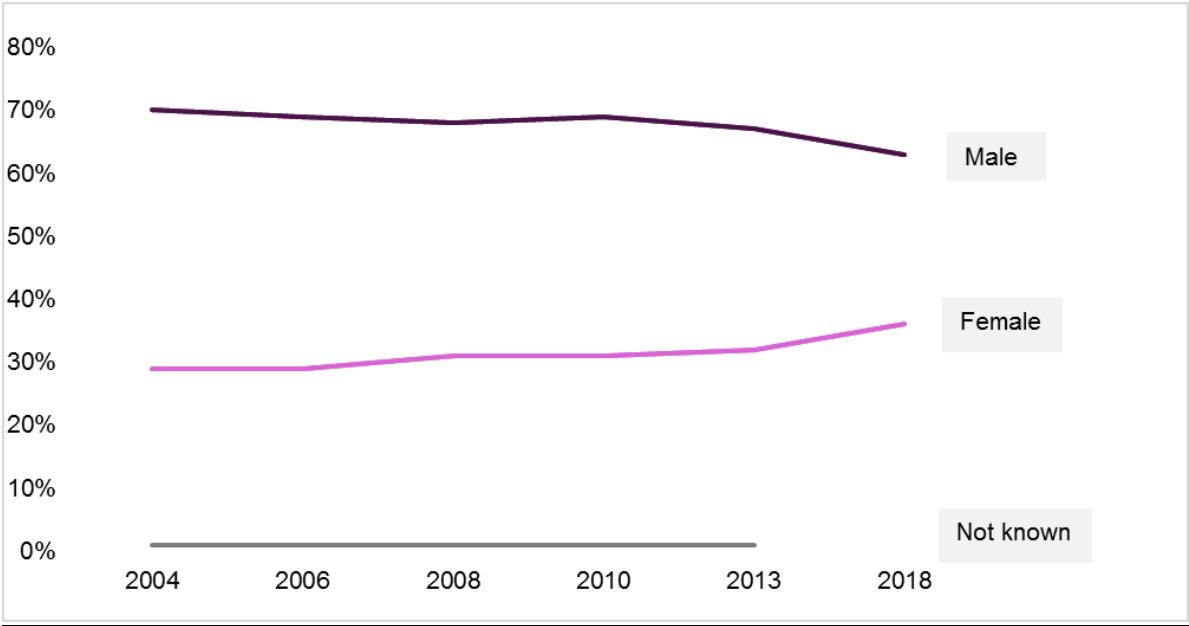
Age (Table 30)

The average age of councillors in 2018 was 59.4 years old, similar to that over the 2004-2018 period (in 2004 it was 57.8). The proportion aged under 45 was 14.8 per cent in 2018, while 42.9 per cent were aged 65 or over. Both the proportions aged over 60 and under 40 have increased slightly since 2004.

In the population as a whole (aged 18+), 44.6 per cent of people were aged under 45 and 22.7 per cent were aged 65 or over (see Annex C).

Chart 11: Age distribution of councillors (2004-2018)
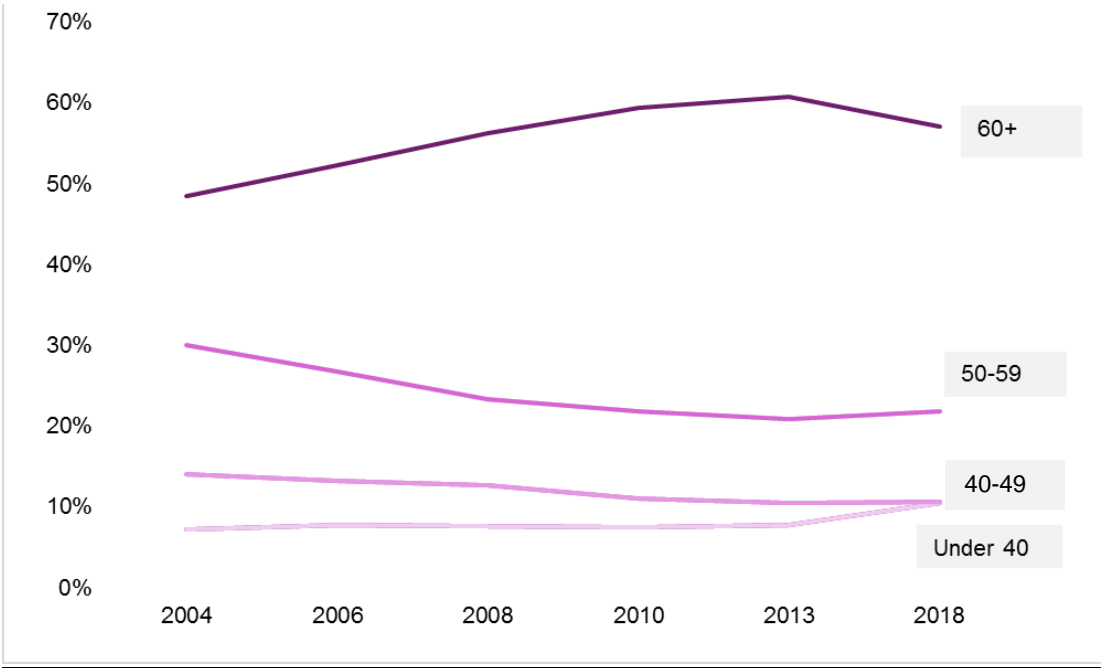
Ethnic origin (Table 31)

The proportion of councillors describing themselves as white was 95.8 per cent in 2018, a figure that has changed little since 2004.

Chart 12: Ethnicity of councillors (2018)
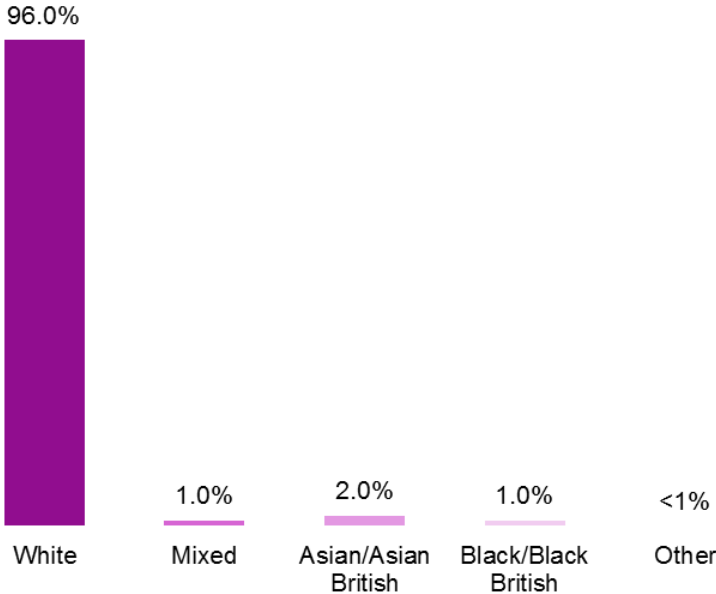
Sexual orientation (Table 32)

Around nine out of ten councillors (88.3 per cent) described themselves as heterosexual or straight, 4.2 per cent as gay or lesbian, 1.7 per cent as bisexual, 0.2 per cent as other, and 5.6 per cent preferred not to say.

Health problems (Table 33)

One in six councillors, 16.1 per cent, had a long-term health problem or disability which limited their daily activities or the work that they do and which had lasted or was expected to last for at least twelve months. Between 2004 and 2013 this proportion varied between 10.9 per cent and 14.1 per cent.

In the population as a whole (aged 18+), 20.4 per cent of people reported a long-term health problem (see Annex C).

Caring responsibilities (Table 34)

In 2018, more than a third of councillors (36.1 per cent) had responsibility as a carer, in around half of cases caring for a child or children (16.7 per cent). Most of the rest cared for a relative (10.0 per cent) or partner (8.0 per cent). The overall proportion with a caring responsibility had previously ranged between 24.2 per cent and 27.9 per cent between 2004 and 2013.

TABLES

Table 1: Length of service as a councillor (2004-2018)												
	2004		**2006**		**2008**		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
1–2 years	5,503	29.0	4,857	24.7	6,292	32.1	3,337	18.9	4,311	24.4	4,194	23.6
3–5 years	3,592	19.0	4,757	24.2	3,495	17.8	4,104	23.2	3,001	17.0	4,087	23.0
6–9 years	3,727	19.7	3,772	19.2	3,469	17.7	3,550	20.1	3,253	18.4	3,074	17.3
10–15 years	3,090	16.3	3,133	15.9	3,157	16.1	3,399	19.3	3,684	20.9	2,790	15.7
16–20 years	1,341	7.1	1,494	7.6	1,351	6.9	1,409	8.0	1,355	7.7	1,688	9.5
21–25 years	823	4.3	776	3.9	854	4.4	852	4.8	885	5.0	764	4.3
More than 25 years	855	4.5	901	4.6	1,000	5.1	1,001	5.7	1,157	6.6	1,173	6.6
Average years	8.3		8.3		8.3		9.4		9.5		9.2	
Base (respondents)	18,931		19,689		19,617		17,652		17,647		17,770	

Table 2: Leading responsibilities held (2004-2018)												
	2004		**2006**		**2008**		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Directly Elected Mayor	6	0.0	6	0.0	5	0.0	86	0.5	89	0.5	16	0.1
Deputy Mayor	279	1.4	314	1.6	338	1.7	261	1.4	292	1.6	341	1.9
Leader of the Authority	938	4.8	885	4.5	1,020	5.2	924	5.1	516	2.9	337	1.9
Deputy Leader of the Authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	557	3.1	455	2.6
Chair/Vice-Chair of Council/Civic Mayor	878	4.5	876	4.5	963	4.9	805	4.4	825	4.6	596	3.4
Cabinet/Executive Members	2,863	14.6	2,969	15.1	3,214	16.4	2,900	16.0	2,815	15.5	3,480	19.6
Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	2,633	13.4	2,476	12.6	2,532	12.9	2,341	12.9	1,938	10.7	1,574	8.9
Chair/Vice-Chair of Area Forum Committee	1,297	6.6	2,084	10.6	1,473	7.5	1,505	8.3	1,125	6.2	739	4.2
Chair/Vice-Chair of Regulatory committee	2,037	10.4	1,238	6.3	2,152	11.0	2,118	11.7	1,769	9.8	1,559	8.8
Chair/Vice-Chair of Standards Committee	307	1.6	312	1.6	288	1.5	211	1.2	494	2.7	408	2.3
Chair/Vice-Chair of Main Policy	439	2.2	416	2.1	555	2.8	481	2.7	510	2.8	596	3.4
Chair/Vice-Chair of Other Major Committee	859	4.4	1,000	5.1	1,292	6.6	1,393	7.7	1,779	9.8	1,743	9.8
Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Group	n/a	n/a	261	1.3	370	1.9	355	2.0	292	1.6	186	1.0
Chair/Vice-Chair of Local Strategic Sub Group	n/a	n/a	261	1.3	375	1.9	369	2.0	187	1.0	131	0.7
One or more positions	10,528	53.6	10,573	53.7	11,059	56.4	10,404	57.4	9,594	53.0	9,505	53.5
No positions	9,129	46.4	9,116	46.3	8,558	43.6	7,725	42.6	8,517	47.0	8,265	46.5
Party/Group Leader	1,392	7.1	1,414	7.2	1,448	7.4	1,180	6.5	1,372	7.6	1,460	8.2
Party/Group Deputy Leader	1,125	5.7	1,109	5.6	1,160	5.9	1,076	5.9	1,084	6.0	878	4.9
Other Party/ Group Official	2,667	13.6	2,646	13.4	2,719	13.9	2,374	13.1	2,582	14.3	2,540	14.3
Base (population)	19,657	100.0	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0

Notes: (1) more than one response (or no response) could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100;
(2) in 2004-2013, the process of grossing overstated the totals of directly elected mayors and council leaders and this was not corrected; in 2018, both numbers were constrained to known national totals.

Table 3: Membership of local partnership groups/boards (2013-2018)	2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
Health and Wellbeing board	1,687	9.3	1,816	10.2
Community Safety Board	931	5.1	877	4.9
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	948	5.2	688	3.9
Local Enterprise Partnership	593	3.3	606	3.4
Other	4,222	23.3	4,979	28.0
Any	6,497	35.9	6,007	33.8
None	11,614	64.1	11,763	66.2
Base (population)	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 4: Number of hours/week spent on council business (2013-2018)	2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
5 hours or less	916	5.2	755	4.3
6–10 hours	3,542	20.1	3,155	17.8
11–15 hours	2,823	16.0	3,072	17.3
16–20 hours	3,795	21.5	3,543	19.9
21–25 hours	1,886	10.7	1,875	10.6
26–30 hours	1,974	11.2	2,032	11.4
31–35 hours	600	3.4	820	4.6
36–40 hours	975	5.5	1,185	6.7
41–45 hours	247	1.4	412	2.3
46–50 hours	413	2.3	386	2.2
More than 50 hours	442	2.5	535	3.0
Average no. of hours	20.8		22.0	
Base (respondents)	17,613	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 5: Number of hours/week spent on group/party business (2013-2018)	2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
5 hours or less	13,552	80.2	14,066	79.2
6–10 hours	2,394	14.2	2,815	15.8
11–15 hours	435	2.6	415	2.3
16–20 hours	256	1.5	324	1.8
21–25 hours	77	0.5	58	0.3
26–30 hours	55	0.3	45	0.3
31–35 hours	15	0.1	19	0.1
36–40 hours	44	0.3	0	0.0
41–45 hours	13	0.1	0	0.0
46–50 hours	28	0.2	0	0.0
More than 50 hours	20	0.1	28	0.2
Average no. of hours	4.3		4.3	
Base (respondents)	16,889	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 6: Average number of hours spent on council and group/party business (2004–2018)	2004	2006	2008	2010	2013	2018
Average no. of hours	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.7	25.1	26.3
Base (respondents)	18,678	18,596	18,850	17,579	17,613	17,770

Table 7: Distribution of time spent on council business (2006-2018)	2006	2008	2010	2013	2018
Attendance at council meetings, committees	10.0	10.0	10.2	8.0	8.1
Engaging with constituents, surgeries, enquires	7.0	8.0	7.9	6.0	6.2
Working with community groups*	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.5	4.1
Other, external meetings, seminars, training	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.1	3.6
Overall average no. of hours	22.0	22.0	22.8	21.3	22.0
Base (respondents)	16,837	18,143	17,040	17,679	17,770

Note: *an additional item was added to this question in 2013 so 'other' categories are not directly comparable. Caution must be exercised when making comparisons.

Table 8: Political party for which candidate stood at last election (2004–2018)	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conservative Party	7,593	39.0	7,719	42.3	9,436	48.5	9,031	50.1	8,247	46.1	8,601	48.4
Labour Party	5,586	28.7	4,585	25.1	4,201	21.6	3,748	20.8	5,697	31.8	5,615	31.6
Liberal Democrats	4,497	23.1	4,427	24.3	4,315	22.2	3,958	22.0	2,624	14.7	2,346	13.2
Green Party	58	0.3	97	0.5	144	0.7	141	0.8	176	1.0	249	1.4
Independent/RA	1,483	7.6	1,178	6.5	1,143	5.9	964	5.4	869	4.9	533	3.0
UKIP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	178	1.0	178	1.0
Other	240	1.2	246	1.3	207	1.1	167	0.9	113	0.6	249	1.4
Base (respondents)	19,457	99.0	18,252	92.7	19,445	99.1	18,008	99.3	17,905	100.0	17,770	100.0

Note: UKIP was added to this question in 2013 so the 'other' category is not directly comparable.

Table 9: Whether councillors have changed political party since being elected (2013-2018)	2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	334	1.8	251	1.4
No	17,671	97.6	15,702	88.4
No information	106	0.6	1,817	10.2
Base (population)	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 10: Member of other public bodies (2004–2018)	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local authority	1,632	8.3	1,888	9.6	2,265	11.5	2,090	11.5	2,388	13.2	3,181	17.9
Parish/ community council	2,951	15.0	3,102	15.8	3,081	15.7	2,815	15.5	2,556	14.1	2,324	14.1
Town council	2,192	11.2	2,161	11.0	2,422	12.3	2,305	12.7	2,426	13.4	2,105	12.8
Fire authority	703	3.6	717	3.6	798	4.1	704	3.9	661	3.7	554	3.4
Police authority	474	2.4	558	2.8	525	2.7	432	2.4	237	1.3	232	1.4
National Parks authority	172	0.9	200	1.0	187	1.0	238	1.3	207	1.1	147	0.9
Any of the above	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,135	39.4	6,914	38.9
Base (population)	19,657		19,689		19,617		18,129		18,111		17,770	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 11: Which of these online resources do you use and which do you find the most useful in your work as a councillor (2018)	No.	%
Use		
Email	13,434	75.6
Facebook	8,654	48.7
Twitter	7,197	40.5
Web page	2,115	11.9
YouTube	1,244	7.0
Blog	1,155	6.5
Other	1,173	6.6

Find most useful		
Email	13,985	78.7
Facebook	3,572	20.1
Twitter	1,972	11.1
Web page	462	2.6
Blog	213	1.2
YouTube	160	0.9
Other	569	3.2
Base (population)	17,770	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 12: How have you engaged with the LGA over the last twelve months, and how would you like to engage over the next twelve months (2018)				
	Last 12 months		Next 12 months	
	No.	%	No.	%
Visited the LGA website	7,392	41.6	4,638	26.1
Responded to LGA consultations	4,620	26.0	2,932	16.5
Attended LGA member training	3,074	17.3	2,754	15.5
Attended LGA events	2,985	16.8	2,701	15.2
Followed/engaged with the LGA on social media	3,394	19.1	2,434	13.7
Attended other LGA training	2,275	12.8	2,061	11.6
Contact with LGA officers	2,825	15.9	1,972	11.1
Contact with councillors on LGA boards	2,363	13.3	1,795	10.1
Contributed in LGA meetings/seminars	1,635	9.2	1,457	8.2
Council visited by LGA	3,128	17.6	1,422	8.0
Acted as an LGA peer	835	4.7	995	5.6
Face-to-face contact	1,031	5.8	853	4.8
Contacted in your role as an adviser	355	2.0	409	2.3
Submitted case studies	178	1.0	338	1.9
Contributed via Knowledge Hub	142	0.8	302	1.7
Other	533	3.0	355	2.0
Not engaged with the LGA	4,638	26.1	2,346	13.2
Base (population)	17,770		17,770	

Table 13: How useful do you consider LGA activities in your role as a councillor (2018)												
	Very useful		Fairly useful		Not very useful		Not at all useful		Don't know		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Providing a single voice for local government	5,486	30.9	5,065	28.5	852	4.8	527	3.0	5,841	32.9	17,770	100.0
Lobbying on behalf of local government	5,821	32.8	4,675	26.3	935	5.3	451	2.5	5,888	33.1	17,770	100.0
Providing advice and information through the political group offices	2,937	16.5	5,034	28.3	1,495	8.4	714	4.0	7,590	42.7	17,770	100.0
Negotiating national pay, terms and conditions	2,178	12.3	3,378	19.0	1,542	8.7	967	5.4	9,705	54.6	17,770	100.0
Managing local government's reputation in the national media	4,037	22.7	5,261	29.6	1,255	7.1	622	3.5	6,595	37.1	17,770	100.0
Providing support for sector-led improvement	3,339	18.8	4,295	24.2	1,313	7.4	666	3.7	8,158	45.9	17,770	100.0
Providing legal advice and co-ordination of legal action for councils	1,856	10.4	3,325	18.7	1,290	7.3	673	3.8	10,627	59.8	17,770	100.0
Providing up-to-date information about local government	4,782	26.9	6,678	37.6	1,285	7.2	424	2.4	4,601	25.9	17,770	100.0
Providing conferences and events	2,565	14.4	5,272	29.7	1,763	9.9	945	5.3	7,224	40.7	17,770	100.0

Table 14: How do you generally find out about the work of the LGA, and how would you prefer to (2018)	Find out		Prefer to find out	
	No.	%	No.	%
'first' magazine	11,053	62.2	3,572	20.1
LGA website	5,669	31.9	2,577	14.5
Political group offices' e-bulletin	4,780	26.9	2,559	14.4
LGA chairman's weekly email	5,473	30.8	2,506	14.1
Events and conferences	3,430	19.3	1,884	10.6
LGA chief executive's weekly email	3,359	18.9	1,866	10.5
Following LGA social media channels	2,701	15.2	1,599	9.0
Media work/press releases	3,927	22.1	1,582	8.9
Other e-bulletins	2,559	14.4	1,564	8.8
'first online'	1,937	10.9	1,475	8.3
Publications	2,506	14.1	1,475	8.3
Face-to-face contact	1,386	7.8	1,279	7.2
Parliamentary bulletin	1,510	8.5	1,173	6.6
Director of Communications's CommsNet e-bulletin	889	5.0	711	4.0
Base (population)	17,770		17,770	

Table 15: Reasons for becoming a councillor (2004 - 2018)	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Serve community	16,176	83.1	16,654	86.9	17,228	88.4	15,905	88.2	16,115	90.0	15,033	84.6
To change things	8,921	45.8	10,020	52.3	10,471	53.7	9,428	52.3	10,520	58.7	9,667	54.4
Political beliefs	9,633	49.5	9,866	51.5	10,032	51.5	9,064	50.2	9,752	54.4	9,400	52.9
Because I was asked to	5,603	28.8	5,631	29.4	5,909	30.3	5,079	28.2	4,902	27.4	4,887	27.5
Resolve an issue	1,558	8.0	2,183	11.4	2,436	12.5	2,317	12.8	2,621	14.6	1,759	9.9
Other	463	2.4	635	3.3	522	2.7	338	1.9	328	1.8	853	4.8
Base (respondents)	19,475		19,153		19,496		18,041		17,915		17,770	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 16: Which are most important things that councillors do (2013-2018)	2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
Represent local residents	11,162	64.8	10,733	60.4
Support local community	10,610	61.6	9,116	51.3
Listen to views of local people	12,028	69.8	8,654	48.7
Address issues	6,954	40.4	6,948	39.1
Attend council meetings	5,438	31.6	4,958	27.9
Plan services	3,457	20.1	3,696	20.8
Keep the public informed	3,638	21.1	3,110	17.5
Deal with complaints	4,367	25.4	3,056	17.2
Hold surgeries	2,188	12.7	1,617	9.1
Base (respondents)	17,227		17,770	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 17: Views on influence as a councillor (2006–2018)	2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
More influence to change things than expected	6,717	35.6	7,806	40.5	7,213	40.3	7,373	41.4	6,699	37.7
Less influence to change things than expected	5,526	29.3	4,908	25.4	4,465	25.0	4,081	22.9	4,229	23.8
As much influence as expected	6,637	35.1	6,575	34.1	6,206	34.7	6,362	35.7	6,841	38.5
Base (respondents)	18,880	100.0	19,289	100.0	17,885	100.0	17,816	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 18: How effective councillors are in their role (2004–2018)												
	2004		**2006**		**2008**		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Very effective	3,705	19.3	4,290	23.5	4,723	24.3	5,077	28.2	4,937	27.6	6,113	34.4
Fairly effective+	13,135	68.6	12,513	68.6	12,366	63.7	11,303	62.9	11,163	62.4	10,200	57.4
Not very effective	1,436	7.5	798	4.4	539	2.8	442	2.5	120	0.7	711	4.0
Not at all effective+	883	4.6	635	3.5	414	2.1	349	1.9	1,134	6.3	124	0.7
Don't know/too early to say*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,364	7.0	804	4.5	538	3.0	622	3.5
Base (respondents)	19,159	100.0	18,236	100.0	19,405	100.0	17,975	100.0	17,892	100.0	17,770	100.0

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

+Wording of scale changed in 2018.

Table 19: In which situations councillors talk about their work (2010–2018)								
	Never		**Sometimes**		**Often**		**Not applicable**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
2010								
Social gatherings	1,241	7.2	10,875	63.3	5,068	29.5	161	0.9
At work	1,665	14.3	6,385	54.8	3,612	31.0	4,488	27.8
Community events	1,445	8.9	8,527	52.8	6,192	38.3	604	3.6
Family	967	5.8	9,392	55.9	6,441	38.3	255	1.5
Online	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Base respondents	16,654		16,654		16,654		16,654	
2013								
Social gatherings	1,118	6.4	9,872	56.8	6,204	35.7	182	1.1
At work	1,677	10.7	5,352	34.2	3,308	21.1	5,320	34.0
Community events	487	2.8	6,325	36.2	10,585	60.5	85	0.5
Family	906	5.3	9,042	52.6	6,968	40.5	281	1.6
Online	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Base respondents	17,198		17,198		17,198		17,198	
2018								
Social gatherings	675	3.8	9,614	54.1	7,339	41.3	142	0.8
At work	1,066	6.0	5,189	29.2	4,283	24.1	6,255	35.2
Community events	142	0.8	6,664	37.5	10,946	61.6	53	0.3
Family	711	4.0	8,690	48.9	7,801	43.9	284	1.6
Online	3,199	18.0	6,575	37.00	5,402	30.4	1,457	8.2
Base respondents	17,770		17,770		17,770		17,770	

Note: three items were removed from this question in 2013, and one was added in 2018, so caution must be exercised when comparing the responses in this question.

Table 20: Would councillors recommend the role to others (2008–2018)								
	2008		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Yes	16,050	81.8	15,118	83.4	14,928	82.4	15,051	84.7
No	1,447	7.4	1,167	6.4	1,283	7.1	995	5.6
Don't know/no answer	2,120	10.8	1,844	10.1	1,900	10.5	1,724	9.7
Base (population)	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 21: Do councillors intend to stand for re-election (2004–2018)												
	2004		**2006**		**2008**		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Yes	10,611	54.0	12,076	61.3	10,694	54.5	12,203	67.3	11,819	65.3	12,048	67.8
No	2,490	12.7	2,250	11.4	3,108	15.8	2,455	13.5	2,716	15.0	2,328	13.1
Don't know/no answer	6,556	33.4	5,363	27.2	5,816	29.6	3,471	19.1	3,577	19.8	3,376	19.0
Base (population)	19,657	100.1	19,689	99.9	19,617	99.9	18,129	99.9	18,111	100.1	17,770	99.9

Table 22: Are appropriate arrangements in place to deal with inappropriate behaviour (2018)

	By members of the public		By officers		By councillors	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	11,266	63.4	14,323	80.6	11,462	64.5
No	6,504	36.6	3,447	19.4	6,308	35.5
Base (population)	17,770	100.0	17,770	100.0	17,770	100.0

Table 23: Current circumstances (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In full-time paid employment	4,793	24.7	4,346	23.5	4,133	22.0	3,586	21.0	3,361	19.2	2,879	16.2
In part-time paid employment	2,089	10.8	1,924	10.4	1,862	9.9	1,620	9.5	1,657	9.5	1,813	10.2
Self-employed	3,181	16.4	2,948	16.0	3,047	16.2	2,493	14.6	2,798	16.0	3,039	17.1
Unemployed	403	2.1	360	1.9	242	1.3	297	1.7	345	2.0	284	1.6
Retired	7,512	38.7	7,548	40.9	8,193	43.5	8,082	47.2	8,165	46.6	8,014	45.1
Looking after home/family	602	3.1	601	3.3	645	3.4	472	2.8	529	3.0	693	3.9
In full-time education	60	0.3	36	0.2	69	0.4	59	0.3	57	0.3	107	0.6
Not working for other reason	447	2.3	712	3.8	623	3.3	498	2.9	612	3.5	942	5.3
Base (respondents)	19,426	98.4	18,475	100.0	18,813	100.0	17,107	100.0	17,523	100.1	17,770	100.0

Note: the classification used has changed so caution must be exercised when making comparisons for this question, particularly for the 'other' category.

Table 24: Current occupation (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Managerial or executive	3,528	36.7	3,329	40.0	3,070	36.9	2,977	36.9	2,840	39.2	3,077	39.8
Professional or technical	2,702	28.1	2,523	30.4	2,713	32.6	2,633	32.6	2,351	32.5	2,590	33.5
Lecturer, teacher or researcher	886	9.2	734	8.8	744	8.9	708	8.8	546	7.5	673	8.7
Admin/clerical/ secretarial/ sales	1,322	13.8	898	10.8	1,010	12.1	1,004	12.4	914	12.6	827	10.7
Manual or craft	1,172	12.2	827	9.9	781	9.4	744	9.2	587	8.1	572	7.4
Base (respondents)	9,610	100.0	8,310	99.9	8,319	99.9	8,066	99.9	7,238	99.9	7,730	100.1

Note: only councillors in employment.

Table 25: Employment sector (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local government	892	9.0	944	10.6	681	7.7	640	7.7	493	6.7	580	7.5
Central government	356	3.6	390	4.4	382	4.3	340	4.1	396	5.4	371	4.8
NHS	506	5.1	390	4.4	332	3.8	287	3.4	240	3.3	309	4.0
Other public sector	1,115	11.2	916	10.3	879	10.0	771	9.3	842	11.5	982	12.7
Private sector	6,585	66.1	5,750	64.7	6,110	69.3	5,706	68.5	4,783	65.4	4,785	61.9
Voluntary sector	509	5.1	493	5.5	437	5.0	586	7.0	559	7.6	703	9.1
Base (respondents)	9,963	100.1	8,883	99.9	8,821	100.1	8,330	100.0	7,313	99.9	7,730	100.0

Note: only councillors in employment.

Table 26: Does employer support work as a councillor (2013-2018)

	2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
To a great extent	1,762	37.2	1,956	41.7
To some extent	1,870	39.5	1,923	41.0
Not at all	861	18.2	704	15.0
Employer is not aware I am a councillor	147	3.1	108	2.3
Base (respondents that were employees)	4,734	100.0	4,691	100.0

Note: only councillors employed.

Table 27: Additional voluntary activities (2013-2018)				
	2013		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**
School governorship	6,730	37.2	4,443	25.0
Magistrate	473	2.6	391	2.2
Other	7,921	43.7	8,174	46.0
No other such positions	6,048	33.4	6,326	35.6
Base (population)	18,111		17,770	

Note: more than one response could be given so percentages do not necessarily sum to 100.

Table 28: Highest qualification held (NVQ equivalents) (2004–2018)													
	2004		**2006**		**2008**		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
NVQ 4 and above: Degree/ higher degree/ Professional qual./ NVQ 4 or 5/ Higher National Certificate/ Diploma	9,862	50.2	9,806	49.8	10,018	51.1	10,129	55.9	10,934	60.4	11,995	67.5
NVQ 3: GCE A level/Scottish/ Irish/Higher Grade/NVQ 3/ Ordinary National Cert./Diploma	2,310	11.8	2,278	11.6	2,256	11.5	2,467	13.6	2,417	13.3	2,488	14.0
Trade Apprenticeship	1,131	5.8	961	4.9	641	3.3	759	4.2	744	4.1	444	2.5
NVQ 2: GCSE/GCE O level/ School Certificate/ NVQ2	2,488	12.7	2,478	12.6	2,077	10.6	2,178	12.0	2,083	11.5	1,564	8.8
Below NVQ level 2: CSE (other than grade 1)/NVQ 1	325	1.7	244	1.2	209	1.1	211	1.2	260	1.4	195	1.1
Other qualification	790	4.0	986	5.0	878	4.5	749	4.1	707	3.9	498	2.8
None of these	2,751	14.0	2,936	14.9	3,538	18.0	1,636	9.0	967	5.3	551	3.1
Base (population)	19,657	100.2	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.1	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	99.8

Table 29: Gender profile (2004–2018)													
	2004		**2006**		**2008**		**2010**		**2013**		**2018**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Male	13,825	70.3	13,645	69.3	13,417	68.4	12,411	68.5	12,192	67.3	11,248	63.3
Female	5,711	29.1	5,774	29.3	6,038	30.8	5,545	30.6	5,748	31.7	6,344	35.7
Prefer to self-describe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18	0.1
Prefer not to say	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	160	0.9
Not known	121	0.6	271	1.4	162	0.8	173	1.0	171	0.9	n/a	n/a
Base (population)	19,657	100.0	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.1	18,111	99.9	17,770	100.0

Note: the classification was changed in 2018, so comparisons with earlier years must be treated with caution.

Table 30: Age profile (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 25	62	0.3	58	0.3	110	0.6	124	0.8	106	0.6	107	0.6
25–29	222	1.2	273	1.5	308	1.6	221	1.4	298	1.7	444	2.5
30–34	423	2.3	430	2.4	403	2.1	378	2.4	471	2.7	657	3.7
35–39	626	3.4	656	3.6	643	3.4	454	2.9	493	2.8	657	3.7
40–44	1,077	5.9	1,036	5.7	1,022	5.4	662	4.2	738	4.2	764	4.3
45–49	1,494	8.2	1,368	7.5	1,378	7.3	1,068	6.8	1,094	6.3	1,120	6.3
50–54	2,148	11.8	1,877	10.3	1,746	9.3	1,494	9.5	1,515	8.7	1,635	9.2
55–59	3,312	18.2	2,992	16.4	2,638	14.0	1,944	12.4	2,131	12.2	2,257	12.7
60–64	3,465	19.0	3,730	20.5	4,119	21.9	3,086	19.7	2,970	17.0	2,523	14.2
65–69	2,846	15.6	3,009	16.5	3,275	17.4	3,232	20.6	3,779	21.6	3,021	17.0
70+	2,520	13.8	2,778	15.3	3,175	16.9	2,997	19.1	3,875	22.2	4,602	25.9
Base (respondents)	18,195	99.7	18,207	100.0	18,819	99.9	15,660	99.8	17,471	100.0	17,770	100.1
Average age in years	57.8		58.3		58.8		59.7		60.2		59.4	
Proportion under 45	2,410	13.1	2,453	13.5	2,486	13.1	1,839	11.7	2,106	12.0	2,630	14.8

Table 31: Ethnic origin profile (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	18,765	96.5	17,855	95.9	18,716	96.6	16,823	96.3	16,892	96.0	17,024	95.8
Mixed	114	0.6	127	0.7	82	0.4	106	0.6	69	0.4	160	0.9
Asian/Asian British	455	2.3	519	2.8	423	2.2	407	2.3	499	2.8	373	2.1
Black/Black British	91	0.5	93	0.5	97	0.5	118	0.7	102	0.6	160	0.9
Other ethnic background	14	0.1	25	0.1	31	0.2	9	0.0	0	0.0	53	0.3
Base (respondents)	19,439	100.0	18,618	100.0	18,808	99.9	17,463	99.9	17,596	99.8	17,770	100.0

Note: Chinese was included within 'Asian' backgrounds in 2013; in previous years it was a separate category.

Table 32: Sexual orientation (2010, 2018)

	2010		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
Heterosexual or straight	16,291	89.9	15,691	88.3
Gay or lesbian	464	2.6	746	4.2
Bisexual	174	1.0	302	1.7
Other	58	0.3	36	0.2
Prefer not to say	1,142	6.3	995	5.6
Base (respondents)	18,129	100.0	17,770	100.0

Notes: (1) the 2010 figures have been recalculated to exclude a small proportion of 'not knowns'; (2) this question was not asked in 2013.

Table 33: Long-term health problems or disabilities (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term health problem or disability	2,443	12.4	2,138	10.9	2,602	13.3	2,563	14.1	2,383	13.2	2,861	16.1
Base (population)	19,657		19,689		19,617		18,129		18,111		17,770	

Table 34: Caring responsibilities (2004–2018)

	2004		2006		2008		2010		2013		2018	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Child/children	2,743	14.0	2,737	13.9	2,641	13.5	2,251	12.4	2,625	14.5	2,968	16.7
Relative	1,138	5.8	994	5.0	1,374	7.0	1,163	6.4	1,368	7.6	1,777	10.0
Partner	1,603	8.2	1,521	7.7	1,825	9.3	1,432	7.9	1,430	7.9	1,422	8.0
Other	219	1.1	207	1.1	322	1.6	238	1.3	362	2.0	391	2.2
One or more caring responsibility	4,916	25.0	4,757	24.2	5,099	26.0	4,396	24.2	5,044	27.9	6,415	36.1
No caring responsibilities	14,741	75.0	14,932	75.8	14,518	74.0	13,733	75.8	13,067	72.1	11,355	63.9
Base (population)	19,657	100.0	19,689	100.0	19,617	100.0	18,129	100.0	18,111	100.0	17,770	100.0

ANNEX A: CENSUS RESPONSE

Response to the 2018 Census by type of authority and region is shown below.

There was no great variation, but in terms of type of authority, response varied between 13 per cent in shire districts and 21 per cent in London boroughs; by region, it varied between 12 per cent in East Midlands and 21 per cent in London.

A response was received from at least one councillor in all but 13 of the 353 English local authorities. Eleven of the 13 were shire districts, one was a London borough, and one was a unitary.

	Number of respondents	Response rate
Type of authority	**Number**	**Per cent**
Counties	315	18%
Shire districts	1,085	13%
London boroughs	380	21%
Metropolitan districts	391	16%
Unitaries	456	15%
Total	2,627	15%
Region		**Per cent**
East of England	335	13%
East Midlands	237	12%
Greater London	380	21%
North East	119	15%
North West	337	14%
South East	554	16%
South West	287	15%
West Midlands	215	13%
Yorkshire and the Humber	163	13%
Total	2,627	15%

Various measures were taken in order to try to increase response:
- Non-respondent councillors were emailed directly twice;
- The LGA's four political group offices each sent reminders to their respective councillors, as did the District Councils' Network;
- Member services officers in each council were contacted to inform them that the census was in the field and to ask them to encourage their councillors to respond;
- General reminders were circulated in 'first' magazine.

Grossing note

Respondents' data was grossed to the equivalent of a 100 per cent response rate by weighting respondents according to type of authority and region (the same method as in previous Censuses). Each respondent was assigned a weight according to these two criteria.

To illustrate this, an example is given below of a scenario in which there are two types of authority and two regions.

Total number of councillors	Type 1	Type 2
Region 1	50	100
Region 2	25	75
Number of Census respondents		
Region 1	25	40
Region 2	5	25
Calculated weights		
Region 1	50/25 = 2.0	100/40 = 2.5
Region 2	25/5 = 5.0	75/25 = 3.0

Every response from councillors in authorities of type 1 and region 1 is given a weight of 2.0, and so on. By aggregating the weighted responses for each type and region, grossed national estimates for councillors are produced.

ANNEX B: PROFILE OF COUNCILLORS' CENSUS RESPONDENTS

Because the response to the 2018 Census was lower than previous Censuses, the profile of respondents was compared with that of all councillors in order to assess whether there might be any bias among Census respondents. This is summarised in the table below.

Overall data for councillors by type of authority, region, and party is based on the position after May 2018 elections; role is based on a single leader in each council; sex is based on the latest Fawcett Society research[1]; ethnicity is based on the previous Census.

In summary, as far as can be gauged given the available data, respondents to the Census are not markedly out of line with councillors as a whole. However, a few variations were found:

- shire districts are under-represented among Census respondents;
- London boroughs are slightly over-represented;
- Liberal Democrats are slightly over-represented;
- Independents are slightly under-represented;
- Leaders are slightly over-represented.

Type of authority	Councillors' Census respondents		% of all councillors
	Number of responses	% of responses	
Counties	315	12%	10%
Shire districts	1,085	41%	48%
London boroughs	380	14%	11%
Met districts	391	15%	14%
Unitaries	456	17%	17%
All	2,627	100%	100%
Region			
East of England	335	13%	14%
East Midlands	237	9%	11%
Greater London	380	14%	11%
North East	119	5%	4%
North West	337	13%	13%
South East	554	21%	20%
South West	287	11%	11%
West Midlands	215	8%	9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	163	6%	7%
All	2,627	100%	100%
Party			
Conservative	1,133	47%	49%
Labour Party	784	33%	32%
Liberal Democrat Party	321	13%	10%
Independent/other	154	6%	9%
All	2,392	100%	100%
Role			
Leaders	100	4%	2%
Sex			
Female	812	36%	34%*
Ethnicity			
White	2,117	95%	96%**

*Fawcett Society
** Councillors' Census 2013

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[1] https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/news/womens-representation-in-local-government-stuck-in-the-past
(accessed 4th February 2019).

ANNEX C: COMPARISON OF COUNCILLORS AND GENERAL POPULATION (LABOUR FORCE SURVEY)

	England	
	Population	Councillors
Gender		
Male	49.0%	63.3%
Female	51.0%	35.7%
Age		
18–24	10.8%	0.6%
25–29	8.9%	2.5%
30–34	8.7%	3.7%
35–39	8.5%	3.7%
40–44	7.7%	4.3%
45–49	8.6%	6.3%
50–54	8.9%	9.2%
55–59	8.2%	12.7%
60–64	7.0%	14.2%
65–69	6.4%	17.0%
70+	16.3%	25.9%
Ethnicity		
White	86.5%	95.8%
Mixed	1.2%	0.9%
Asian	7.2%	2.1%
Black	3.4%	0.9%
Other	1.7%	0.3%
Health problem*		
Yes	20.4%	16.1%
Employment status		
Full-time	33.6%	16.2%
Part-time	19.7%	10.2%
Self-employed	9.5%	17.1%
Unemployed	2.6%	1.6%
Retired	21.6%	45.1%
Looking after family, home	4.2%	3.9%
In full-time education	4.2%	0.6%
Not working other reason	4.6%	5.3%
Employment sector		
Local government	8.9%	7.5%
Central government	2.3%	4.8%
NHS	6.1%	4.0%
Other public sector	5.7%	12.7%
Private sector	74.3%	61.9%
Voluntary sector	2.7%	9.1%
Highest qualification		
NVQ 4 and above	40.0%	67.5%
NVQ 3	17.5%	14.0%
Trade apprenticeship	3.4%	2.5%
NVQ 2	14.2%	8.8%
Below NVQ 2	10.5%	1.1%
Other	6.8%	2.8%
None	7.5%	3.1%

Note: table shows proportions of total population aged 18+ and councillors in each area.

* From 2011 Census (aged 16+).

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